

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 12, 2023

6:15 pm

There was an executive meeting held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Ric Reichner, Director of Finance

John Barnhart, Director of Public Safety

James R. Eister, Director of Parks, Recreation

Other City officials in attendance:

Jolinn Barner, City Clerk

Ronald Rupp, Fire Chief

Bradley Hare, Chief of Police

Jerome Alex, City Controller

Jeff Wojciechowski, Public Safety Supervisor

Derrick Backer, City Administrator

Visitors present: 16

Agenda Additions

Mayor Brosious made the motion to Accept all Agenda Additions. Second Councilwoman Martina. Unanimous vote.

Infradapt Quote

Mayor Brosious made the motion to replace the the City Clerk's Laptop and The Mayor's and a telephone for the new hire in the Treasurer's Office. The first additional cost is 525 and then the monthly fees for the new person is 275.00. Second Reichner. Unanimous vote.

Accept Resignation of Ciara Chappell the Administrative Assistant

Mayor Brosious made the motion to Accept the Resignation of Ciara Chappell the Administrative Assistant. Second Barnhart. Unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS

There were No Public Comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS: Minutes of May 8th and 22nd 2023 and Reports of the Fire Dept., Police Dept., Treasurer, Code Office, Health Dept., and Planning Commission.

Mayor Brosious made the motion to Approve Minutes and Reports of May 8th and 22nd, 2023 and Reports of the Fire Department, Police Department, Treasurer, Code Office, Health Department, and Planning Commission. Second Barnhart. Unanimous Vote.

America from the Aerial Photo of the Borough by Greg Cromer

Greg from America from the Sky with Aerial photos of the Borough Presented his photo that he took of the city of Sunbury from an Airplane. coming in a variety of sizes to pick from if the Council so decided to Purchase some of the Photos he has taken. Has captured almost 1/3 of Pennsylvania in photos from an airplane. This photo was captured from Southwest looking Northeast.

Shade Tree Commission

Julie Brosius from the shade tree Commission presented The Official Logo for the Shade Tree Commission. Joe Bartello on the Shade Tree Commission did the artwork for the Logo. The Shade Tree Commission in Lewisburg reached out to us to collaborate, and we can use them as a Mentor since they've been doing this for years and they are a Committee under Tree City USA. Also, during the sandwich stroll people were making it known that they are confused that the City is not capitalizing on the Cities Architecture and Historic value. That is all, Thank you.

New Business

Record of Permits/Permit Application-Mayor

Mayor Brosious made the motion to accept the application to receive and communicate information with our records so we can keep better tracking. Second Reichner. Unanimous vote.

Police UTV- Mayor

Mayor Brosious made the motion to look at other bids Police UTV depending certain outcomes.

Purchase of New Patrol Rifles- Mayor

Mayor Brosious made the motion to purchase the new patrol rifles. Second Martina. Unanimous vote.

TA Set Aside grant (Riverfront Sidewalk)-Mayor

Mayor Brosious made the motion to apply to the TSA satisfied grant (riverfront sidewalk).
Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

Approval of Kreamer's Subdivision- Barnhart

Councilman Barnhart made the motion to approve Kreamer's Subdivision. Second Mayor
Brosious. Unanimous vote.

Signatory Authorization for Mike Rhoads to sign Sewar Planning Mailer Application- Barnhart

Councilman Barnhart made the motion to approve Mike Rhodes as Signatory for Sewer
Planning Mailer Application. Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

HARB Approval for 134 Chestnut Street- Barnhart

Councilman Eister made the motion for HARB approval for 134 chestnut St. Second Barnhart.
Unanimous vote.

Reinstate Russell Wertz to Assistant Fire Chief (Pending Further Investigation) -Barnhart

Councilman Barnhart made the motion to Reinstate Russell Wertz to Assistant Fire Chief
(Pending further Investigation). Second Mayor Brosious. Unanimous vote.

**Mike Heffner, Promotion from Part Time Laborer to Full Time Laborer. No Change in hourly
pay rate. - Martina**

Councilwoman Martina made the motion for Mike Heffner to be promoted from Part-Time
Laborer to Full-Time Laborer, No change in hourly pay rate. Second Brosious. Unanimous
vote.

Hire Part Time Laborer at \$15/Hour.-Martina

Councilwoman Martina announced the need for this vote is no longer required.

Russell Wertz backpay- Reichner

Councilman Reichner announced earlier in the meeting it was the same as Barnhart's
previous item.

Request for Exoneration from Taxes-Reichner

Councilman Reichner made the motion to Request for Exoneration from Taxes of \$192.32.
Second Brosious. Unanimous vote.

Part-Time New Hire for Treasurer's Office- Reichner

Councilman Reichner made the motion to Hire a Part-Timer for the Treasurer's Office. Second
Brosious. Unanimous vote.

Approval of Abstract/Vouchers for GF \$228,940.51 and LF \$230.24

Councilman Reichner made the motion to Approve the Abstract/Vouchers for GF \$ 228,940.51 and LF \$230.24. Second Eister. Unanimous vote.

Discussion

Sunbury Summer Kick-Off Summary

Mayor Brosious discussed the huge success of the First Sunbury Summer Kick-off. Events surrounding this event made out very well. This Event brought a huge following to the city itself causing attraction from all areas around including multiple out of staters. He hopes to Continue this event for years to come. Our riverfront received a lot of first-time viewers, especially from people out of the area not even realizing there being another side to the wall. Vendors were reaching out expressing the success they had and explained how we need more events like this.

Recreational Upgrades: Work Session

There are upgrades that need to be made to our facilities like expanding sidewalks, and how to promote the city. Before Next council meeting, we would like to have a work session so we can expand on these ideas on how to make our Facilities better and more functionable.

Boy Scout Bicycles

A bicycle accumulation down at the city warehouse the bicycles are just rotting away. Eister discussed giving them to the Boy Scouts to fix up and earn merit badges, then giving the bicycles away to less fortunate children.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Accepting letters of interest to fill the vacant 3-year term for the Board of Appeals and HARB, 1 position to fill vacancy of 3-year term for Civil Service. Please submit letters of interest to City Clerk at jbarner@sunburypa.org. Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on June 26th, 2023, 6:15pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor: We have a special birthday tomorrow, Francis Scarcella.

Julie Brosius: I realize that you would like to get rid of the bicycles, i understand that. But would there be a possibility that you would entertain. Steve Walker: these are abandoned bikes and the idea here is that they receive their merit badge by restoring them and then giving them to kids that are less fortunate. These are abandoned bikes and they're just sitting there rotten away, there is no real value to them. Julie: well, you know to a kid that doesn't have a Bicycle, it'd be pretty great. Reichner: That's where the bicycles will be going. Julie: thank you.

Victoria Rosencrans: There is announcement 5 days ago on Facebook for the citizens wanting to be part of the City Comprehension Plan How is that possible if the . Derrick: It would be up to Council. Victoria: that Treasurer's Office Position you talked about Mr. Reichner, now is that going to be open to all folks that would apply? Reichner responded I think we already have somebody for that position. Victoria: but they're coming into a city office, right? So that's not open to all? Reichner: we put an ad in the paper. Victoria: I'm just asking. Reichner: Yeah, that was all done. Victoria: OK, that was put out in the paper for blank or the city? Reichner: Yeah, we advertised it with career link. Victoria: So, the applicants outside of CareerLink went for an interview? Reichner: We only had two applicants actually and one of them we wouldn't be able to hire because he lives out of the area and he was like 60 something years old. Victoria: Be careful there, or don't be careful with that statement. I get that I get that 50% may come from them but it is still a city office searching and citizens deserve the opportunity to get the job. Jerome Alex: It was posted two places. Victoria: I heard you say that twice. Jerome: Ok well you repeated yourself twice. Victoria: you know what why do you get to why do you get to interject as a controller when people are up here and I'm going to ask it because it's really irritating me. Jerome: I'm part of the office. Victoria: ok, so you already said it to me once I heard you. Jerome: Good. Reichner: This is statements Victoria: So, what there were lots of statements during the meeting it's only because of Victoria Rosencrans. Reichner: No, it's not it's because there are a lot of people down there waiting to come up. Victoria: No, it's not it's because it's Victoria Rosencrans. I get it. OK well guess what my things are important too. You know what so let's move on to the important one. OK there we go because it's only that we're going to shut her up now. Well guess what, I have a Right-to-Know. Let's talk about a Right-to-Know Mr. Backer so I would really like to talk about hate to bring it up again but let's talk about Celotex. I retracted my Right-to-Know but now I have a few more questions so do you want to answer them or you telling me right now that you don't have to answer them so I know where I can go to get the answers. I've already spoken with Holly at the State. When my Right-to-Know is filed it was late. OK. Derrick: I don't know what right to know you are talking about. Victoria: The Right-to-Know for the Celotex. Derrick: I gave her the Racp information to Jolinn because the you gave her the Right-to-Know and she didn't have access to the Grant so I gave her the Application and then we gave you the Application. Victoria: OK so she was on vacation so talk me through that. Let's say you're Right-to-know Officers on vacation during that five Day time period and I didn't get a response because you sent it back to Jolinn. Derrick: No, I didn't send I didn't receive a right to know request. The right to know request came to her and then she asked me for the rapid application because she didn't have access to it so I gave that to her and she gave that to you, to my understanding. Victoria: So, the Racp Application 5 month was what I requested, Jolinn sent out an email to you on 5/12 stating she will be out of office and this is what Victoria want to the Back up Officer. She started vacation on 5/13 and returned 5/23 somehow, I was not available to check my emails I was out of office like I usually am able to. When I returned on 5/23, I noticed that the Backup Officer sent the information to my e-mail instead of to the Requester. I immediately sent the attached documents to the Requester. Derrick: I would have to check my e-mail. Martina: is the backup officer? Derrick: I guess that's me. So, I can check but from the way I interpreted the e-mail, was that she didn't have access to the RA CP application so I sent it to her. Victoria: So, when you sent it back to her, she was on vacation? So, who is the backup right to know officer when JOLINNIS out of the office? Derrick: Um me. Victoria: OK so I received the e-mail as she sent the e-mail to you as she was explaining that she was going on vacation, so this is what Victoria is requesting. Derek: I would have to go back and look. Victoria: I'm letting you know because what happened is I didn't get a response to my Right-to-Know. OK? If you read the ordinance no response to

the right two now means that if I don't get a response that means I'm not going to get the information, correct. Yep, that's what your ordinance says now I can repeal because I didn't get a response. Derrick: sorry what date did you say. Victoria: I'm just letting you know I'll forward you the e-mail and the correspondence. Derek: please do. Victoria: So, I had retracted I called the state today again because I had filed that process because I didn't get any information from that right to now. Because I didn't get the information, but I did get the information. I would like to go back to the Celotex as, back to February so the rack P was, an application presented on 3/26/21. And then back in February it was said that the rack was an extension, correct Mr. Backer? That's what you told me last meeting. Derrick: No, I didn't tell you that last meeting. I told you that the meeting before that meeting because I clarified it being an extension. Victoria: you originally thought it was an extension. Derrick: I wasn't able to be at that meeting, originally, I thought it was an extension because I didn't realize what we were talking about. Victoria: what do you mean you thought it was an extension? Derrick: Correct because I was not there for the meeting, i did not submit a second rap applicant the only thing we've done for the RACP application is submit an extension. Victoria: how many expansions did you submit? So, every six months an extension was submitted? Derrick: yes, Two or three, I think. Three I believe at this point. Victoria: So, the original grant was about 9 million then you had to get a nine million match. Derrick: yea. Victoria: So, you got the award letter? Derek Colin yes. Victoria: You had to do a plan and all of that? Derrick: we already in the process, after the second application we are in the process. There are 23 steps I believe. Victoria: so can you explain to me and the taxpayers what happens now after you've already put it into the original 9 + 18 backing up to 2,000,000 and now we're out a new proposal with the county. So, with all of this stuff you're doing now is some stuff that's in there like putting on to my pad building a new building. Was that also stuff that would be happening with that grant? Derrick: so, what from our standpoint with the we would have to decide how we want to spend that 2 million whether it is a concrete pad, whether it is the property, whether it is to build a roadway in there, excavation the of building in there. you would have to decide on how to allocate those funds Within that property. Victoria: so just clarifying, now with that update. Last time you guys are going to meet with the county and I think that happened so is there any update on where we are with that? Mayor Brosious: we met with the county and that is as far as it has went for right now. They said they were going to take it back to all of the commissioners To discuss yay or nay and changes. That's where we're at and we have not heard from them council meeting. Victoria: so that's all I was just getting clarification. I did speak with Holly Redinger on that. So, I just wanted clarification and just asking about the extensions going over that with me and going over all those things. Just because all those questions the way that they were handled I usually with a new grant and stuff so I asked for some clarification from the state and I'll send it. I did meet with Jeff the other day there are some and she's going on up on Regan street with a property and some folks that are living around there. I sent him some information to kind of get that taken care of. One of the issues I am seeing is they have almost hit somebody, we have seen a lot of ATVs, 4 Wheelers and stuff Driven out on city streets. And almost hit somebody down on Mull Street, he came flying out of the yard. Is there an ordinance? Barnhart: That is being addressed. Victoria: that is being addressed? Ok. Because we should have an ordinance in place. Chief hare: You wouldn't need a city Ordinance you would need a State Ordinance. Victoria: OK, At this property unfortunately is a very long yard and most of the yard like Jeff discussed you don't have that much room. On Mother's Day is was absolutely horrendous. They sent me the video and stuff . Martina: They should call the police. Victoria: they have called the police they have met with Jeff before but one of the things is I've encouraged them to come to council. This is just one of the things that happens, not trying to step on

anyone's toes but they are afraid to come here and do what we do. They are afraid to get up and talk, you know because people don't have those skills. I met with them I took the information to Jeff the best that I could. Thank you addressing that. It's not just there I've seen it Down at the end of town and up the other end of town. Trying to get out on. Chief Hare: The best thing to do when people call you and ask you tell them to try to get the DCNR tag on them or if they know who it is give us the best description they came because by the time that we get there they are usually gone. Victoria: Yea, I know. Now they do take video and a lot of them don't have it and they aren't street legal. There are some other issues going on up there.

Debra Betz: Josh, who is Jolinn under? You, right. Well, until next week. Mayor Brosious: Well, technically speaking all City Employees fall under all City Council. Deb: To answer my council I've been in the school and asked for Right-to-knows, I have been here to ask for Right-to-Knows. I have always gotten the answer well we are going to extend it in a letter. So, if Jolinn new she was going to be going on vacation for five days and she knew that he would need that information. Why did she not just extend the Right-to-Know? Mayor: Well, because that is why we have two Right-to-Know Officers if someone goes down just like in most apartments if someone goes down there is usually a backup. So, he was our backup. Deb: Right, yea I know I've always just experienced through here and through the school, they have always done extensions. Always, just so you know. That why you have more time to get the information. So, I just wanted to ask that question. But the other question I wanted to ask is the Russell Wertz, what position was he in and who is he under. Mayor Brosious: Are you asking me or are you asking Councilman Barnhart? Deb: Is he in code? Mayor: Well, He Falls under public safety. Being a Fire Chief. Barnhart: That would be me. Deb: So, is this something we need. I mean when was he hired? I guess I should ask. Mayor: He was elected. Deb: He was Elected? Mayor: He was Elected and was talking personnel. Deb: So, it makes it hard when they are elected to get information. When was the algid issue that happened? When did that happen. Mayor: I don't know. Barnhart: January. Deb: of this year? Barnhart: Is Jay Rupp Still Here. Deb: were the Police involved in it? Chief: Yes, they were involved I just can't. Deb: Yea, how much is the back pay for him? Reichner: I don't exactly know how many months that is but. Mayor: I mean Deb this is getting with personnel information like I said call about an incident that occurred. Deb: So, this is the thing though Josh We as a tax payer. Do we need to be concerned I mean was it Pedophilia, was it stealing. What was the issue? Mayor: We cannot give out this information. I understand your frustration but because it's Personnel issue we cannot discuss what the investigation process right now is. Once it is all said and done well have to talk to the Solicitor and let the public know occurred but this is a personnel issue and we cannot. You can ask the questions but we will not be able to answer them because it is personnel issue. Deb: Alright. Reichner: There is a little bit that we can tell you at the recommendation of the Fire Department we stopped his pay until the investigation was completed. Deb: Ok, so if the Fire Department is respected, why are we not adhering to what they are saying? Reichner: We got a call stating that, I don't know quite what it was but if we did not have a result, they wanted him to come back on duty. Mayor: That came from the Fire Department. Deb: Say he comes back on duty and we don't know if he's safe or not. The public doesn't know if he's safe or not enough even though he is in public safety. Mayor: what do you mean by saying that, like I said it is a very slippery slope. Deb: But you're not telling us, I mean but that's what I'm saying you have us concerned now because we don't know what it was. Mayor: Due to the investigation we cannot discuss but from talking to our solicitor, Police department, and everyone involved with that decision it was an appropriate decision for them too. Deb: So, you're saying he's safe, is that what you're saying. Mayor: Yes, that is correct. Deb: DO city Council Members, Mayor and Elected Officials do they do a

background check? Prior to being in office. Barnhart: Yes, yes, yes. Deb: Do they? That's Okay. Okay and that is it, Thank you. Oh, one other thing I wanted to ask Josh was you told me I couldn't ask questions, right? There were one, two, three, four, five times that you allowed someone to ask you a question and the board and they were all allowed to ask questions and get answers. But when I asked you said no. Mayor: Who asked questions and what did they ask about like statements and comments about things are one thing but asking. Deb: they weren't comments that were questions, so when the signature for Mike Rhoads that was Brosius here. HARB the approval of that, was asked by Brosius. Record and permit were asked by Brosius. UTV that was Brosius. Summer Kick-off Party was or no I'm sorry the bicycles that was asked. Mayor: Well, I apologize then. Deb: Yea, I was just a little offended, I didn't know if it was just me or what. Mayor: No, I do apologize. I'll happily admit that I am wrong. Deb: Well, Thank you. Mayor: That is probably the only time you will hear that sentence. Deb: Well, I have heard that before, Thank you.

Joe Morales: I am here on behalf of Milton to thank you guys for the 500 pool passes. So, thank you and the other hat is that there is a meeting tomorrow of a town hall Meeting at 6:30 at Chief Shikellamy, if you could put that on your calendar.

Mike Rhoads: Yes, Mayor you mentioned Francis but that is not the only birthday tomorrow the young lady sitting next to you, Ciara.