CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

November 13, 2023

6:15 p.m.

**There was not an Executive meeting held prior to tonight’s meeting.**

There was a regular scheduled meeting of the Council of the city of Sunbury was called to order with the Honorable Mayor Brosious, presiding. There was a quorum with the following in attendance:

John Barnhart III, Director of Public Safety

James R. Eister, Director of Parks & Recreation

Lisa Martina, Director of Public Works

Ric Reichner, Director of Finance

Other City officials in attendance:

Jeffrey Wojciechowski, City Clerk

Ronald Rupp, Fire Chief

Jerome Alex, City Controller

Derrick Backer, City Administrator

Michael Rhoads, Acting Code Supervisor

Sergeant Travis Bremigen, Acting Police Chief

Kevin Troup, City Treasurer

Visitors present: 16

**Agenda Additions**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to add the Selling of the Police Tahoe to the agenda. Eister Seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Proclamation Family Court Awareness Month**

Mayor Brosious read the proclamation for Family Court Awareness Month. Mayor Brosious declared November Family Court Awareness Month.

**DEI Update**

Andres Manresa ordered stickers and they will be available in two weeks and will start selling them as soon as they come in. He had Jeff make a copy of the ordinance of the DEI Office for everyone to show want the office does. Councilman Reichner asked about the language classes. He was speaking to Melissa about it and they are doing it two days a week.

**Police Update**

Travis Bremigen gave the police update. The murder on Market Street and the Bomb threats are under investigation. The police are working hard on bringing them to a close.

**Shade Tree Update**

Julie Brosius got the price for the T-shirts. They will be sending out order forms for the items. They are looking at having junior shade tree personnel to get kids involved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

Julie Brosius asked when things are discussed to give a little background on the discussion, so the public knows what is being discussed.

Deb Betz asked Sgt. Bremigen if they were watching out for the schools with the bomb threats. Sgt. Bremigen was in contact with Chief Williams to have a plan in place for the schools. She wanted to thank all the police for their service.

Councilman Reichner said council is glad to see they are using Chief Williams as a resource.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS: Minutes of October 9 and 23 2023 and reports of the Fire Dept., Police Dept., Treasurer, Controller, Code Office, Health Dept., Parks & Rec, and Planning Commission.**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the minutes and reports from October 9th and 23rd 2023. Councilman Reichner seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Electric Contract – Hudson Energy – 24 months**

Councilman Eister announced that the electric for the City of Sunbury will go through Hudson Energy with a 7.7 cents per kilowatt hour starting January 1st. Councilman Eister made a motion to give Jeff Wojciechowski the authorization, after he talks to the solicitor, to sign the contract with Hudson Energy for 2 years. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Biometrics**

Councilman Eister brought up purchasing a fingerprinting device for employee timeclock. There was a discussion on the matter. Julie Brosius voiced her concern about the company stealing information from the device.

**Story walk**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the story walk for Degenstein. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Hiring of Michael Rhoads Public Safety Supervisor effective 1/1/24 $50,000/year**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to hire Michael Rhoads as the Public Safety Supervisor with a salary of $50,000.00 a year effective January 1, 2023, which is in the budget. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2024 Budget**

Mayor Brosious announced that the city has a balanced budget with no tax increases. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the first reading of the 2024 Budget of $4,719,698.00. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**HARB Approval 50 S Front St**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to approve the HARB application for 50 S Front Street. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**HARB Approval 62 N Front St**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to approve the HARB application for 62 N Front Street. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**2024 City Organizational Meeting Dates**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2024. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Tax Exonerations**

Councilman Reichner went over 6 Tax Exonerations, one was a non-resident, one was an SSI disability and four of them are deceased that totaled $2,128.48. Councilman Reichner made a motion to exonerate those taxes. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Tax Collectors Monthly Report to Taxing Districts - $15,639.53**

**MMO Sunbury City Pension Plan - $181,191.00**

Councilman Reichner announced that is a report that as of this year, our MMO, which is our responsibility towards pensions is $0.00 for the Police Department and for the non-uniformed police is $181,191.00.

**Approval of Abstract/Vouchers for GF $80,073.87, LF $3,437.90, Private Grants $55,328.17, and Payroll $63,157.99(10/13), $65,799.96(10/27), $85,265.99(11/9)**

Councilman Reichner made a motion to pay the above bills. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**DISCUSSION**

**Bike and Pedestrian Audit Draft**

Administrator Backer announced that the Bike and Pedestrian Audit Draft is a review of our bike and pedestrian routes within the city. That was a grant that was established in 2020. Everyone needs to review and vote on the draft proposal at the next meeting.

**Recreation Grants**

Administrator Backer discussed the small projects that were done in the past. DCNR West said they require a study done before funding any big projects in the future. The match would be between $25,000 to $50,000.00. The city will investigate who they can reach out to in regard to the studies.

**New City Website**

Mayor Brosious announced the new city website is up and running. If any businesses would like to be listed on the City Website, they can get in touch with the City Clerk’s office.

**Haven Ministry Fees**

Cory from Haven Ministries asked if the city could think about waiving the City’s permit fees.

**Solar Energy**

Mayor Brosious announced that the solar company came and looked at the old city dump to survey the land. In their opinion we could be energy efficient in 5-7 years. More accurate numbers will be coming in at a later date. There was discussion on the matter.

**City Emergency Plan**

Mayor Brosious announced that Councilman Barnhart received a to-do-list from Paul Brown to look into. Paul would like to have a meeting to get this plan in place.

**SPD Tahoe Update**

The SPD Tahoe is going to be placed on Municibid to be sold for a reserved fund of $65,000.00.

**Heritage Days**

Councilman Barnhart announced there will be a meeting on Thursday, November 16th at 6:00p.m. at City Hall in the first-floor conference room. If anyone would like to be on the Heritage Days committee, please come to the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Santa Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony – November 24, 2023, at 6:00p.m. & 6:30p.m.

City Fire Department Consolidation Meeting – November 27, 2023, at 5:00p.m.

New Years Eve Celebration, Skating Rink (1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.), Downtown (8:00p.m. to Midnight)

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on November 27, 2023, at 6:15pm**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joe Bartello asked if the suspects that were involved in the shooting were renters and if they were registered. Atty. Joel Wiest said that they cannot give out that information, because it is personal information concerning the suspects. If they were renters, it’s being looked into now.

Debra Betz mentioned that the Isle of Que was able to get a grant based on the income of those who own and rent. She also had an idea, to recoup some of the money that would not be taken in from Haven Ministries, to sell individual bricks to put towards a landscaping project for Haven.

Julie Brosius wanted to applaud the police for their hard work from recent events. She mentioned that renters move out in the middle of the night, but they keep going back to pick up their mail.

Debra Betz wanted to know the difference with the suspects whether they are renters or homeowners; are the consequences different. Mayor Brosious said that it’s to make sure they are following our ordinances as well.

There being to further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant