CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

December 11, 2023

6:15 p.m.

**There was an Executive meeting held prior to tonight’s meeting to discuss personnel.**

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

Visitors present: 51

**PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

Allen Bubb stated his opinion on why the Dollar General should not go on North Fourth Street.

Tracie Lesher voiced her concern regarding Dollar General taking place of the skate park. Mayor Brosious informed her that the skate park is not going to disappear, the plan is to relocate it, should the plans go through.

Tyler Kerstetter said he just opened a skate shop in town and that he wants to take some money and put it towards building a new skate park. He doesn’t want to see it go away.

Jeremy Lauer recommended the city apply for grants for the new proposed skate park.

Victoria Rosencrans would like to see there be a discussion on building a new skate park if Dollar General doesn’t not go there. The current park needs to be maintained. She also had a question regarding the letter of renewal for the DEI and Civil Service Board. She also asked that moving forward with the Celotex Property, things be discussed correctly so the people know what is going on with the property.

Derek Taves discussed what he wants to see done regarding the skate park and the state that the current park is in now.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS: Minutes of November 13 and 27 2023 and Reports of the Fire Dept., Police Dept., Treasurer, Controller, Code Office, Health Dept., Parks and Rec, and Planning Commission.**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the minutes and reports. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Sweep Update 2023 Stewardship Program 12x18 sign**

Kurt asked for approval of the design of the Stewardship sign so it can be created. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the design. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor. Kurt also wanted to remind everyone that the volunteer work at the park is on break until February 2025.

**Forensics Audit Update**

Back in July/August an audit was done and was completed last week. The official findings will be released to the public when we receive them. There was no criminal activity found in the audit.

**OLD BUSINESS**

2024 Budget has been balanced. Originally, we had a 2% raise for employees but increased it to 4% because there is money to do that and there is no tax increase. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget. Councilman Reichner seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Dollar General/Brand New Skate Park**

Mayor Brosious let council know that Dollar General no longer goes through a third party when opening their stores. Mayor Brosious read a letter from Pat Higgens, the representative from Dollar General, explaining that they researched every option, but the current Skate Park would fit their criteria. Mayor Brosious made a motion to continue to pursue the conversation getting Dollar General on 4th Street. Councilman Reichner seconded the motion; John Barnhart voted no; all other council members were in favor.

**GoGov City Notification System**

Mayor Brosious gave a brief explanation that GoGov is a phone/message system that reaches out to citizens to make them aware and alert them on events going on in the city. The cost is $4,260.00 a year with unlimited notifications.

**DEI Diversity Director Renewal Letter**

Andres Manresa submitted his letter to continue being the DEI Director. If anyone new wants to become a member of the board, they can submit their letter of interest as well.

**Civil Service Board Renewal Letter**

Norman Koch submitted his letter to continue servicing on the Civil Service Board. If anyone new wants to become a member of the board, they can submit their letter of interest as well.

**Harris Time and Attendance System**

Treasure, Kevin Troup, explained the new payroll system. The cost is $26,000.00. It could be cheaper if the swipe cards are taken out of the equation. It will interface with the system we currently have. Josh stated he would like to see the swipe cards be used so employees are only signing themselves in. Mayor Brosious made a motion to purchase the Harris time and attendance system for the amount of $26,069.24 out of capital outlays after demonstration and training. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**McDonald’s Extension**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to grant McDonald’s the 90-day extension to make additional for Storm Water design and obtain cooperation from Upper Augusta Township. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Vote to Appropriate and Condemn real estate designated as 501 N Front Street**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to appropriate and condemn real estate designated as 501 N Front Street, which is the Turkey Hill. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Fire Consolidation Resolution 2023-41**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to accept Resolution 2023-41, Fire Consolidation of the Fire Department. The City Council of Sunbury adopts this resolution recognizing and supporting the consolidation of the fire fighting divisions of the Americus Hose Company, East Sunbury Hose Company No. 1, Friendship Hose Company, Goodwill Hose Company, Rescue Hose Company and Sunbury Steam Fire Engine Company No. 1 in effort to create a more sustainable and effective fire rescue and emergency services. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Vendor Payments and Employee Reimbursements by EFT as of 1/1/23**

Jerome Alex stated that vendor payments and reimbursements should be paid by directed deposit for all vendors we are dealing with. It will save time and money on checks and postage. There was discussion on the matter. Mayor Brosious made a motion to start paying as many vendors online as possible. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Grant Agreement – Community Center w/ Performing Arts Stage**

Derrick Backer needs an approval for the grant agreement regarding the Community Center w/ the Performing Arts Stage. Joel reviewed the grant agreement. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the grant agreement. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency Recruitment Incentives Grant for Law Enforcement**

Derrick Backer explained that this is a grant for the Police Department. It is for retention and/or training for police vacancies or upcoming vacancies that we may have. It is $5000.00 if we budget for Act 120 training or $7000.00 if we do not provide funding for Act 120 training. He is looking for a vote to apply for this grant. Mayor Brosious made a motion to apply for the grant. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Hiring of New Police Chief**

Mayor Brosious announced that tonight he is swearing in Seargent Travis Bremigen to Chief Travis Bremigen. Chief Bremigen made a small speech regarding his new position.

**Police Chief Contract**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the Police Chief Contract for Travis Bremigen and it be signed within the next 5 days. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Tax Exonerations**

Councilman Reichner stated there were 7 claims for tax exoneration; 6 of them were for deceased people and 1 for a nonresident totaling $602.28. Councilman Reichner made a motion to accept those exonerations. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval of Abstract/Vouchers for GF $72,538.43, LF $868.55, Private $4,682.02, and Payroll $64,965.55**

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

**DISCUSSION**

**NAMING OF AN UNNAMED ALLEY (SAM NEWMAN)**

Mayor Brosious announced that currently there are 14 unnamed alleys and more as they are discovering. Steve Welker is compiling a list of the unnamed alleys to bring forth to council the citizens so they can begin the process of naming them. We a request already from Sam Newman to name an alley, as well as Jim Brumbach.

**CELOTEX PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

Mayor Brosious stated that Steve Welker had sent a list regarding work that has been done at the Celotex Property because there has been concern from the public regarding the state of the property. Mayor Brosious asked if the whole property is going to be maintained or just the front of it. There was a discussion on the matter.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSOLIDATION FUNDS**

The Fire Department came to the last meeting regarding the consolidation of the fire departments. The biggest thing was the funding for the consolidation. Mayor Brosious wanted to know when we should start raising the funds. There was a discussion on the matter.

**SUPERVISORS/CITY BOARD ATTENDANCE**

Mayor Brosious wanted to bring up for discussion having Supervisors and City Board Members attend a quarterly or monthly meeting. There was discussion on the matter. City Council agreed to have a work session with all City Boards at 5:00p.m. before the 1st council meeting of the month and all city supervisors must attend all council meetings.

**CITY HALL FIRST FLOOR RENOVATION PLAN**

Mayor Brosious wanted to discuss the floor plans for the renovations of City Hall. There was a discussion on the matter.

**CHESTNUT STREET GARAGE**

Mayor Brosious wanted to discuss the future for the Chestnut Street Garage. A citizen reached out to the mayor wanting to know if the city would be interested in selling the property. There was discussion on the matter. The first step would be cleaning it out and seeing if what is let over can be stored at another city location.

**DISPLAYING HISTORICAL ITEMS FROM CITY HALL**

Councilman Barnhart wants to see some of the City’s historical items on display in City Hall.

**BULK PURCHASING**

Controller, Jerome Alex, wants to start creating bulk orders instead of each department ordering the same items at different times.

**BIDDING OUT GAS AND DIESEL FUEL**

Controller, Jerome Alex, brought up for discussion, bidding out gas and diesel fuel. Council had mentioned that we currently have cards with Sunoco and we do get a discount with them.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

City Hall Offices will be closed on 12/22/23 at 12:00p.m to 12/26/23 at 8:00a.m. and 12/29/23 at 12:00p.m. to 1/2/24 at 8:00a.m.

New Years Eve Celebration 12/31/2023 – Skating Rink from 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. & Downtown from 8:00p.m. to midnight.

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on January 8, 2024, at 6:15pm**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Allen Bubb asked if the Chestnut Street Garage was in the Historic District and why it was built and what it was used for.

Jeremy Lauer recommended filing a 5013C to have a backup if things were to fall through with building a new skatepark.

Tyler Kerstetter mentioned he would like to be involved with the skatepark project.

Victoria Rosencrans made an announcement that Santa Con is Saturday, 12/16/23, at 6:00p.m. at Iron Vines. Tickets are $15.00. It is a bar crawl to 11 of the business downtown. Also, Sunday, 12/17/2023 is the Ugly Sweater Party and free skating at the James R. Eister Youth & Community Center from 4:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. She also wanted to advise the council that minutes from the Municipal Authority are not posted on our website. She also mentioned that she can get her account information to the Treasures office so they can start direct deposit instead of writing her checks for Litefest. She also wanted to congratulate Chief Bremigen on his promotion to chief.

Julie Brosious announced that the Shade Tree T-Shirt order forms and pictures of the shirt are available on the City’s website and Mayor’s Office and thanked those who purchase a T-shirt.

There being to further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant