CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

January 8, 2024

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

Travis Bremigen, Police Chief

Visitors present: 35

**ADDITION TO AGENDA**

**Resignation of Officer Keith Tamborelli**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to add the resignation of Officer Keith Tamborelli to the agenda. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

N/A

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS: Minutes of December 11 and 28 2023 and January 2, 2024, 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 Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Sweep Update**

Kurt was not able to attend the meeting, so Mayor Brosious spoke on his behalf. They need approval to accept a $3,000.00 donation from Purdy Insurance. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the $3000.00 donation from Purdy Insurance. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor. They also need approval to purchase a bench for the park using the donation from Purdy Insurance. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the purchase of the bench using the donation from Purdy Insurance. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Lite Fest Update**

Victoria Rosancrans said they had a successful holiday season; they saw over 450 children at the Santa House and gave out over 700 books between the Santa House and other events that were held. Sensory Santa, Santa Paws, and Santa Con were a success. They are planning a new community event that will get children involved in nursing homes. She asked if the city is allowing citizens to decorate the light poles on Chestnut Street. Jim explained that all light poles on Chestnut Street will be done by Matt Reader and volunteers. There was a discussion regarding the holiday picture boards. There was also discussion on the Christmas in July event and the process of registering for events.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Dollar General/Brand New Skate Park**

Mayor Brosious mentioned that Dollar General was looking into purchasing 1.5 acres of the land where the skate park is; if we would sell it, we would have to find another 1.5 acres of recreational land because the property was purchased with Federal Grant money. The Dollar General building in town is not lost yet, but the odds of finding a property for them is not looking good. The city still plans to rebuild the skate park regardless.

**Rave Mobile Safety Notification System (3-Year Contract)**

Mayor Brosious discussed the Rave Mobile Safety Notification System. Joel wanted to let council know, should any legal action be taken, it would be done in Massachusetts because that is where Rave is at. Mayor Brosious mentioned that it is a 3-year contract for a total of $11,000; $500.00 activation fee and $3,500.00 yearly fee. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the Rave Mobile Safety Notification at $11,000.00 for 3 years. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**2024 Fee Schedule**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to table the 2024 Fee Schedule until the next meeting. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Committee/Board Appointments**

**Parks & Recreation (5)**

David Persing, Don Shipe, Lee Bertovich, and Jenna Whitaker-Eister and one open spot.

**DEI**

Andres Manresa

**Housing Authority (2)**

Phoebe Arbogast and Michael Hogan

**Planning Commission (2)**

Larry Welfer and one open spot

**Civil Service Board (1)**

Norman Koch

**Shade Tree (1)**

Joe Bartello

**H.A.R.B. (1)**

Aimee Buehner

**Assistant EMA**

Tony Culp

Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the above listed individuals to their boards. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; Lisa Martina abstained from voting for David Persing for the Parks & Recreation board and in favor for all others and John Barnhart abstained from voting Tony Culp for Assistant EMA and in favor of all others and James Eister abstained from voting Jenna Whitaker-Eister and in favor of all others; Ric Reichner and Josh Brosious were in favor for all board candidates.

**Municipal Authority (3)**

The following put in a letter of interest for the Municipal Authority Board: Norman Koch, Tom McBryan, Justin Wertz, Cory Fasold, Jerome Alex, Pamela Schlegel, and Kurt Karlovich.

Mayor Brosious made a motion to appoint Cory Fasold for the remaining term (2 years) of Charles Schlegel. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mayor Brosious made a motion to reappoint Tom McBryan to the Municipal Authority Board for a 5-year term; Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; Councilman Eister abstained; Brosious, Martina, Barnhart and Reichner were in favor.

Mayor Brosious made a motion to reappoint Norman Koch to the Municipal Authority Board for a 5-year term; Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; Brosious and Barnhart not in favor; Martina, Eister and Reichner were in favor.

**H.A.R.B. Permit Addendum 158 Market Street**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to approve the H.A.R.B. addendum for 158 Market Street. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**RACP Letter of Cooperation for Fresh Roasted Coffee**

Derrick Backer said that there needs to be a letter of cooperation with Fresh Roasted Coffee per the RACP requirements. Joel looked over the letter and didn’t see any issues. He’s looking for a vote to approve the letter. Mayor Brosious made a motion for the letter of RACP for Cooperation of Fresh Roasted Coffee. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**SRI – RACP Application**

Melissa Rouse, library director of the Degenstein Community Library, stated they are looking into doing another RACP for the second phase of the Albright Center. They are finalizing the current RACP they have. They are looking for approval to file the online application, which is due Friday, January 26, 2024. They agreed that Derrick Backer be the one to apply for the RACP. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the filing of the online RACP application. Councilman Eister made a motion; all were in favor.

**Tax Exonerations**

Mayor Brosious announced there is a total of $320.00 for tax exonerations for nonresidents. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the exonerations. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval of Abstract/Vouchers of GF $42,604.44, LF $0.00, Private Grants $0.00 and Payroll $78,067.54**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to pay the above bills. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mayor Brosious made a public announcement that delinquent taxes will be turned over to Keystone Collections.

**DISCUSSION**

**New Years Eve Celebration**

Mayor Brosious said that the New Years Eve Celebration was a success. There was close to 1,000 people that showed up at the rink for the free skating event throughout the 3-hour time period. The celebration in Cameron Park was a success as well. He thanked all the volunteers, city employees and sponsors for their help.

**2024 Summer Kick Off**

Mayor Brosious mentioned that this year’s summer Kick Off will take place on Saturday, June 8th down at River Front. In addition to the Kickoff tattoo artists in the area want to have a tattoo convention at the ice skating rink called Ink at the Rink. They would like to have it run from Friday, June 7th to Sunday, June 9th to partner with the Kickoff to bring more people to the area. He also mentioned bringing back the Sandwich Stroll that weekend as well. Another event that was mentioned was a Bike Ralley.

**Employee Training Schedule**

Mayor Brosious received a list of training courses from Purdy Insurance that they think are beneficial to our employees. City employees have been set up with and account to complete trainings that are beneficial to running the city. There was a discussion on the matter.

**City Wide Computer Upgrade to Windows 11**

Mayor Brosious wanted to make the city aware that a computer upgrade will need to be done at the end of this year. Windows 10 will be obsolete, and all departments will need to be upgraded to Windows 11. He wanted to make everyone aware so we can start looking at grants to cover the cost of the upgrades. There was discussion on the matter.

**Parking/Dispute Process**

Mayor Brosious said that there is confusion regarding where people need to go for parking tickets. The Police oversee the disputes, but the Treasures Office takes in the money for the tickets. The mayor stated that all other departments take care of the disputes and the money coming in. There was a discussion on the matter.

**Boat Launch**

Mayor Brosious was asked when the lights are going to get fixed by the boat launch. Councilman Eister said they are working on it.

**Banking Options**

First National Bank got in contact with Mayor Brosious about looking into their banking options. They have an option of cash back with their credit cards. There was discussion on the matter. Mayor Brosious is going to reach out and get them the information they need to write up a proposal. Joel suggested having a vote after they send a list on what information is needed.

**440 Market Street**

Mayor Brosious talked with Chief Bremigen regarding the old police station. Chief Bremigen said everything that was needed is out of the building; the only thing is papers that are still in the building need to be shredded. There was discussion on the matter.

**City Ordinances**

Mayor Brosious was talking with the Chief that some of our ordinances do not match what is on the city website and what is in the books. There was a discussion on the matter. The city will have to work together with Joel to get it straightened out.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Electronic Recycling Day April 20, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., City Skating Rink Parking Lot

Heritage Days Planning Committee Meeting Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall in the 1st floor conference room.

Michael Rhoads wanted to let the public know that sidewalks must be cleared 24 hours after the cessation of snow, sleet or freezing rain. Also, snow cannot be thrown in the street. If you are in violation of either, you will receive a citation.

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on January 22, 2024, at 6:15pm**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeremy Lauer asked if Parks and Recreation has a plan to repair the skate park and how. He said epoxy is just going to flake off and his suggestion is to build a new skate park. Jeremy asked if he could start a nonprofit to help raise funds. Joel stated that he will help with that at no charge.

Debra Betz wanted to say that her son had come to the New Year’s Eve Celebration down at Cameron Park and had a great time and said that the city did a great job.

Nathan Will stated that three of the lights are out at the skate park. Councilman Eister said he will check if the breaker. Jeremy Lauer said he can be contacted because he has keys to the panel box.

Butch Stanchik, from Bootleggers Benefit Club, a nonprofit organization, said they would be honored to be a part of the new skate park project.

Eddy Gobash, from the Bootleggers Benefit Club, wanted to have a Bike Ride/Rally, a one-to-two-day event, that would be a fundraiser for the skate park and help with buildings and cleaning up the town.

Julie Brosius wanted to let everyone know that the gateway by Weis Markets is through the first phase. They removed trees, weeds, poison, etc. The Peace Pole and dedication plaque have been removed to be refurbished. She asked what the payment options are for those who want to order shirts that are out of town.

Melissa Rouse said that most entities can upgrade computers for free.

Victoria Rosencrans asked if the lights on the gazebos in Cameron Park and Riverfront should remain up. Councilman Eister said yes, they can stay up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant