CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

February 26, 2024

6:15 p.m.

**There was an Executive meeting held on February 12th 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:

James R. Eister, Director of Parks & Recreation

Lisa Martina, Director of Public Works

John Barnhart III, Director of Public Safety

Other City officials in attendance:

Jeffrey Wojciechowski, City Clerk

Ronald Rupp, Fire Chief

Jerome Alex, City Controller

Derrick Backer, City Administrator

Michael Rhoads, Public Safety Supervisor

Travis Bremigen, Police Chief

Visitors present: 27

**PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

Julie Brosious asked if there was going to be a discussion on parking meters.

**Vote to fill Councilman Reichner’s seat for the remainder of his term**

Mayor Brosious asked each council person to say who they think is the best candidate to fill Councilman Reichner’s remaining term. Councilman Eister, Councilman Barnhart and Councilwoman Martina all said they thought that Nathan Savidge was the best candidate. Mayor Brosious made a motion to appoint the vacant council position to Nathan Savidge. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Swearing in of New Council Person**

Mayor Brosious swore in Nathan Savidge to the open council position.

**Police Update**

Chief Bremigen gave a police update of the last two weeks and what they plan on doing in the next two weeks. He also announced the SPOA and Goodwill Hose Co. Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 25th at the David Persing Baseball Complex. He is looking into having a fishing derby for the kids.

**Code Enforcement Update**

Public Safety Supervisor Michael Rhoads gave an update on the Code Enforcement Office. He announced that they are going to be attending a training session on Blight Properties and CPR training.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**AARP Grant Vote**

Derrick Backer gave a brief overview of what was discussed in the past regarding the grant. Mr. Backer needs to know what project council would like to apply for. Mayor Brosious made a motion to apply for the AARP for the following SWEEP, McDonald’s sidewalks and the complex and different streetscapes such as benches and garbage receptacles. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Rescind Greenlight Go Grant Vote**

Mr. Backer explained that what we apply for, they will only cover 25% of the cost of the project, the remaining would be taken out of the DPW funds. He spoke with Steve and he does not have the extra funds in Liquid Fuels. Councilman Eister made a motion to rescind the Greenlight Go Grant Vote. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; Councilman Savidge abstained do to not being a part of the original vote. All other council members were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Blight List Additions/Removals**

**Resolution #2024-004 – Add 108 N 6th Street & 420 N 4th Street to the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to add 108 N 6th Street & 420 N 4th Street to the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-005 – Remove 630 N 7th Street from the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to remove 630 N 7th Street from the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-006 – Remove 102-104 S 11th Street from the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to remove 102-104 S 11th Street from the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-007 – Remove 460 Arch Street from the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to remove 460 Arch Street from the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-008 – Remove 115 Fairmount Avenue from the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to remove 115 Fairmount Avenue from the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-009 – Remove 1149-1151 Market Street from the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to remove 1149-1151 Market Street from the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-010 – Remove 245-247 Penn Street from the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to remove 245-247 Penn Street from the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-011 – Remove 1021 Penn Street from the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to remove 1021 Penn Street from the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-012 – Remove 1038-1040 Walnut Street from the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to remove 1038-1040 Walnut Street from the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-013 – Update the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to update the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor. Brianna Apfelbaum stated that majority of the properties on the list have a rehabilitation plan in place and are working towards being removed from the list.

**Blueprint Communities Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

Mr. Backer stated that in order to be considered for the Blueprint Communities Program we have to sign a MOU regarding to this program. All issues that arose have been fixed. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the Blueprint Communities MOU allowing Mr. Backer to be the signee. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**CES Engineer Standard Agreement**

Mr. Backer stated that we are updating the CES Engineering Standard Agreement with the 2024 rates to make sure it is current. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the agreement. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Municibid: Parking Enforcement Vehicle**

Mayor Brosious and Chief Bremigen were talking about parting with the old Ford Crown Victoria because it is costing more than what it is worth. They are looking for approval to sell it on Municibid. Mayor Brosious made the motion to place the Ford Crown Victoria on Municibid. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resignation of PT Police Officer Terry Ketchem**

Mayor Brosious announced that Terry Ketchem is taking a full-time position elsewhere and he will not have time to stay on as a part-time officer in the City of Sunbury. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept Terry Ketchem’s resignation. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Police Officer Recruitment/Act 120 Payment Contract**

Mayor Brosious, Chief Bremigen and Attorney Joel Wiest have been talking about attracting more candidates for Police Officers in the City of Sunbury. One option that they discussed paying for the officer’s Act 120 training along with a small salary with the training. Chief Bremigen stated there is a crisis across the county with hiring police officers. He explained how the hiring process goes. Chief Bremigen and Attorney Joel Weist explained the process of reimbursement for the City of Sunbury. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the process of the Act 120 Payment Contract/Police Officer Recruitment. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Police Contract**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the Police Contract. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; Councilman Savidge abstained due to not seeing the details of the contract; all other council members were in favor. Jerome Alex asked if overtime counts towards vacation and sick time. Attorney Joel Wiest explained it has to because of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

**Exercise Area**

Mayor Brosious introduced District Attorney Michael O’Donnell who would like to present an opportunity to the City of Sunbury to help keep people active and involved. Attorney O’Donnell presented the idea of building an exercise area. The National Fitness Campaign is looking for a community to donate funds to help build a fitness court. There is a grant out there that would help pay for the project. It would be free for the community to use. He is just looking for community support and a location. Mayor Brosious made a motion to allow Derrick Backer, Michael O’Donnell and all others involved to go for the grant and whatever funds necessary to get the exercise area along with a letter of support. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**American Rescue Funds Allocation**

Mayor Brosious made a motion use the remaining $103,250.00 to be put towards the Susquehanna Avenue Project along with Packer Street. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-003 Police Civil Service Regulations**

Mayor Brosious explained the regulations needed to be updated and want to bring it up to 2024 standards and regulations. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept Resolution #2024-003 Police Civil Service updates. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval of Abstract/Vouchers for GF $124,257.27, LF $2,198.41, Private Grants $26,746.75, Payroll $64,616.37**

Controller, Jerome Alex was concerned about a bill for Norfolk Southern Railway that was issued two years ago for the cost of $11,353.58. There was a discussion regarding the bill and they agreed to deduct the $11,353.58 from the General Fund total. Mayor Brosious made a motion to pay the above bills with the change of the General Fund total to $112,903.69. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; Councilman Savidge was not in favor; all other council members were in favor.

**DISCUSSION**

**City of Sunbury Public Relation Officer**

Mayor Brosious wanted to discuss a process for releasing city news. He believes the employees are getting the backlash for doing what they are told by their superiors, and he does not think this is right. He feels that the council members should be the ones talking with the media, not the employees. There was a discussion on the matter.

**ARPA PA Multi-Purpose Community Facility Grant**

Derrick Backer wanted to bring up to council that the grant has changed their guidelines. Mr. Backer went over those guidelines. There was a discussion on the matter. They decided to pass on this grant to allow other entities in the city to go after this grant.

Mayor Brosious let council know there was a letter sent in from Ronda Newman. She is interested in purchasing the vacant lot next to her, 1027 Keller Street. Councilman Eister said they will be discussing it in the spring.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Accepting letters of Interest for 1 open shot H.A.R.B. (Historical Architectural Review Board) – Must be a License Contractor

Accepting letters of interest for 7 open spots (5 active & 2 alternates) on the Nuisance Abatement Board of Appeals (1 City Executive, 1 City Councilperson, 1 Police Officer, 2 Business Owners and 2 Sunbury Citizens)

Easter Egg Hunt at David Persing Complex on March 23rd from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

Coffee with Corgis for Watson’s Wish Foundation, April 20, 2024 at the 3rd Street Train Station

Cameron Park & Front Street Cleanup will be held on April 22nd at 9:00 a.m.

Summer Kickoff will be held on Saturday, June 8th along River Front

Tattoo Convention “Ink in the Rink” will be held June 7th – 9th at the Ice Rink, Contact Chris Bucher at booking@bodysinkpa.com

Motorcycle Rally “Rally at the Rink” – August 17-18 at the Ice Rink, Contact the Bootleggerz Benefit Club on Facebook for more information.

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on March 11, 2024, at 6:15pm**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Traci Lesher asked if there is an ordinance regarding landlords renting to criminals. Attorney Joel Wiest explained to her there is one in the books at this time.

Victoria Rosencrans wanted to thank the Sunbury Police Department and Andres Manresa for standing in with the Unity Event. She asked who is responsible to clear the pedestrian/handicap accessible intersections when the plows go through and block them. Council Woman Martina said she would get back to her in a couple days. She also made the city aware that there are other news outlets taking things off of someone’s social media page and used it as news.

Julie Brosious asked if there is an emergency plan established in the city that would interact with different organizations or the school district and advised the police to look at inspection stickers on vehicles throughout the city. Mayor Brosious let her know that we are working on updating the plan. There was further discussion on the concerns she had. She advised the police to look at inspection stickers on vehicles throughout the city. She hopes council will attend the county tax assessment and municipal meetings coming up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant