CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

March 25, 2024

6:15 p.m.

There was an Executive Session 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:

James R. Eister, Director of Parks & Recreation

John Barnhart III, Director of Public Safety

Nathan Savidge, Director of Finance

Lisa Martina, Director of Public Works

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: 21

**Addition to Agenda – Purchase of Police Vehicle**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to add the Purchase of a Police Vehicle to the agenda. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/AGENDA ITEMS**

Allen Bubb asked who will get the salvage that is dug up. He believes, being that it is city property, it should be disposed of or reused by the city. Councilman Eister explained that the contractor will salvage it. He said there was supposed to be a citizens committee in regard to the project. Councilman Eister explained there was a meeting this past Thursday with the public in regard to the Susquehanna Project.

Julie Brosius asked if everything that is dug up is going to the contractor like old rails. Mayor Brosious explained whatever they dig up, they will dispose of. It’s going to be easier for them to haul it away than the city storing it and disposing of it at a later date.

**Proclamation April 2024 – SAFE Digging Month**

Mayor Brosious read the Safe Digging Month Proclamation.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**City Hall Upgrade Proposals**

Mayor Brosious spoke to Rocky Baer and he gave a breakdown of the fees to do the architectural blueprint plans, design and documents totaling $9,000.00. Councilman Eister suggested before going any further to discuss was we have to do for safety and where the money is coming from. There was discussion on the matter. Council will have a meeting on Wednesday do go over the plans for City Hall. Mayor Brosious made a motion to table the City Hall Upgrade Proposal until the next council meeting. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were if favor.

**McDonalds Update**

Councilman Eister stated Joel sent the proposal back to McDonald’s and we are waiting to hear back for final approval.

**Purchase TVs for City Hall Conference Room**

Mr. Backer stated that we are looking to purchase TVs for the Council Chamber’s and 1st floor conference room. He went over the brand, size and cost of the TV’s and mounting brackets. Councilman Savidge made a motion to table the purchase of the TV’s. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Purchase of Police Vehicle**

Mayor Brosious stated we need a vote to purchase the New Dodge Charger. Chief Bremigen added that the vehicle is a 2023 Dodge Charge fully equipped that will cost $55,002.88. Councilman Eister asked what color it is going to be because the public is saying they don’t notice the police driving around because of the dark colors. There was a discussion on changing the color to a lighter color. Mayor Brosious made a motion to purchase the police vehicle. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Non-Motorized Trail Grant for Riverfront Engineering/Lighting/Greenery**

Mr. Backer stated that he is looking for a vote for the Non-Motorized Trail Grant for Riverfront Engineering/Lighting/Greenery. This would be in compliment to the TA Set-Aside program. We would put in for the maximum amount of $250,000.00, which should cover everything. Mayor Brosious made a motion to apply for the Non-Motorized Trail Grant. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Susquehanna Avenue G&R Charles Agreement**

Attorney Wiest went over the agreement and the only section he did not like was that the city could not go after liquidated damages if there is some sort of problem with what they are doing relative to their time frame. He stated all contractors put this into their contracts. He does not have a legal problem with the agreement, but he wanted to make council aware of this because if they are untimely, they will pay us $500.00 a day. Councilman Eister made a motion to accept the Susquehanna Avenue G & R Charles Agreement. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Susquehanna Avenue Phase 1 Notice to Proceed**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the Notice to Process for Phase 1 of Susquehanna Avenue. Councilman Savidge seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**UGI Check**

Councilman Eister stated UGI and the city has been negotiating back and forth and there is an issue regarding the engineering cost. Attorney Wiest is currently reviewing it. Councilman Eister made a motion to table the UGI Check. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Event Trailer Items**

Councilman Eister had made a list of items that the city is looking to purchase for the event trailer and asked how the rest of council felt about it. Mayor Brosious stated it was a good idea to purchase the items. Councilman Eister asked what account the purchases should come out of. Mayor Brosious recommended taking it out of economic development. There was a small discussion on the matter. Councilman Eister made a motion to accept the purchases of the Event Trailer Items and have the cost be taken out of Economic Development. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Police Academy Recruitment Salary**

Mayor Brosious announced, thanks to Mr. Backer and Chief Bremigen, we were approved for the grant to help fund the police academy. Mayor Brosious explained we never voted on a salary cost. Chief Bremigen did some research and other municipalities are playing between fifteen and sixteen dollars an hour during their time at the academy. After they finish the academy, they would be brought on to the City of Sunbury police salary. There was a discussion on the matter. Mayor Brosious made a motion to pay the academy attendees a $700.00 weekly stipend for one session during the duration of the Police Academy. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Part Time Police Pay Rate**

Mayor Brosious stated the current pay rate for part-time Police Officers is $22.00 hours an hour. Chief Bremigen went over a list of surrounding police departments and their part-time salaries. Mayor Brosious believes the city should raise the part-time police hourly rate, so we are competitive with other municipalities. There was a discussion on the matter. Mayor Brosious made a motion to raise the part-time hourly rate to $28.00 an hour. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Advertising of Part Time Police Officer**

Chief Bremigen wanted to ask council to consider lowering the age of part-time police officers to eighteen years of age. Attorney Wiest suggested talking to our insurance before bringing this up for a vote. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the advertising for a Part Time Police Officer. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion.

**Police Vehicle Equipment**

Chief Bremigen stated that we have a budget of $13,561.74., from the SUV we would have an additional $9,000.00. Chief Bremigen is looking to put equipment into the Ford Fusion that they already have. He made a list for council to see what he would like to outfit the Ford Fusion and another vehicle. There was a discussion on the matter. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the Motorola Solutions for $17,206.40 and CSG for $8,174.81 to be the maximum that we pay for the two vehicle upgrades. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution to Follow Municipal Records Schedule**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-015 to Follow Municipal Records Schedule. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution for Shredding Old Police Department Paperwork (Non-Evidentiary)**

Mayor Brosious explained that the Chief, Jeff, and other city employees have been busy cleaning out the old police station. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-016 to dispose and shred old police department paperwork. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval of Abstract/Vouchers for GF $125,971.34, LF $2,618.74, Private Grants $25,275.48, and Payroll $73,484.79.**

Councilman Savidge made a motion to approve the above bills. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**DISCUSSION**

**Old Police Department Building Update**

Councilman Eister explained that the old police station is cleaned out. There has been interest in the building. Council will have to discuss what should be done with the building. The roof will have some repair work done.

**Blight Line Item**

Councilman Barnhart will be creating line items for blight for NEIC for the money coming in and it goes to specific places to help blight and help the city aesthetically.

**Firefighters Club High School Students**

Councilman Barnhart spoke with the high school principal and Officer Shawn Williams about starting a Firefighter Club. Before they start it, they want to make sure there is interest in it. Mr. Alex explained that the issue came up in a meeting and they are trying to come up with a recruitment packet. Unfortunately, there are no new people coming into the fire department that want to become firefighters. Mayor Brosious suggested getting the kids out of school and having an open house for kids. There was further discussion on the matter.

**Pool Prices**

Councilman Eister mentioned there are going to be some changes in the pool prices this season.

**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)

City Wide Clean-Up March 26-28, Sunbury Transfer Station 1pm-7pm. City Residents Only. No tv’s or freon based items, no paint, oil, or chemicals will be accepted.

\*\* Date Changed\*\* All Inclusive Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Goodwill Hose Co. & Sunbury Police Dept. at the Goodwill Playground, March 30th 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 – No TV’s

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

Cameron Park & Front Street Cleanup (Shikellamy JROTC, Law Enforcement Club, and other student volunteers will be helping beautify our city) April 22nd at 9:00 a.m. in Cameron Park

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

Christmas in July – Saturday, July 27th, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Cameron Park

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

The City of Sunbury Brush Recycle Center located at 2nd and John St on the old Celotex property will reopen Saturday, April 6, 2024. We will be open 7am to 12pm and through the summer for deliveries of brush. This service is ONLY available to residents within the city limits of the City of Sunbury.

The yearly Department of Public Works Free Mulch Giveaway will take place on its traditional date, the Saturday before Mother’s Day, May 4, 2024. This mulch giveaway is open to ANYONE, including non-residents of Sunbury. Gates will open at 7am and close at noon or until all the mulch is gone. We will have equipment and personnel onsite to load everything from a pickup or trailer up to a dump truck. The giveaway is located at the City of Sunbury Brush Recycle Center located at 2nd & John Streets on the old Celotex Property.

Mr. Rhoads wanted to add that no contractor waste, household trash, or tires will be accepted at the Free City Clean-Up. He also wanted to remind everyone to keep their grass cut and keep their garbage in trash cans. Also, wanted to make everyone aware that an application must be filled out before any shade trees are cut or removed.

Chief Bremigen wanted to announce that they started taking code out with them. He wants everyone to make sure their vehicles are registered, inspected, and insured. They issued 27, $100.00 tickets on Susquehanna & Edison Avenue.

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on April 8, 2024, at 6:15p.m.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Zerbe, a former employee of the Municipal Authority, asked questions regarding the topic of the possible sale of the Municipal Authority and its employee benefits. He informed council of other details that he knows regarding the Municipal Authority. He gave some advice on running the city clean-up.

Victoria Rosencrans asked Councilman Eister to explain the process of how people can bid on the building. Councilman Eister stated that it needs to be voted by council on how they will do it. Mayor Brosious added that there is only interest coming in. Council has not discussed how the process will go yet.

Julie Brosius asked questions regarding the Firefighters Club and made suggestions as to who to reach out too. She also raised her concern regarding people using the 4th Street parking lane as a turning lane at the Market & 4th Street red light.

Tyler Kerstetter wanted an update on the Skatepark. There was a conversation between Tyler, Chief Bremigen, and Councilman Eister regarding the issues.

April Herb, owner of Laughter’s, had questions regarding the LCB and PLCB enforcing the noise ordinance that was amended in 2022. Attorney Wiest was unaware and told her he would have to do some research and get back to her.

Bill Brown raised his concerns regarding dogs at large and dogs being registered.

Debra Betz also commented on the dog issue. She informed everyone of what she does and what insurances people can obtain.

Laurie Johnson announced that her grandson is holding a chicken barbeque at Brewer’s Outlet on April 4th, 2024, starting at 11am until it’s sold out. Proceeds will go towards his trips for his Travel Club at school.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant