CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

April 8, 2024

6:15 p.m.

There was a Work Session 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:

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:

Robyn Garinger, Administrative Assistant

Ronald Rupp, Fire Chief

Jerome Alex, City Controller

Derrick Backer, City Administrator

Michael Rhoads, Public Safety Supervisor

Travis Bremigen, Police Chief

Steve Welker, Public Works Supervisor

Visitors present: 19

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

N/A

**Police Update**

Chief Bremigen gave an update on the Police Department from last month.

**Code Office Update**

Mr. Rhoads gave an update on the Public Safety Department from last month.

**Cheese Plant Update (178 Lenker Avenue)**

Attorney Joel Wiest wanted to give everyone an update on the old Cheese Plant being that we filed a suit against it for blight. We have successfully negotiated with a bank that has a lien on the property. The bank has paid off all municipal liens, taxes, water and sewer bills, and all other overdue bills. They have agreed to provide remediation to the grass and all discrepancies with the building at this time. When they take the property over, they will be fixing the roof issues. It has successfully transitioned from us to the bank.

**Turkey Hill Update (501 N Front Street)**

Attorney Joel Wiest explained that we have not been able to contact the owner of Turkey Hill. He is asking for permission to petition the court to advertise the blight remediation process for the former Turkey Hill property. He wanted everyone to know that we want to take properties that are abandoned before they become unsalvageable.

**PLCB Noise Issue**

Attorney Joel Wiest wanted to update those who had questions regarding the noise ordinance with the Liquor License. He’s asking council for the approval to send a letter to the Liquor Control Board on behalf of the businesses asking why they are attempting to enforce a law that has been out of commission since 2022. In 2022 Governor Wolfe changed that law allowing businesses to have up to 74 decibels of music outside of the perimeter and they are not being afforded that opportunity.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Event Trailer**

Councilman Eister contacted Tom Mertz about advertising on the trailer. Attorney Wiest has written an agreement for a 5-year contract for $5,000.00. Tom Mertz would have the option to renew the contract after 5 years if he desires. Councilman Eister made a motion to proceed with the advertising contract. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Rave Notification**

Mayor Brosious went over the Rave Notification System and explained that the city is running a test with employees before launching it to the public.

**City Hall Update**

Mayor Brosious stated they had a work session on the City Hall Update before tonight’s meeting. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the architectural services. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Shikellamy High School Parking Lot Drainage Plan Approval**

Mike Thomas gave an overview of the high school’s drainage plan. They are looking for approval for eleven waivers, four from Storm Water Management and seven from Land Development that Mr. Thomas and the Planning Commission recommend approval. Councilman Barnhart made a motion to grant the eleven waivers for the Shikellamy High School Parking Lot Drainage Plan. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor. Councilman Barnhart made a motion to accept the Shikellamy High School Parking Lot Drainage plans. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Accept Resignation of Jennifer Salas**

Councilman Eister made a motion to accept the resignation of Jennifer Salas for personal reasons. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**NEIC & Blight Remediation Line-Item Creations**

Attorney Wiest went over the process of Blight Remediation and where the money is going.

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to create the Commercial Inspection & Blight Remediation Line Item. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all in favor.

Controller Alex wanted to add that there must be a way to carry that over from year to year and listing them under a prepayment line item.

**Resolution #2024-017 Alcohol Waiver**

Councilman Eister explained the Derby Vixens are requesting a waiver to sell alcohol at their events at the ice rink like they did last year. Councilman Eister made a motion to accept Resolution #2024-017 Derby Vixens Alcohol Waiver. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**2024 Swimming Pool Fees**

Councilman Eister explained that fees for the 2024 swimming pool season are going up due to chemical costs increasing. Mayor Brosious added that our fees are getting up to those in the area, but we are still cheaper than surrounding community pools. Councilman Eister made a motion to accept the 2024 Swimming Pool Fees. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**SWEEP TRUIST Grant Application**

Mr. Backer explained that Kurt Karlovich wants to apply for the TRUIST Grant for the Welcome Info Kiosk. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve applying for the TRUIST Grant Application. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024 – 018 DCNR Non-Motorized**

Mr. Backer needs a motion to approve Resolution #2024-018 DCNR Non–Motorized Grant. Mayor Motion made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-018 DCNR Non-Motorized Grant. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Sale of 440 Market St (Old Police Station)**

Attorney Joel Wiest explained the idea behind the resolution is that the SRI is better equipped to deal with the upgrades necessary for property located at 440 Market Street. Mayor Brosious made a motion to adopt resolution #2024-019 authorizing the city to transfer ownership of 440 Market Street, the old police building, to the Sunbury Redevelopment Authority. Councilman Savidge seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Code & Police Vehicle Funds**

Mayor Brosious explained that the Police are buying back the Ford Fusion from the code department in the amount of $6,000.00 in addition to funds they make on the two Crown Victoria’s that they sell on Municibid. The code department will use those funds to help purchase a 2024 Ford Escape. There was a discussion on the matter. Mayor Brosious made a motion for approval of the budget amendment to transfer $6,000.00 to the Code Department for their vehicle along with the Municibid funds when they come into the Code Office and also taking the remaining balance out of Capital Assets to pay the remaining balance on the vehicle with Code, after the next two years, reimbursing what they take out. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; Martina, Eister, Barnhart and Brosious were all in favor; Councilman Savidge abstained from the vote. His reason being as someone overseeing the Treasure’s Department, Treasurer Troup was more directly involved with this conversation than he was. In terms of the transfers coming out, he’s okay with the allocations and the budget line items, but in terms of following where all this money is going and making sure it’s hitting the right accounts, he feels more comfortable abstaining.

**Police Vehicle Municibid**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to put police car #8, the old Crown Victoria, on Municibid. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**City Audit Report 2022**

Councilman Savidge went over the 2022 City Audit Report. Councilman Savidge made a motion to accept the City Audit report for 2022. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval of Abstract/Vouchers for GF $97,393.43, LF $0.00, Private Grants $2,540.93, and Payroll $66,714.79.**

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

**DISCUSSION**

**City Cemetery**

Councilman Barnhart wanted to bring up that there are some dead trees that need to be removed and cleaned up. Councilman Eister let him know that Steve and the DPW workers have been cleaning it up. Councilman Barnhart wants to plant some more trees. Julie Brosius talked about getting student volunteers to help clean it up. Attorney Wiest said we need to try and get the approval of family members before touching the stones.

**LATS Transportation (No Cost to Low Cost) for all Citizens**

Mayor Brosious gave an overview of the LATS Transportation System that the city is looking into for a new bus service for our citizens.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Accepting letters of Interest for 1 open spot on 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)

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

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on April 22, 2024, at 6:15p.m.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tyler Kerstetter had a few questions regarding the lights. Councilman Eister tried to get in touch with K & N about switching over to LED’s but have not heard back. He hasn’t received anything regarding the non-profit yet. Atty Wiest told him it will take a month or two to hear back. Attorney Wiest explained to him the process for getting the 501c3.

Rick Shemory Sunbury Fire Dept. gave an update on the Fire Department Consolidation. Looking for new real estate. He also said that he and other fire departments have got together to talk about the Fire Clubs.

Joe Stutzman made a comment that Rick Shemory will need to bring it up to the school board should he want to start a club with the school.

Julie Brosius wanted to know what’s the resolve of squatting in a vacant building. Chief Bremigen went over the process of dealing with squatters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant