CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

September 23, 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:

Jeff Wojciechowski, City Clerk

Atty Joel Weist, Solicitor

Ronald Rupp, Fire Chief

Travis Bremigen, Police Chief

Joyce Neidig, Code Officer

Visitors present: 19

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Lenaire Ahlum from the Susquehanna Valley Community Education Project would like 370 Market Street removed from the nuisance list. Mayor Brosious stated that it will not be discussed at tonight’s meeting, Mr. Backer will have to reach out to Brianna Apfelbaum for it to be on the next council meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Mayor Brosious recessed the current council meeting for the CDBG 2024 Final Hearing.**

**CDBG 2024 Final Hearing**

Jamie the project selected for funding for the city is the Susquehanna Avenue Stormwater and Sewer Separation Phase 2 for $258,529.00. Administration for the CDBG program for $50,000.00 for total allocations of $308,529.00. This project will be incorporated with the City’s 3-year Community Development Plan.

Resolutions that need to be reviewed are as follows: The 1st the Resolution to apply, it states that SEDA-COG is directed to submit the 2024 application to CDBD on behalf of Sunbury and authorizes the mayor to sign all applicable forms. The 2nd Resolution is the 504 Compliance Officer and Grievance Procedure. The Resolution outlines the city’s grievance procedure for residence to file a 504-accessibility complaint and names the City Administrator as the 504 Compliance Officer. The final resolution is the Fair Housing Resolution. This resolution outlines how residents can file a fair housing complaint and the address of where those complaints can be sent. These resolutions will be voted on in the regular council meeting.

The proposed amounts for an application for 2024 CDBG Discretionary Funds will go towards the Susquehanna Avenue Stormwater and Sewer Separation Phase 2 for up to $1,925,000.00 with administration being $75,000.00. It has not been decided yet if we will apply for $1 million or $2 million.

With no further comments or questions the hearing was adjourned.

**Mayor Brosious reconvened the council meeting.**

**Resolution #2024-032 Section 504**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-032 Section 504 naming the City Administrator as the 504 Compliance Officer. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-033 Apply CDBG**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-033 to apply for the CDBG funds. Councilman Savidge seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-034 – Fair Housing**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-034 for Fair Housing. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval to solicit CDBG Three Year Engineering Proposals**

Jamie Shrawder stated that SEDA-COG needs permission to solicit proposals for the CDBG 3-year engineering for calendar year 2025, 2026, and 2027. She explained that it is to select and engineer who would do the work on any CDBG projects during that time. Councilman Eister made a motion to grant the approval to solicit the CDBG Three Year Engineering Proposals. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Susquehanna Avenue Phase 2 Engineering Proposal**

Jamie Shrawder stated that she needs approval for the Susquehanna Avenue Phase 2 Engineering Proposal from CES Engineering, our current CDBG Engineers, in the amount not to exceed $589,000.00. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the Susquehanna Avenue Phase 2 Engineering Proposal. Councilman Eister seconded the motion.

**Americus Agreement**

Solicitor Wiest prepared an agreement between the City of Sunbury, the Americus Hose Company, and the Eister Family concerning a parking lot located off Linden Street that will be repaved at the cost of the Americus Hose Company. It is in the best interest of the city that the city retain the ability to inspect that parking lot and to be able to re-enter and fix anything that needs to fixed should it not be by the land owner. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the agreement. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; Councilman Savidge, Councilman Barnhart, Councilwoman Martina and Mayor Brosious were in favor. Councilman Eister abstained from the vote.

**PennDOT Resolution #2024-035 as a Place Holder**

City Administrator Derrick Backer explained that PennDOT requested they approve a resolution so they can work overnight when they work on South Second Street. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept Resolution #2024-035. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Amend Ordinance #134-2, Ordinance #134-13, and #134-17**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to amend ordinance numbers 134-2, 134-13, and 134-17. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Capital Outlays IT Upgrades $2,148.38**

Councilman Eister explained that they are putting up new cameras and upgrading the IT in the sum $2,148.38 for the early phase of the north end of Fourth Street and Memorial Drive and Ice-Skating Area. Councilman Eister made a motion to approve the Capital Outlays IT Upgrades in the amount of $2,148.38. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Request for City Portion of taxes to Fillmore 351 N 11th be Reimbursed due to a Veterans Exemption 1/12/2024**

Councilman Savidge made a motion to approve the request of the City Portion of taxes to be reimbursed to Cheryl Fillmore for 351 N 11th Street due to a Veterans Exemption January 12, 2024. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval of Abstract/Vouchers for GF $197,147.72, LF $2,076.48, Private Grants $271,378.59, Payroll $71,976.66**

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

**DISCUSSION**

**Statewide LSA Grant**

City Administrator, Derrick Backer, explained that the Statewide LSA Grant is open and accepting applications. Applications are due November 30, 2024. Many projects call be applied for. The maximum amount that can be applied for is $1,000,000.00 and there is no match requirement. Councilman Barnhart mentioned the remodel of City Hall. Mayor Brosious mentioned the Skatepark. Councilman Eister asked Derrick to get a list of all options. Derrick stated that all projects we are doing and plan to do are eligible for this grant. Derrick stated that you can submit multiple applications but doesn’t see us being awarded multiple applications at the same time. Councilman Eister then suggested the City Garage. Councilman Barnhart suggested the Nature Walk. There was further discussion on the matter.

**Boat Lauch Lights**

Councilman Eister said they are making progress. They’ve ordered materials and equipment with the intention of all the lights working.

**Police Budget**

Mayor Brosious and Chief Bremigen have been looking at the future police budgets. Because they are 3 officers down, they should have a surplus of funds at the end of the year. With the money that is left, they would like to place it in a reserve for the future use of police salaries. There was further discussion on the matter.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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, & 2 Sunbury Citizens)**

**Blueprint Communities Downtown, October 12, 2014, 8am-5pm**

**Fireman’s Memorial Service, October 13, 2024, 1pm-3pm**

**Halloween Parade, October 17th starting at 7pm**

**City Hall Haunted Hall of Treats, October 25th from 12pm-3pm, kids have a half day at school**

**Police Trunk or Treat, Beiter’s Parking Lot, October 26th, 6pm-9pm**

**Sunbury Property Auction October 28th prior to Council Meeting, must be at City Hall 2nd Floor Council Chambers by 4pm to register in order to bid**

**Budget meeting will take place on October 14, 2024, at 5pm in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers**

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on October 14, 2024, at 6:15p.m.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brian Habermehl stated that tree roots have pushed up the sidewalk 3 inches in Central Park causing a safety issue. He also wanted to know when we are ordering swings. Councilman Eister stated that we are going to get a price on gliders instead of swings. He will talk to our contractor about the sidewalks and get that area cleaned up.

Ben Apfelbaum said that the sidewalk is a present danger and a temporary solution is to spray paint the sidewalk with a bright color to identify the hazard. He has one boy scout interested in helping if he’s permitted too.

Jody Ocker wanted to remind council about the Reimagine Sunbury Business Dinner and Discussion which will focus on the commercial business side. The event on October 12th is focused on Residential and Community.

Brian Suloff asked what was involved with Phase 2 of the Susquehanna Avenue Project. Jamie Shrawder answered that it is the same as Phase 1 just going from Packer Street to Julia Street. He also mentioned that some of the sidewalks are uneven. Neighbors have asked who is liable if someone falls in the winter because of the slope. Councilman Eister asked Brian to send him pictures and addresses and he will contact the contractor. Councilman Eister told him he will see slopes at the end for the ADA ramps.

Joe Bartello was asked when the handicap parking signs will go back up on Susquehanna Avenue. Mayor Brosious didn’t give a definitive date, but assuming they will be put in when the street is finished, and lines are painted. Joe then asked what ordinance was being amended. Mayor Brosious told him it was to update the Rental Property Ordinance and brining the codes up to 2024 standards.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant