CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

November 11, 2024

6:15 p.m.

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

Other City officials in attendance:

Jeff Wojciechowski, City Clerk

Ronald Rupp, Fire Chief

Jerome Alex, City Controller

Travis Bremigen, Police Chief

Derrick Backer, City Administrator

Joyce Neidig, Code Officer

Visitors present: 21

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Allen Bubb worked at the Cemetery this past Wednesday at the southern end of it. There is a tree line and brush that has been thrown against it cover some tombstones. The city needs to get a chipper and a crew down there and clean it out. He believes a fence should be put around the cemetery. He suggested having SunTech Students build a metal fence.

**Approval of Minutes & Reports: Minutes of October 14th and October28th, and reports of the Fire Dept., Police Dept., Treasurer, Controller, Code Officer, Health Dept., Parks and Rec., and Planning Commission.**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the minutes and reports listed above. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Agenda Additions**

**2025 Budget & Promote Police Department Office Manager Rene Duran from Part time to Full time**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to add the above items to the agenda. Councilman Savidge seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Code Enforcement Update**

Councilman Barnhart gave an update on the total transactions that the Code Office took in $9,922.00 last month. He also gave an update on the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Ordinance #175-91 Principle Solar Energy Systems 2nd Reading & Ordinance #175-92 Accessory Solar Energy Systems 2nd Reading**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #175-91, Principle Solar Energy Systems and Ordinance #175-92 Accessory Solar Energy Systems. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2025 Budget**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the Preliminary 1st Reading of the 2025 Budget. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Promote Police Department Office Clerk Rene Duran from Part time to Full time**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to promote Police Department Office Clerk, Rene Duran from part time to full time on January 1, 2025. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Susquehanna Ave Change Order #6**

Derrick Backer explained that Change Order #6 is for 635 Susquehanna Avenue lateral repairs due to an incident that happened, a tree removal on Packer Street and sewer lateral damages that were done at 529 Susquehanna Avenue. We are on budget including this new change order. Councilman Eister made a motion to approve Susquehanna Avenue Change Order #6. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**LSA Statewide Albright Resolution #2024-038**

Last meeting, city council approved SRI to be the subgrantee of the LSA Statewide Grant. We are applying for $50,000.00 for a study to be done on the Albright Center Improvement Project. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-038. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-039 Add 253 Pine Street to Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-039 to add 253 Pine Street to the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-040 Add 25 N 5th Street to Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-040 to add 25 N 5th Street to the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-041 Update the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-041 to update the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Promote Jennifer Buchanan to FT Code Clerk**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to promote Jennifer Buchanan to Full Time Code Clerk starting November 12, 2024. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Amend Ordinance #175-43 & 175-46**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to amend Ordinance Numbers 175-43 and 175-46. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**New Insurance Plan for Employees**

Mayor Brosious explained that we met with Purdy Insurance Agency to go over a most cost-effective insurance plan. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the New Insurance Plan for Uniform and Nonuniform Employees. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Proposed Fee Adjustment Letter for Solicitor**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the Proposed Fee Adjustment Letter for the Solicitor. Councilman Savidge seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Ink in the Rink**

Councilman Eister stated that he spoke with Chris Bucher and and came up with an agreement to pay the city $4,000.00 for the event. He is going to illuminate the bands this year. The city is taking care of the food trucks. There was furth discussion on the matter.

**Appointments for the Nuisance Abatement Board**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the following Appointments for the Nuisance Abatement Board for the remainder of 2024 into 2025: Robyn Garinger, Jeff Wojciechowski, Nathan Savidge, Travis Bremigen, Andres Manresa, Erica Miller-Driscoll, and William Staley. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor except for Councilman Savidge who abstained due to being appointed to the board.

**Letters of Interest**

Letter of Request for SWEEP Committee – Joe Judy

Letter of Request for SWEEP Committee – Kurt Karlovich

Letter of Request for Sunbury Municipal Authority Board – Earle Bittner

Letter of Request for Sunbury Municipal Authority Board – Cory Fasold

Letter of Request for Sunbury Redevelopment Authority Board – Clayton Rowe

Letter of Request for Sunbury Redevelopment Authority Board – Jeff Wojciechowski

**Taser Project**

Council met with Chief Bremigen to review the taser project. Mayor Brosious made a motion to accept the Taser Project. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Crime Watch Program**

Chief Bremigen is looking at getting an organized group who would be interested in volunteering between now and January to start the Crime Watch Program in 2025. Chief Bremigen further discussed the Crime Watch Program. Mayor Brosious made a motion to start the process of the Crime Watch Program for 2025. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**K-9 Unit Program**

Chief Bremigen is looking at starting up the K-9 Unit Program again. He does not want to advocate for a bite dog. Looking for a dog for tracking/detection dog. It would have to be fully funded by donations; the dog, the food, the insurance, the vet bill, everything. He has officers willing to solicit for donations. Chief is looking for approval to enact the K-9 Unit Program so the officers can go out and start soliciting for funds to get a dog. The cost is going to be roughly $25,000.00 to $30,000.00. There was further discussion on the matter. Mayor Brosious made to approve the start of the K-9 Unit Program by allowing the Police Department to solicit for donations. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**RFP City Hall Project**

Mayor Brosious would like to go out for an RFP to see what loan options are out there for the Cit Hall Project. The difference in funds could be paid off between 4 and 5 years. There was further discussion on the matter. Mayor Brosious made a motion to table the RFP to a later date. Councilman Savidge seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Police Vehicle**

Mayor Brosious stated that a police vehicle was ordered and is up at Sunbury Motors. It is going to be purchased with the money that is allocated for the budget. Funds are coming out of the parttime police officer budget and others to cover the cost of the vehicle. They are also selling the pickup truck and the funds from that will be distributed back into the line items used to cover the cost of the new police vehicle. Any remaining funds will be put towards purchasing another new police vehicle in 2025. Chief Bremigen explained the reasoning behind selling the truck is it doesn’t benefit the city. Mayor Brosious made the motion to purchase the new police vehicle using the funds allocated for the 2025 budget and the money received from the sale of the truck to be distributed back into the line items that are used to purchase the new police vehicle and any remaining funds be put toward another new police vehicle. Councilman Savidge seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Hiring of Ryan Boyle for Parks & Rec PT $16.00/hr**

Attorney Joel Wiest suggested tabling the hiring of Ryan Boyle due to the budgetary talk at this time. Councilman Eister made a motion to table the hiring of Ryan Boyle. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval of Abstracts/Vouchers for GF $41,801.19, LF $9,468.33, Private Grants $87,882.86 and Payroll $69,961.21**

Councilman Savidge made a motion to approve the Abstracts and Vouchers. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**DISCUSSION**

**Sunbury Cemetery**

Councilman Barnhart thanked Jeff and Robyn for their job they are doing in the Sunbury Cemetery. If anyone wants to volunteer, talk to Jeff and we can give directions on what needs to be done.

**Amusement Fee**

Councilman Barnhart is looking at raising the amusement fees. He is in the process of creating a fee schedule. By increasing the rates, the city could bring in $300,000.00 a year. Mayor Brosious added that at a recent training we learned there are new modern ways to help revive communities and the amusement fee was one of them.

**Front St Intersection**

Mayor Brosious wanted to know where the city was in regards to the intersection at Front Street and Susquehanna Avenue. Derrick Backer explained that we have to go out for bid for the study of that intersection. The funding we originally were going to use, PennDOT does not allow. We need to apply for an RFP. Mayor Brosious asked why we are going to move forward with an intersection when we don’t know the future of the property with the talk between the Solar Company and the County. There was further discussion on the matter. Attorney Joel Wiest stated that he can go through the property report with an Environmental Engineer and will issue a report with his opinion as to what we can do with the property.

Councilman Barnhart would like to reach out to PennDOT to see what can be placed along the Intersection of Front and Reagan Street. The house on the corner was recently hit and someone almost hit it again a week later.

**Budget Training**

Mayor Brosious suggested all council members attend training pertaining to their department. Rules, regulations and laws are changing. Mayor Brosious gave a few examples of what has changed and what we are currently doing regarding to budgeting. There was further discussion on budgeting training and the fee schedule.

**Fee Schedule**

There was discussion regarding the fee schedule while discussing the Budget Training

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

-Accepting Letters of Interest Civil Service Board (3-year term)

-Accepting Letters of Interest Housing Authority (5-year Term)

-Accepting Letters of Interest Redevelopment Authority (5-year term)

-Accepting Letters of Interest Zoning Hearing Board 2 (3-year term)

-Accepting Letters of Interest Planning Commission 3 (4-year term)

-Accepting Letters of Interest Municipal Authority 2 (5-year term)

-Accepting Letters of Interest H.A.R.B. 2 (4-year term) Registered Architect

-Accepting Letters of Interest for Recreation Board (4-year term)

-Accepting Letters of Interest for Board of Appeals (4-year term)

-Accepting Letters of Interest for Shade Tree Commission (3-year term)

-Sunbury Santa Parade & Tree Lighting Ceremony in Cameron Park 11/29/24, 5PM

-Northumberland Co. Historical Society Open House 12/4/24, 1p-7p

-Cereal with Santa & How the Grinch Stole Christmas at the Albright Center 12/7/24, 9AM

-Sensory Friendly Santa at the Santa House 12/8/24, 10AM

-Ugly Sweater Contest Party at the Ice Rink 12/29/24, 4PM

-New Years Eve Celebration at the Ice Rink & Cameron Park 12/31/24

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on November 25, 2024, at 6:15p.m.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Randi Buehner has encountered an issue at 4th and Market Street multiple times. While traveling South on 4th Street at the red light on Market, people are taking it upon themselves to make a turning lane going right. A week and a half ago she was the second person in line and wanted to turn right. Another vehicle pulled up beside her on the right trying to get in front of her. She wants to know if it could be marked because it is a major hazard.

 Jerome questioned the red light at S 2nd and Chestnut Street. The timing of light on S 2nd is not long enough. Also, the red light at 4th and Arch Street. Council will reach out to Steve to look into the issue.

Chief Bremigen wanted to thank and recognize the Veteran’s in attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant