CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

November 25, 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

Lisa Martina, Director of Public Works

Other City officials in attendance:

Jeff Wojciechowski, City Clerk

Ronald Rupp, Fire Chief

Jerome Alex, City Controller

Travis Bremigen, Police Chief

Steve Welker, Public Works Supervisor

Derrick Backer, City Administrator

Joyce Neidig, Code Officer

Jamie Shrawder, SEDA-COG

Visitors present: 12

**An executive session was held prior to tonight’s meeting to discuss personnel**

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

N/A

**Code Update**

Joyce Neidig gave an update on the Code Office.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilman Savidge voted in favor of the Solar Ordinance at the meeting held on November 11, 2024. He wants to formally change his vote to an abstention because he is an employee of Northumberland County.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**3-year CDBG Engineering Agreement to CES**

Jamie Shrawder stated that they put out proposals for our 3-year CDBG Engineering Contract. We received three proposals from, CES Engineering, Stahl Sheaffer Engineering, and Peters Consultants. Jamie did the review and shared them with Mr. Backer and her recommendation is for the city to award the 3-year CDBG Engineering Agreement to CES Engineering based on their hourly rates submitted in their proposal. Mayor Brosious made a motion to award the 3-Year CDBG Engineering Agreement to CES Engineering. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Funding Allocation from City Funds for Fire Department Consolidation $25,000.00**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to give the Fire Department $25,000.00 out of the reserved funds because they will need it for consolidation. The funds will be issued after January 1, 2025. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Permission for 1st Reading and to Advertise Vacant Property Ordinance**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to table the 1st Reading and Advertisement of the Vacant Property Ordinance to a later date for Council to review. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Amend and Advertise Nuisance Abatement Ordinance**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to Amend and Advertise the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Amend Ordinance 106 1st Reading**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to Amend Ordinance number 106. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolutions #2024-042, #2024-043, #2024-044, #2024-045, #2024-046 – Remove Properties from Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to remove the following properties from the nuisance list; 1038 E. Chestnut Street (Resolution #2024-042), 620-650 N. 8th Street (Resolution #2024-043), 750 N. 8th Street (Resolution #2024-044), 416 S. 4th Street (Resolution #2024-045), and 418 S. 4th Street (Resolution #2024-046). Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-047 – Add Properties to Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-047 to the following properties to the Public Nuisance List: 125 N 12th Street, 134-136-138 Packer Street & 745 Edison Avenue, 320 S 4th Street, 344-346 S 4th Street, 700-702 Susquehanna Avenue, and 1106 Susquehanna Avenue. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2024-048 – Update Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to approve Resolution #2024-048, Updating the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Accept letters of Interest for Redevelopment Authority Board**

Mayor Brosious announced the following submitted letters of interest to be considered on the Redevelopment Authority Board; David Mertz, Virginia Rhoads, June Saxon, Jared Saxon, Robyn Garinger, Robert Hauck, and Sue Sarfine.

**Accept letters of interest for Planning Commission**

Mayor Brosious announced the following submitted letters of interest to be considered on the Planning Commission: David Mertz and Joe Bartello.

**Accept letters of interest for Municipal Authority**

Mayor Brosious announced the following submitted letters of interest to be considered on the Municipal Authority: Kevin Troup (withdrew), and Jerome Alex.

**Accept letters of interest for Blighted Property Review Committee**

Mayor Brosious announced the following submitted letters of interest to be considered on the Blighted Property Review Committee: Jeff Wojciechowski, June Saxon, and Jared Saxon.

**Sign 440-442 Market Street Deed of Transfer to Redevelopment**

Councilman Eister made a motion to sign the Deed of Transfer of the property located at 440-442 Market Street to the Redevelopment Authority. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**City Administrator Contract**

Councilwoman Martina made a motion to table the City Administrator Contract until Joel Wiest can make the necessary changes and we will bring it up in two weeks. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval to Advertise Finalized Proposed Budget for Public Review Period**

Councilman Savidge made a motion for the approval to advertise the new first reading for revisions that were made to the budget for public review period. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval of Abstracts/Vouchers for GF $82,007.59, LF $0.00, Private Grants $12,609.47 and Payroll $72,728.80**

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

**DISCUSSION**

**Nuisance Abatement Clarification**

Councilman Barnhart wanted to make everyone aware that the Public Nuisance Abatement Ordinance was enacted last March. We are starting to actively pursue the ordinance. Ten letters have been sent out to people who are getting points. Out of the ten letters, four of them have accumulated 12 points, which automatically puts them on the Nuisance List. He wants landlords to do their due diligence when moving in tenants.

**Fee Schedule**

Mayor Brosious stated there was discussion on adding fees to the ball fields, like road closures, tables, chairs, etc. The city is eating a lot of the costs for those using our facilities. Randy Buehner believes the city should have an audit done on our electrical boxes because she feels the costs are way higher than they should be. There was further discussion on the matter. Jeff Wojciechowski will send out a list of the fees to all council members and will discuss it further at the next meeting.

**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 (4-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 (5-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 December 9, 2024, at 6:15p.m.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Allen Bubb questioned that some of the properties added to the Nuisance List are in the current construction zone. Mayor Brosious said that he can look at the resolutions and see exactly why they were put on the Nuisance list.

Joe Bartello asked what ordinance 106 is and what was amended. Councilman Barnhart explained that it was the Amusement Ordinance.

Jerome Alex, City Controller, thinks it would be a good idea to start doing work sessions and discussing ordinances and other matters before it comes to a vote. People don’t know what this stuff is and council is passing ordinances that nobody has any idea what they are and what they are about. People should have input on what the ordinances are. Citizens should be able to express their opinions, it shouldn’t just be a debate between the council. There was further discussion with council, and they agreed on holding work sessions on the 1st meeting of every month at 5:00pm. He also feels that we should be looking at the Employee Handbook and Policies.

Jody Ocker wanted to add that changes to an ordinance don’t just happen overnight. That’s something that is amenable to do by having a work session a week or two before you are actually planning on voting or having the first reading. Not everyone is going to be able to attend the work session, so we need to be more explicit on the agenda or when it is brought up for a vote.

Allen Bubb thinks it would help to have a copy of the ordinance so the public can read it.

Rick Shemory wanted to thank council for the $25,000.00. They are working on the lend/lease agreements. Legally they have the new cooperation, they just need to start moving assets over.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant