CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

January 13, 2025

6:15 p.m.

**There was an Executive Meeting held prior to tonight’s meeting to discuss personnel.**

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:

John Barnhart III, Director of Public Safety

James R. Eister, Director of Parks & Recreation

Lisa Martina, Director of Public Works

Nathan Savidge, Director of Finance

Other City Officials in attendance:

Jeffrey Wojciechowski, City Clerk

Derrick Backer, City Administrator

Jerome Alex, City Controller

Travis Bremigen, Police Chief

Visitors Present: 27

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

N/A

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS: Minutes of December 9th & 23rd of 2024 and Reports of the Fire Dept., Police Dept., Treasurer, Controller, Code Office, Health Dept., Parks and Rec., and Planning Commission.**

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

**City Administrator Update**

Mr. Backer has been working with a developer to develop one of the properties in the city. He will have a more detailed update at the beginning of February when things are more finalized. He’s also working on zoning ordinances with Jackie Hart, from NEIC, and Attorney Joel Wiest.

**Redevelopment Authority 2024 Updates and Reports**

Brianna Apfelbaum Kula, Esq. went over the Redevelopment Authority 2024 Updates and Reports. She will be submitting the final version of the reports for approval for the next council meeting. Housing Barriers & Solutions Taskforce has an upcoming housing summit on January 31st. It’s a roundup of local, regional, and state officials to talk about some of the initiatives that are happening.

**OLD BUSINESS**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS**

**City Hall Renovations Contract**

There are two contracts for the City Hall Renovations, one from Hepco Construction in the amount of $148,927.00 and one from Selsyn Electric in the amount of $35,700.00. Councilman Eister made a motion to accept the Contracts from Hepco Construction and Selsyn Electric. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2025-001 – PennDOT Contribution for S 2nd Street**

In a previous meeting we had voted for the PennDOT Contribution for S 2nd Street, but we need to have it as a resolution. Mr. Backer asked Attorney Joel Wiest to review the resolution, and we just need a vote to approve it. Mayor Brosious made the motion to approve Resolution #2025-001 – PennDOT Contribution for S 2nd Street. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2025-002 – Add 720 N. 5th Street to Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made the motion to approve Resolution #2025-002 to add 720 N 5th Street to the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2025-003 – Remove 434 Fairmount Avenue from Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made the motion approve Resolution #2025-003 to remove 434 Fairmount Avenue from Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Resolution #2025-004 – Update the Public Nuisance List**

Councilman Barnhart made the motion to approve Resolution #2025-004 to update the Public Nuisance List. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Swearing in of Fire Chiefs – Jay Long (1st Chief), Brad Wertz (2nd Chief), and John Ferrari (3rd Chief)**

Mayor Brosious swore in Jay Long (1st Chief), Brad Wertz (2nd Chief), and John Ferrari (3rd Chief).

**Accept the Resignation of Lori Simpson from the Housing Authority effective 12/31/2024**

Mayor Brosious made the motion to accept the resignation of Lori Simpson from the Housing Authority effective 12/31/2024. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**2025 Ballot Board Elections**

**Housing Authority**

Mayor Brosious made the motion to accept Michael Whitenight to the Housing Authority. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Zoning Board**

Mayor Brosious made the motion to accept Chris Reis’ reappointment to the Zoning Board. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Redevelopment Authority**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to appoint Robert Hauck to the Redevelopment Authority. There was no second motion. Mayor Brosious made a motion to appoint David Mertz to the Redevelopment Authority. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; Councilwoman Martina, Councilman Eister, and Councilman Savidge were in favor. Mayor Brosious and Councilman Barnhart were opposed.

**S.W.E.E.P.**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to appoint the following to the S.W.E.E.P. Committee: Joe Judy, Kurt Karlovich, Pablo Santos, and Donald Brouse. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Municipal Authority**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to appoint Jerome Alex to the Municipal Authority. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; All were in favor except for Councilman Eister who was opposed.

For the seconded available seat, Mayor Brosious made a motion to reappoint Cory Fasold to the Municipal Authority. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Councilman Savidge heard rumors that there are some allegations toward council that we’re trying to subvert authority at the Municipal Authority. He stated to Mr. Alex he has not had any independent conversation with him about nominating him. He knows him from working with him in the past. He’s been approached by other members of the Authority who wanted to maintain their board seats and others and he’s speaking as one council person. There is no hidden agenda for the Authority. Last year he motioned to block the potential sale of the authority to maintain federal grant money. He believes leadership is important which is why he believes it was important to vote the way they did tonight. He wanted to be transparent and state that he was not pressured by anybody at the Municipal Authority or anyone else on City Council.

**Civil Service Board**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to reappoint Kurt Karlovich to the Civil Service Board. Councilman Savidge seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Planning Commission**

Mayor Brosious made the motion to appoint David Mertz and Joe Bartello to the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Shade Tree Commission**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to reappoint Julie Brosious to the Shade Tree Commission. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Recreation Board**

Mayor Brosious made the motion to reappoint Ron Pratt to the Recreation Board. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Update PD Hiring List**

Chief Bremigen explained that they are looking to start another list for an 11th officer. They are looking for an officer that already has some experience.

**Accept the Resignation of Kalista Wojciechowski effective 1/19/2025**

Councilman Eister made a motion to accept the resignation of Kalista Wojciechowski as of 1/19/2025. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor. Councilman Eister made a statement that she had done a great job cleaning and maintaining the buildings.

**2025 Annual Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with Tra Electric**

Councilwoman Martina made a motion to accept the 2025 Annual Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with Tra Electric. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**A motion is needed to appoint Derrick Backer as the Representative for the Determination of Salaries of Third-Class City Treasurers, their Deputies, and Expenses, in Accordance with Title 72 §5511.33**

Councilman Savidge explained that every four years tax collectors and treasurers come up for election in each municipality and 3rd Class City. In our county we have two 3rd Class Cities. We need to appoint a representative for the determination of salaries of 3rd Class City Treasurers, their deputies, and their expenses. Chairman Scicchitano was voted to be the County representative. We, the City Council Board, need to come up with an appointment tonight. Councilman Savidge suggested appointed Jeff Wojciechowski or Derrick Backer because they are a neutral party because don’t answer to the existing treasurer. Councilman Savidge made a motion to appoint Derrick Backer as the Representative for the Determination of Salaries of the Third-Class City Treasurers, their Deputies, and Expenses, in Accordance with Title 72

§5511.33. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval of Abstract/Vouchers of GF $134,756.74, LF $0.00, Private Grants $400,574.11, and Payroll $69,400.71**

Councilman Savidge made the motion to approve the above abstracts and vouchers. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**DISCUSSION**

**Fire Department Update**

Fire Chief Jay Long gave an update on what the fire department did last year. They were dispatched to 658 incidents. There was a total of 6,959.37-man hours in training and on scene time. The department is pushing forward with better training and personnel to better serve the citizens. We need continued funding. If we lose the volunteer part, it’s going to be a substantial amount of money to have a paid service. The working relationship between the police department and code office has been great. The best thing to do is get the consolidation done and get to a better operational point.

**Ordinance 166-3 – Parking of Inoperable Vehicles**

Councilman Barnhart is still working on Ordinance #166-3, Parking of Inoperable Vehicles. He wants everybody to be mindful that if your vehicle is out of inspection, registration or inoperable, the city can remove it from the street.

**Property Manager Qualifications, Roles, and Responsibilities (Broker)**

Councilman Barnhart stated that he is working with the Solicitor on the Property Manager Qualifications, Roles and Responsibilities. According to the state law, to be a property manager and handle money and leases, you need to be a license broker. There was further discussion on the matter.

**Susquehanna Avenue Project**

Mayor Brosious wanted an update on the Susquehanna Avenue Project. Councilman Eister stated that there is a meeting regarding the project on Thursday, January 16th, to discuss timing, funding, and architectural drawings. Mayor Brosious said that there are concerns about the trees being removed and are they going to be replaced. Councilman Eister stated he would bring it up at Thursdays meeting. Julie Brosious added that there was a tree that was to be replaced at the corner of Fort Augusta and Packer, and it was shredding. Councilman Eister stated that the homeowners decided they didn’t want it but will verify it at the meeting.

**RC Park**

Mayor Brosious stated that people have been asking about the RC Track and when it’s going to be up and running since it’s been 3 years since we received the funds. He asked Councilman Eister if there was an update. Councilman Eister is meeting with a contractor this week and thinks they will do it this winter.

**Police Truck**

Councilman Eister asked Chief Bremigen about the Police Truck. Chief Bremigen gave an update on all the Police Vehicles and there was further discussion on the matter.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Public Zoning Meeting on January 27th at 5:00pm in City Hall

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on January 27th at 6:15p.m.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Brian Sulouff took his dog for a walk this morning and on the corner of the 600 block of Susquehanna Avenue there is a huge crack in the sidewalks already. One of the cleanouts has concrete clipping already. Councilman Eister told him after a year they go back and address the issues.

Ryan Castle operates a game store next to the Squeeze In at 448 Market Street. He has been operating his business for over a year. He pays $600.00 in rent each month to Louis Paradis, JP Contracting. He has not had heat since the beginning of December. He’s not required to pay rent through January to March because they are selling the building and the lack of heat. He was wondering if he was entitled to some form of compensation for December’s rent or the lack of income his business was losing because of the cold temperatures in the shop. Solicitor Joel told him that he could be entitled to compensation, but he would have to go after the landlord, not the city. He told him to consult an attorney.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant