CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

February 24, 2025

6:15 p.m.

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

Cheryl Delsite, Code Supervisor

Visitors Present: 34

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Victoria Rosancrans wanted to say that she supports the events that happen in the City of Sunbury. She thinks that the process got murky. As a chairperson, when we vote on these dollars have clarification and honest communication to citizens how this works. Mayor Brosious explained that the money that Valley Fusion raises, either be released to Valley Fusion or the bills for the event be paid for out of that line item until there are no funds left so the city no longer has the money in their accounts anymore and the economic money will not be asked for from the group. The money that is in the line item is money that was raised from vendors, sponsors and fundraising from the last 2 years. She also wanted to make sure that they are doing things correctly when holding small games of chance fundraisers.

**Statement from Attorney Joel Wiest**

Mr. Backer read a statement on Attorney Wiest’s behalf regarding the Susquehanna Avenue Project. He understands the Susquehanna Avenue Project is a concern for the public. While the city cannot/will not stifle any public comments or concerns, he suggests that no member of council or city employee comment further on these matters at this time. This advice is given in hopes to avoid unnecessary litigation and to hopefully allow the revisionary process to take its course as weather better cooperates.

**City Administrator Update**

Mr. Backer received a call from Senator Culver and Representative Stender today. They helped secure $300,000.00 through the DCED Multimodal Grant for Packer Street. He believes they are very close to being funded for the Packer Street Project. He’s been working with some investors and business owners on expansion and redevelopment of properties in Sunbury. They asked to keep some of it confidential because they are not ready to release it to the public yet.

**Inclusivity Proclamation**

Mayor Brosious read a proclamation affirming the City of Sunbury Commitment to Serving as an Inclusive and Welcoming Community for All Residents.

**No Parking Ordinance goes into effect on March 15, 2025. Please familiarize yourself with street signs for dates and times!**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Audit**

Mayor Brosious had brought up the topic of having a Forensic Audit done. Mr. Alex thinks at this point it is not necessary to have an audit done and doesn’t believe what has happened at the Ice Rink warrants and extensive type audit. He feels a review of procedures is more appropriate. Mr. Alex, Treasurer Troup, and Councilman Savidge all talked about it. At this point he would not recommend an audit of any type other than the audit the city goes through. Mr. Alex had talked to Councilman Eister and the procedures that have been put in place will help prevent this from happening in the future. There was further discussion on the matter. Chief Bremigen said he will investigate it.

**PD F-150 Update**

Chief Bremigen was in contact with Mount Carmel Township who is interested in purchasing the truck. They offered $52,500.00. He believes that we can get more and take no less than $55,000.00. Councilman Eister suggested meeting in the middle at $53,500.00 instead of wasting time finding another buyer. Mayor Brosious stated in the meantime the Chief will do that and, in the process, can we vote to look for another replacement vehicle.

**Basement Rental Fee**

Mayor Brosious mentioned that the last meeting Rhoads to a New U came to last week’s meeting interested in renting out a room in the basement. Tonight, we need to come up with a fee to rent the rooms. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the cost of renting a room in the basement be $100.00 per room and to be reviewed every 6 months. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Life 360**

Mayor Brosious stated that at the last council meeting with having all city cell phones have the life 360 app so we know where the devices are should they get lost or misplaced. Also, if there is an incident we can see who is close by we and can contact that person to have them report to a specific location. It is a free app so it wouldn’t cost the city anything. There was further discussion on the matter regarding tracking, procedures, and policies. Mayor Brosious made a motion to table the Life 360 App until we ask the legal opinion of Solicitor Wiest. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Volunteers Needed for the Following Boards: Zoning Hearing 1 (3-year term), H.A.R.B. 2 (1 Architect), Board of Appeals 1**

Mayor Brosious just wanted to announce that we need volunteers for the above boards.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2025 Paving Plan Advertisement**

Councilwoman Martina had a bidding document that they would like to put out for 2025 street paving projects. Councilwoman Martina made a motion to accept the 2025 Paving Plan Advertisement. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Central Business District Ordinance 2nd Reading**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to approve the 2nd reading of the Central Business District Ordinance 175-42, 175-43, 175-44, 175-46, and 175-47. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approve the Hiring of Vince Yeager $16/hr Code Enforcement FT**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to hire Vince Yeager as a full-time Code Enforcement Officer at $16.00 an hour starting Wednesday, February 26th. It is in the budget. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Penn Valley Airport Contract**

Mayor Brosious explained that the Penn Valley Airport Contract is a yearly contract that we pay $2,100.00 and is in the budget. Mayor Brosious made the motion to approve the Penn Valley Airport Contract. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Little League Softball**

Little League Softball are looking to help rehab the Hamilton Baseball/Softball field. It’s like what the school district did with the John O’Long Field. They need a council vote so when they apply for grants, they know we are aware of the upgrades. Steve Renn wants to keep it going for the community. Mayor Brosious made a motion to send the letter of support, written up by the solicitor, similar to the one of Shikellamy School District, to the Little League so they can do their upgrades. Councilwoman Martina seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Summer Kickoff Line Item**

Mayor Brosious wanted to clarify from last meeting’s discussion regarding the Summer Kickoff funds. Over the last two years we’ve fund-raising money to put into the line item to continue having the event. The group, Valley Fusion, is asking that either the money be released or as we get bills in, we can use that line-item money to continue the Kickoff event. There was further discussion on the matter of funding for this year’s event and the future of the event. Controller Alex feels that the money in that account should be used towards the event because its sponsors and donors put the money towards it specifically. There was also discussion on who will be responsible for the event in the future if the funds are used this year. Mayor Brosious made a motion that any Summer Kickoff expenses can be paid through the Summer Kickoff fund up to the extent of what is in the account and further funds will not be responsible by the City of Sunbury and be paid by Valley Fusion. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Change Order for City Hall Improvements to the Agenda**

Councilman Eister stated that there is a change order from HEPCO. After the last meeting and another walk through, there are some modifications in each department that have increased the cost by $8,852.24. Mostly counter relocation, drawers in the treasures, some glass shifting and so forth. Councilman Eister made a motion to approve the Change Order for the City Hall Improvements. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Approval to Advertise Assistant Position FT in the Treasurers Officers**

Councilman Savidge made a motion to approve to advertise for an Assistant Position for full-time in the Treasurer’s office. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Controller Alex asked on behalf of Treasurer Troup if it was necessary to make a motion to approve an advertisement for hiring. Mayor Brosious stated that it has been done in the past to make council and the public aware and to be transparent.

**Approval of Abstract/Vouchers of GF $108,813.82, LF $390.00, Private Grants $0.00, and Payroll $71,753.20**

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

**DISCUSSION**

**DCED Main Street Matters Grant (Façade)**

Mr. Backer stated that the Façade Grant is under the DCED Main Street Matters Grant now. Based on the 2024 Guidelines, since 2025’s are not out yet, the grant will open around September 3rd and close around October 15th. The grant itself, you cannot exceed $100,000.00 as far as the application goes. Mr. Backer went over the grant procedures, requirements, and guidelines. Jody Ocker explained what SRI was doing with the Blueprint Communities Program, which might include a façade program. If the city would work with SRI and get on the same timeline, she thinks we would get a better return and effective revitalization program.

**DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant**

Mr. Backer stated that the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant is open now and is due May 31st. The match for this grant is 15%. We can do construction, planning, as far and engineering goes for a park and things of that nature.

**US Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant (BVP)**

Mr. Backer stated that the US Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant opens on April 1st. If we purchase any vest after April 1st the vest is allowed to be reimbursed up to 50% if we are awarded.

**DCNR Nature Walk**

Back in September and October, Councilman Barnhart took a ride with Wes and DCNR along the dike. Where the riverwalk ends by the fiber dam, we want to start a walk on the dike. We would like to have it black topped with benches and lights along the walk as well. We need approval from the Army Corp Engineer and the Sunbury Municipal Authority. If/When it gets approved, we have someone to do a study. With the way Jason Neidig was talking, we might have to do the study before they will look at it. Mr. Alex suggested sending the Municipal Authority a letter explaining what they want to do.

**Citywide Clean-up Date TBA (Sunbury Residents Only)**

Councilman Barnhart spoke with Jason and Pat and we are going to have a citywide spring cleanup like last year. The date will be determined.

**RC Raceway**

Mayor Brosious has received some good feedback on the RC Raceway. Jim spoke with a contractor today and we have another gentleman who we are going to get in touch with.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

-TV & Tire Recycling Event, March 22nd from 10pm – 12pm, at John O. Long Parking Lot, TV’s are $1.00 per pound and Tires are $5.00 each. Must call city hall to register.

-All-Inclusive Easter Egg Hunt April 5, 2025, 9am-12pm Goodwill Hose Playground

-Fire Police Chinese Auction, Sunbury Eagles, 33 S. 3rd St, May 10, 2025, 11am-4pm

- Work Session on March 10th at 5:00pm

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on March 10th at 6:15p.m.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Allen Bubb asked what streets were on the list to be paved. Mayor Brosious gave him a list of streets to be paved.

Sandra Heim is trying to put together and Earth Day Celebration. She got an application from the Mayor’s Office. They are planning to have it in Cameron Park. It is to recognize the people who are already doing cleanups and to help make our world better. They would like a proclamation from council. Mayor Brosious asked her to get something they would like mentioned in the proclamation and the city will do one up.

Jody Ocker wanted to say on behalf of SRI, that she really appreciates the city’s support when they hold events. When they are at Riverfront, Cameron Park and on 4th Street, that contribution allows them to put on these events. They rely on those events to raise funds for their operation. They would not be able to do what they do without being able to raise those funds. Councilman Eister thanked Jody for taking on the Albright Center Project and stated what a good job she is doing.

Victoria Rosencrans wanted to say that the RC Track post on Facebook was misleading because it looked like we just got a grant when it happened back in 2021. She asked if anyone has followed up with the Sports Zone Business owner. Mr. Backer stated that he spoke with him just before he moved down to North Carolina. Mrs. Rosencrans stated that we put out there that we have grant money for an RC Track to take attention off of Susquehanna Avenue. She said to please do it right and get it done because that is grant money that’s been sitting since 2021. She then asked who will run the Treasurer’s Office in May when the Treasurer resigns. Mayor Brosious stated it will be individuals who put their name in to be appointed to the elected official’s position. It will be the same processes when Councilman Reichner resigned. Her concern is the public to understand the process. She then stated that LiteFest will not be holding Christmas in July. They are not making money because they cannot shut down Market Street. They are only able to shut down one side. She was informed that LiteFest is not getting any funding, grant money, because when grants are approved, the reports are not getting done. She has been informed that the Seiple Foundation and all the foundations through Ben Apfelbaum’s Office, that she will not be getting any grants until the Ice Rink, $32,100.00 grant report is completed. She received a horrible letter about the Fire Consolidation. She does not know who wrote it. She will get a copy to Councilman John Barnhart. Her final request was when we are renting rooms downstairs to not give away the LiteFest room.

Dale Henry asked Councilman Barnhart how many Fire Department Meetings he has been to. Councilman Barnhart stated that he was only to one. Mr. Henry asked him if he thought that was disrespectful. Councilman Barnhart stated that he is correct, and he was talked to Chief Jay Long. Starting March 4th, he will be at the meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant