CITY COUNCIL

Sunbury PA 17801

July 14, 2025

6:15 p.m.

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

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

Nathan Savidge, Director of Finance

Other City Officials in attendance:

Jeffrey Wojciechowski, City Clerk

Atty. Joel Wiest, Solicitor

Derrick Backer, City Administrator

Jerome Alex, Controller

Travis Bremigen, Police Chief

Cheryl Delsite, Code Supervisor

Visitors Present: 51

**Agenda Additions**

Mayor Brosious made a motion to add the Dedication of an Un-named Alley and the Disabilities Proclamation. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Tracy Lesher stated that she has confidence in Victoria Rosancrans being nominated for city council. She has done so much for her son and herself. You’re not going to find anyone that does more for the city than Victoria does.

Debbie Betz was giving her opinion on Victoria Rosancrans but was cut off. Per Solicitor Wiest, we cannot demean anyone during public comment.

Beverly Mercer has observed who are and aren’t active in the city. Has only seen one nominee and encourages the Mayor and City Council to choose Victoria Rosancrans.

Tim Reigle stated that if he had to decide which nominee would take the council seat, he would choose Victoria Rosancrans.

Maryanne Miller agreed and begged council to choose Victoria Rosancrans for the open council seat.

Don Shipe stated that he is here to support Victoria Rosancrans. His son has autism and the events Victora holds has a friendly environment for those with special needs. He would like to see her get a chance to sit on council. He thanked her for the help with his business and with his family.

**Council Vote to Fill Vacant Seat Between:**

1. James Brumbach
2. Andres Manresa
3. Andrew Ramos
4. Victoria Rosancrans
5. Kevin Troup

Mayor Brosious asked each councilman who they thought should fill the vacant council seat. Councilman Eister recommended Andrew Ramos. Councilman Savidge said that they are many qualified, but he recommended Andrew Ramos because when he ran for mayor, he looked at me and said I’m running for mayor not against Josh but to offer a different vision for the city, and I’m not going to be a puppet for you, Jim or anyone else on that board. Councilman Barnhart would nominate Victoria Rosancrans because she’s always there for the city and has a good rapport with the citizens. Mayor Brosious asked if anyone would like to make the first motion. Councilman Barnhart made a motion to nominate Victoria Rosancrans for the open council seat. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; the outcome was a tie with a 2-2 vote. Mayor Brosious and Councilman Barnhart were in favor. Councilman Savidge and Councilman Eister voted against.

Councilman Savidge made a motion to nominate Andrew Ramos for the open council seat. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; the outcome was a tie with a 2-2 Vote. Councilman Savidge and Councilman Eister were in favor and Mayor Brosious and Councilman Barnhart were against.

Solicitor Wiest if there is not a majority vote, the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Northumberland County will fill the vacancy upon the petition of 10 qualified electors of the city or the petition of a majority of the remaining members of the council. In his legal opinion, council has two options at this time: either you can discuss whether anyone will change their vote, to save the time and effort of the electors of the city, tell Solicitor Wiest to prepare a petition for signature by the majority of council or all of council and the mayor asking the president judge to make a decision because we are hopelessly deadlocked. Councilman Eister suggested to throw another option out there. Councilman Eister made a motion to nominate Kevin Troup to fill the open council seat. There was no seconded therefore the motion dies. Councilman Eister then made a motion to nominate James Brumbach for the open council seat. There was no seconded therefore the motion dies. Controller Alex asked Solicitor Wiest if it goes to the judge they can vote for whomever they want. Solicitor Wiest said yes, they can vote for whomever they please but will suggest to council that part of the petition be the names and contact information of the people interviewed here tonight and ask for their consideration by the judge. A decision must be made within 30 days. Mayor Brosious made a motion to have Solicitor Wiest file the petition paperwork with the judge along with a list of individuals who put their letter of interest in for consideration. Councilman Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Oath of Office for Treasurer**

Mayor Brosious read the Oath of Office and swore in Treasurer Lisa Martina.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND REPORTS: Minutes of June 9th & 23rd of 2025 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 Barnhart seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Disability Pride Month Proclamation**

Mayor Brosious read the Disability Pride Month Proclamation.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Dedication of Un-named Alley to James Brumbach**

Solicitor Wiest asked city council to make a motion and approve the dedication of the unnamed alley to Mr. Brumbach’s property. Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the dedication of the Unnamed Alley to Mr. Brumbach’s property. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Hailstone Contract Funding**

At the last council meeting, council approved the Hailstone Contract pending the funding. He was wondering if the money was found. Treasurer Martina said that we have the money in economic development should we go that route. She’s been doing research, and the Commercial Property Inspection Funds are going in the general fund, but it hasn’t been going into a specific line item. Mayor Brosious asked if we have it in the budget to pay for it. Treasurer Martina said yes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DCED Multimodal Grant**

Mr. Welker has looked at several different streets throughout the city. They are going to redo S 2nd Street, resurface it and ADA access on all corners. This will extend from Veterans Bridge to Market Street. Mayor Brosious made a motion to apply for the DCED Multimodal Grant to fix S 2nd Street from the Veterans Bridge to Market Street. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Code UTV Municibid**

Councilman Barnhart made a motion to put the Code UTV on Municibid with a minimum threshold of $16,0000.00 and put the money toward another vehicle in the future. Councilman Eister asked what kind of vehicle. Councilman Barnhart said a truck. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Road Closures for Events**

The following events are requesting PennDOT road closures:

9.13.25 – Arts & Curiosities Fest – Market St. btw 4th & 5th St.

10.12.25 – Fireman’s Memorial – Market St. (Eastbound) btw 2nd & 3rd St.

Mayor Brosious made a motion to approve the road closures. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor except for Councilman Barnhart who abstained due to being involved in one of the events.

**Hire Alexis Mendler Parks & Rec PT $15.00/Hr 20hs./week effective 7/22/25**

Councilman Eister made a motion to hire Alexis Mendler to the Parks and Rec department at $15.00 an hour, 20 hours a week, effective July 22, 2025. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Accept the resignation of John Mull from Parks & Rec effective 7/26/2025**

Councilman Eister made a motion to accept the resignation of John Mull from the Parks and Rec department effective July 26, 2025. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Sun-Re Cheese**

Solicitor Wiest explained that we filed to take Sun-Re Cheese under eminent domain however a bank contacted us last year and stated that they were taking over the property through a mortgage. For that reason, we allowed the bank to move forward, and we withdrew our eminent domain. Solicitor Wiest was in contact with them over the last few months and the current owners have prolonged the taking of the property by the bank by making payments. His understanding is that the bank is still in the process of taking the property through the court. He contacted them two weeks ago and he has not contacted Solicitor Wiest back. Councilman Eister made a motion to table Sun-Re Cheese. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**DPW Building Renovation Contract**

Councilman Eister made a motion to approve and sign the DPW Building Renovation Contract. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**OPG Local Grant Match $14,000.00**

Mr. Backer explained that the engineering for the OPG will take place next year. We have to roll over $10,000.00 and budget $4,000.00 for next year to meet the match requirement. We put it in there as far as applying, but DCED said that since we don’t have a specific line item for it in the budget that they need a letter from us to consider our application. Councilman Eister made a motion to draft the letter for DCED. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**$2,892.00 Tax Payment for Parcels 050-03-005-164 & 050-03-005-159**

Councilman Savidge made a motion to approve a $2,892.00 tax payment for parcel 050-03-005-164 and 050-03-005-159 (This old Turkey Hill on Front Street.) This is a property that the city is in the process of taking over and we don’t want to go to tax sale, so we can do what we want with it. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor. Solicitor Wiest said that the city moved forward to take the Turkey Hill property by eminent domain because we have had no contact from the owner in several years. We’ve attempted to contact her on multiple occasions with no success. The Board of View was appointed by the court to view the property and will get back to us to let us know what we must pay for the property. Once we pay for it, the city can do what they want with the property.

**Salary Adjustment for Lisa Martina to $51,288.81(County/School) as of 6/30/25**

Councilman Savidge stated that the next few motions are technical changes for the Treasurer’s Office. We had appointed Mr. Backer to be the representative for the city to go to the county and school district to come up with salary agreements for tax collection. Councilman Savidge made a motion to make a salary adjustment for Lisa Martina to $51,288.81, this will be the county and school portions of the salary as of June 30, 2025, when she assumed her position. Mayor Brosious asked what we are voting for tonight is when she was appointed to last meeting, to see the rest of the term through and then we go back and negotiate again for the next four years of the elected position. Councilman Savidge answered, yes, this is only for now until the end of the year. Mayor Brosious seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**2% Wage increases for the City of Sunbury Treasurer’s Office 1/1/26**

Councilman Savidge said based on the negotiations, there was a recommended 2% wage increase for the City of Sunbury Treasurer’s Office effective January 1, 2026, for the next 4 years. Councilman Savidge made a motion to approve the wage increase. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Position Adjustment Cathy Geiger**

Councilman Savidge made a motion to adjust Kathy Geiger’s position she took over for Penny and she’s fulfilling payroll duties. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**Salary Adjustment for Cathy Geiger to $35,642.73(County/School) as of 5/5/25**

Councilman Savidge made a motion to have a salary adjustment for Kath Geiger and this is just the county and school portion for $35,642.73 effective May 5, 2025. Mayor Brosious asked if this is until the end of the year or the next four years. Councilman Savidge said we will set her salary at what it will be currently and then she’ll be subject to the 2% for the next four years. Mayor Brosious explained his issues he had as a taxing body and whole as the City of Sunbury, Shikellamy School District and the County, what we pay to collect taxes on top of our salaries is ridiculous. He was comparing surrounding cities and their budgets. There was further discussion on the matter. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; Councilman Barnhart, Councilman Savidge and Councilman Eister were in favor; Mayor Brosious was against. Motion approved. Mayor Brosious commented that his vote is not based on Cathy’s work. It’s just based on taxpayer dollars and trying to save the taxpayer dollars.

**Position Adjustment Rachel Strohecker**

Councilman Savidge made a motion to adjust the position of Rachel Strohecker. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; Councilman Brosious was against; all other councilmembers were in favor. Motion passed.

**Salary Adjustment for Rachel Strohecker to $18,000(County/School) as of 6/16/25**

Councilman Savidge made a motion for the salary adjustment for Rachel Strohecker tot $18,000.00 based on the county and school portions effective June 16, 2025, when she moved into the new position. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; Mayor Brosious was against, all other councilmen were in favor. Motion passed.

**-Payment of $20,000.00 each annually by Northumberland County & Shikellamy SD, for shared expenses of the tax collection office effective 1/1/2026 through 12/31/2029**

Councilman Savidge made a motion for a payment of $20,000.00 each annually by Northumberland County and the Shikellamy School District for shared expenses of the tax collection office effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2025. Mayor Brosious asked if it is possible to put it in a line item that states it is actually for the insurance and not the office supplies for the treasurer’s department. There was further discussion on the matter. Councilman Savidge amended his motion stating that the payment of the $20,000.00 each annually with the stipulation that it goes towards tax collecting expenses including insurance, workers comp, salary any expenses as long as they are specifically tracked. Councilman Eister seconded the motion; Mayor Brosious was against, all other councilmen were in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval of Abstract/Vouchers of GF $113,619.39, LF $4,867.25, Private Grants $0.00, and Payroll $86,321.03**

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

**DISCUSSION**

**City Credit Cards**

Mayor Brosious suggested that each department can have their own designated credit card with their own separate limits. If multiple departments use them the same day and they meet the limit someone must wait until the next business day to use the credit card. There was further discussion on the matter.

**Susquehanna Avenue Change Order**

Mayor Brosious asked Councilman Eister how the meeting went regarding the Susquehanna Change Order discussed at the last council meeting. He has spoken with Mr. Suloff twice since then and has the paperwork for Mrs. Shambach that he’s still working on.

**2026 Budget Preparation**

Mayor Brosious wants to start discussing the 2026 Budget during the Work Session on August 11th. We don’t want to rush and have special meetings to get it done. We will have spreadsheets ready before the meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The City Clerk’s Office will be closed Tuesday and Thursday this week to up with community service moving books from United Way.

- Sunbury Revitalization’s Movies on the River, July 31st at 6pm at the Amphitheater, showing “Robots”

-Church Hymn Singing, August 3rd at 6:30pm in Cameron Park

-National Night Out, August 5th from 5pm-8pm at the James R. Eister Youth & Community Center

-Rhoads to a New U Resource Block Party August 9th in Cameron Park from 12pm to 4pm

-Back to School Movie Night at Good Will Playground August 9th from 7pm to 10pm showing “Ferdinand”

-River Festival, August 15th & 16th at Merle Phillips Park

Councilman Eister asked for a list of things needed for National Night Out.

Councilman Barnhart announced that on August 9th, the Code Office will be collecting tires at the Sunbury Community Pool parking lot from 8:00am to 1:00pm.

**Next City Council Meeting will be held at City Hall on July 28th at 6:15p.m.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tracy Lesher asked Mr. Welker about the dirt alley by the Coca-Cola building, and it was on the list to get fixed but hasn’t been tended too. Mr. Welker said they put millings on it three times a year. She said there is a pothole behind her house. He said he would look at it. There was further discussion between the two regarding other city streets.

Beverly Mercer stated that we were just talking about the increase of salaries, and we don’t have enough to pave our roads. Mr. Savidge said that the employees are due for their cost-of-living adjustments of 2%. He does agree that we need more money to put into our streets. There was further discussion on the matter.

Marianne Miller stated that there is a property by Beck Elementary and the grass is as high as the fence and needs to be cut down.

Allen Bubb was upset with the parking situation on Woodlawn Ave behind the Dollar General. A tractor trailer was blocking the entrance to the Edison Plaza Parking Lot. They are denied access for the parking permit they pay for. Mayor Brosious said that we can talk to the Dollar General about having the trucks park a few feet back away from the parking lot entrance.

Bill Staley rides his bike all over town and there is a gentleman in the park who’s been wearing the same clothes for the last two years and he smells. He’s seen him sitting on benches and there is fecal matter below him under the bench where he defecates and he has seen him urinating in public. Mayor Brosious explained that the matter isn’t going unaddressed. We are doing what we can the legal way.

Miranda Riegle wanted to bring attention to the Safe Haven Law with the number of infant deaths rising. Wants the city to consider putting in a Safe Haven Box somewhere in the city as the closest one is 2 hours away. She went over the functions of the Safe Haven Box.

Shawnee Leisenfeld requested permission from the city to put in a dog park. She has had many people express to her the need for an off-leash dog park in the City of Sunbury. She asked for the city’s help in making Bark Bury Park a reality. She presented a proposed plan to council.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robyn Garinger

Administrative Assistant