

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., by Council Vice-President H. David Miller. After the pledge to the flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

Tracy Peterson (Absent)
H. David Miller
Denise Stine (Absent)
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar
John Eagelman

Other officials present: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Lowell Leaman, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Police Chief James Oxenreider; and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER APPLICATION:

Mr. Miller turned the meeting over to Mr. Haws. Mr. Haws opened the Public Hearing and stated that we received an application for a Liquor License Transfer but did not get a lot of details, just the name of a brand-new entity and a proposed address. He mentioned that he followed up with the attorney for the applicant and explained that Council would like to hear a bit more about the proposed facility. He stated that he received correspondence from the attorney for the applicant requesting that we continue the hearing until the May 8th Council meeting because they are still working on a plan for the type of facility they want to use. He stated that we advertised the meeting for tonight at 7 pm and if Council opts to accept their request for continuance to May 8th we do not need to readvertise, and they have waived any timeline for action since they are requesting the continuance. Mr. Miller asked if there were any objections to continuing the hearing until May 8th. There were no objections. Mr. Haws stated that he will advise the attorney for the applicant that Council has continued the hearing to May 8th at 7 pm. Mr. Haws closed the hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Miller asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025 Council Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chazz Aden from Representative Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz's office was in attendance. He mentioned that it is property tax rebate season and that if any residents need assistance with it, we can send them there way.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Miller mentioned that we received an invitation from CELG for the May 30th Municipal Officials Breakfast if anyone is interested.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mr. Miller asked for a motion to approve the bills for March 2025. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Miller asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2025. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Egelman. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Miller stated that their March 2025 Activity Report is included in the email packet and to reach out to Mr. Renshaw if there are any questions.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mr. Miller stated that their March 2025 Activity Report is also included in the email packet.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they have a meeting next Tuesday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

The first item was to approve Mr. Hart moving forward with the Street Sweeper Purchase. Mr. Hart mentioned that it was in the approved 2025 budget to replace our existing unit. He stated that we have already done a letter of intent so they could get the order placed and hold it under the old pricing and make sure one is available. He stated that it is a 5-year lease/purchase through Fulton Bank and the total price on the unit is \$364,064.00. Mr. Miller asked for a motion to authorize the purchase of the street sweeper under the lease/purchase for \$364,064.00. Mr. Hoffa made the motion; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. Mrs. Gantner asked if we received a grant for this. Mr. Hart stated no, and that he had proposed using the Capital Fund to cover the payments. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

The next item was to review the Amendment to the Sewer Agreement with South Heidelberg Township. Mr. Hart mentioned that South Heidelberg Township has another sewer connection issue where they want to connect to Wernersville's system instead of ours because Wernersville's line is closer. He stated that they have been working on an Amendment to the January 13, 2009 Sewage Treatment Agreement where South Heidelberg Township and Municipal Authority would agree to 1) install a flow meter at a new manhole to capture the flow from the currently unmetred properties, Mr. Hart would like this done within six (6) months since it has been drug out for years, they are proposing twelve (12) months, 2) provide copies of all documents related to pre-treatment permits for industrial users, Mr. Hart would like this to include commercial users 3) provide all monitoring data regarding each pre-treatment permitted facilities and all inspection reports, 4) agree to coordinate with the Borough for each planning module approval for any and all future connection to the Borough sewer system. Item 5 lists the allotted remaining Township capacity in the Borough of Sinking Spring Sewage Treatment Plant and item 6 is the Borough's release of the 36.80-acre property bordering Krick Lane owned by Henry and Amy Noss and equitably owned by C&B Development, LLC from the Township Sewer District 3 so the sewage is permitted to flow to another sewage treatment plant. Mr. Miller asked for a motion to execute the agreement to the satisfaction of the Sewer Committee. Mr. Metzgar made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 1 (Mr. Hoffa), ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

LOWELL LEAMAN – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Leaman mentioned that his report is included in the email packet and that he has one (1) action item for tonight which is to approve the Scope revision to redesign the Columbia/Krick Intersection. He stated that the increase is not-to-exceed of \$20,500.00. Mr. Miller asked for a motion to approve Amendment No. 1 to PSA0321-PT03. Mr. Egelman made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Easter Egg Hunt is this Saturday at 10 am and that the Fire Company is doing a brunch. She also mentioned that we have 225 kids signed up for Summer Playground so far and that she would like to hire the playground leaders at the workshop meeting on the 23rd. She explained that she is looking into redoing the tennis courts with the \$75,000.00 in grant money that we received. She mentioned that Mr. Brandon Snyder is interested in joining the Recreation Board.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they need to schedule their next meeting.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that they had a construction planning meeting regarding Phase 4 with PennDOT and what PennDOT's ideas are moving forward. He stated that they had the project set to LET in May 2026, but they do not have properties secured yet. He mentioned at the meeting that he was informed by Ken Pick that the Redevelopment Authority only has so much money they are going to apply to the purchase and demo of the two homes and that the Borough needs to come up with the remaining money. Mr. Hart stated that he advised him that the Borough will not put any money towards it. He stated that PennDOT discussed using the alley behind the houses on Shillington Road which will take away the parking for the residents that live there.

Mr. Miller asked about the Cell Tower and what is going on with that. Mr. Haws stated that he has not received any updates.

Mr. Hart gave an update on the Freight House. He stated that he has been meeting with our insurance people and multiple fire inspectors out there and they have determined that the cause of the fire was a squirrel chewing on wires that shorted out. He stated that since they have determined the cause of the fire the insurance company is going to release our money so we can start moving to get it fixed.

Mr. Hart gave an update on the Zoning Hearing for 155 Ashley Road. He stated that they were granted zoning relief to keep four (4) chickens on the property but there are many conditions that must be met (i.e. good coop that is covered, report stating that it is doing what it is supposed to be doing as far as supporting their needs, they must have the chickens taken to a vet annually and vaccinated, twenty (20) foot setback and must control all stormwater on site). He stated that he would like to keep these standards as the minimum standard for the Borough for anyone wanting to keep chickens. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hart reminded Council that we are having a Workshop meeting on April 23rd for the Public Meeting the contractor requested to present their plans for the bridge replacement at Park and Penn.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER (Cont.):

Mr. Hart mentioned that he has a meeting next week with PennDOT and their contractor. He stated that PennDOT has decided to reconstruct and pave Mull Avenue from Penn Avenue to Papermill Road.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his March 2025 Activity Report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 P.M.;

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary