

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., by Council President Tracy Peterson. After the pledge to the flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

Tracy Peterson  
H. David Miller  
Denise Stine  
Lisa Gantner  
Brian Hoffa  
Robert Metzgar  
Michael Caron

Other officials present: Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Police Chief James Oxenreider; and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2024 Council Meeting and the March 27, 2024 Council Workshop Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

#### **VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The first visitor was Mr. John Bondarchuk from 301 Broad Street. Mr. Bondarchuk addressed Council concerning the high water table level causing water to leak into his basement. He wanted to know if it had anything to do with the construction across the street at the golf course and what information the Borough may have on this issue. Mr. Hart mentioned that when they were doing the construction across the street, they did not hit any underground water. He also mentioned that the lake at the old Breneman Quarry is at the highest point he has ever seen it and it may be putting back pressure on all the underground streams and causing the water to back up. Discussion ensued concerning Stormwater control for the golf course development.

The next visitor was Mr. Brandon Murry of 2236 Reading Avenue in West Lawn. Mr. Murry addressed Council concerning his termination from the Public Works Department. He stated that he believes he was wrongfully fired and handed out letters to Borough Council. He stated that he would like an explanation as to why he was terminated. Mr. Miller stated that this is a personnel matter and that they do not discuss personnel matters in open session. Mr. Haws added that Pennsylvania is an at will state so we do not have to have a reason to terminate someone's employment.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:**

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for March 2024. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report for March 2024. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report; seconded by Mr. Metzger. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

**WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Mrs. Peterson stated that their March Activity Report is in the email packet and if anyone has any questions they can reach out to Mr. Renshaw.

**WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:**

Mrs. Peterson stated that their March Activity Report is also in the email packet.

**REVITALIZATION:**

Mr. Hoffa reported that they have a meeting next week. He stated that they are working on a job description for a replacement for Mr. Loth.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that we now have Committee information for the Library and Admin and just need Recreation and Public Safety.

**NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is to approve Resolution No. 2024-02 for the purchase of 14 Krick Avenue. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-02; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was approval for the Library HVAC Unit Replacement by Alltemp Enterprise, Inc. at a cost of \$11,660.00. Mrs. Gantner made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (Cont.):**

The next item was to hire Mr. Randy Leibig for the Public Works Department. Mr. Caron made a motion to approve hiring Mr. Leibig; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was to approve the hiring of the 2024 Summer Playground Leaders. Mrs. Gantner went over the list of leaders and pay rates (List attached) and made the motion to hire them; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

**BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER/ POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

Mr. Smith mentioned that there were several waivers for the Sunrise Apartments that were presented at the last Council Meeting that were tabled. He stated that the plans came back in for a third revision so Council can act on the waivers as presented to table them until next month when they will probably have the plan ready to approve with all waivers. Mr. Metzgar mentioned that there was some interest from the developer to come and present. Mrs. Peterson stated that we will table the waivers until next meeting.

Mr. Smith stated that they are finalizing the specifications for the Reed Bed Refurbishment and would like permission to advertise those upon approval from staff. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve advertising for bids for the Reed Bed Refurbishment; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith reported that construction on the Penn Avenue/Columbia Avenue intersection has resumed and there will be a semifinal review of the construction with PennDOT on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He mentioned that ARRO provided a supplement to PennDOT to delete a surface treatment from the overlay of Penn Avenue and he believes it has been approved.

Mr. Smith mentioned that Lot 2 (Assisted Living Facility) at Village Greens was sold to another developer, and they are taking responsibility for some of the improvements on that lot. He stated that they requested a separate escrow be prepared for what needs to be completed on that lot which he has prepared an estimate and provided that to the solicitor.

Mr. Smith reported that ARRO submitted the Borough's NPDES application to PADEP on April 2, 2024 and it is currently under review. He stated that a copy of the application was also submitted to DRBC on April 2, 2024. He also mentioned that the Chapter 94 Report was submitted to PADEP on March 28, 2024.

**CHIEF OXENREIDER:**

Chief Oxenreider went over his March 2024 Activity Report. He mentioned that the Citizens Police Academy is going very well and that letters have been sent out for the National Night out on August 6th. He stated that he believes that South Heidelberg Township will be joining us.

**ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:**

Mr. Metzgar asked Mr. Hart if he would go over the items discussed in their Meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hart mentioned that we were given notice of a Tax Sale for a property in the Borough that turned out to be part of Maria Avenue, Diane Avenue and Huron Dr. He stated that he spoke to the County and gave them all kinds of photos and information including copies of the Resolutions accepting dedication of the streets. The Parcel was removed from the Tax Sale and ownership is being changed. The next issue, that he discovered while researching the prior, was that the streets in Brookfield Manor and Summit Blvd. were never added to the Liquid Fuels Tax so he is working on getting those added. He also mentioned that we were holding onto Escrow money for McDonalds and the Terrace Apartments so he closed out the accounts and would like to release the funds back to McDonalds and Grande. He asked for Council's approval to release \$4,000.00 in escrow funds back to McDonald's and \$10,000.00 back to Grande for the Terrace Apartment escrow. Mr. Hoffa made that motion; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried. The next item was the old Colonial Fitness Center. He mentioned that it was sold to LCBC Church and that it will be tax Exempt. He also mentioned an issue with the Bowling Alley and that most of the property is located in the Borough, but all of the Tax money goes to the Township of Spring. Mr. Haws stated that we can look into that. Mr. Metzgar mentioned that Mr. Hart found a messaging service called Go Notify which is run by GoGov and it is \$3,900 annually. Mr. Hart stated that it has no limitations, and we can use it for any type of announcement that we want to put out to the residents.

**LISA GANTNER - RECREATION:**

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that we have signed up for MyRec and we are going to be known as Sinking Spring Recreation and we are starting the whole process of getting the site up and running. She also mentioned that we already have 254 kids registered for playground.

**DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Stine mentioned that Western Berks Fire Department will be having a Building Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Wernersville Station. She stated that everyone is invited to attend.

**MICHAEL CARON – PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Caron mentioned that he is going to meet with Mr. Hart next week to get caught up with the budgets and maintenance schedule. He asked Mr. Hart if he and Mr. Miller had any more discussion on the valve to help prevent flooding of our sanitary sewer system. Mr. Hart stated that he needs to do some research and see where all the laterals are and speak to South Heidelberg. Discussion ensued concerning road project, end of detour, and railroad track maintenance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mr. Bondarchuk questioned the Broad Street Ditch and if it has a clay liner. Mr. Miller stated that there are stone pavers on the bottom of that under the sediment, and that it is on their radar to get that cleaned out so it can carry water more effectively.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Council went into Executive Session at 8:14 for a personnel issue.

**RECONVENE:**

Council reconvened at :854. There was no action to be taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman  
Borough Secretary