

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, December 8, 2022, 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 (Absent)
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar
Patrick Giambalvo

Other officials present were Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Brad Smith, Engineer, 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 November 10, 2022 Council Meeting. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for November 2022. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Giambalvo. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report for November 2022. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mrs. Peterson stated that their November Activity Report is included in the email packet.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mrs. Peterson stated that their November Activity Report is included in the email packet.

REVITALIZATION:

Mrs. Peterson stated that Mr. Loth's Report to Council for December 2022 is included in Councils email packet. Mr. Hart mentioned that they had a zoom meeting this morning with the Redevelopment Authority to see if there is money available to purchase properties that may be needed to complete the new intersection on Shillington Road.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that first item is to approve the Resolutions adopting the 2023 Budgets. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Resolutions adopting the 2023 Budgets for the General Fund, Sewer Fund and Emergency Services; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Metzgar thanked Mr. Hart for his efforts with doing the Budgets every year and that it makes it easy for Council to manage.

The next item was the approval of the Ordinances setting the Tax Rates for 2023 for General, Fire and Ambulance. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Ordinances setting the Tax Rates for 2023; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

The next item was the DRBC Permit Renewal. Mr. Smith stated that Council had requested the costs associated with renewing the permit which will be between \$2,300 and \$2,600. Mrs. Stine made a motion to authorize ARRO to move forward with the DRBC Permit Renewal; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is the new Sewer Rate Resolution that will increase the per 1,000-gallon usage rate by 15%. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the Sewer Rate Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

The next item was a request from Ric Paplosky to use sick time to take his Fiancé for her knee replacement surgery and to her appointments for therapy between November 28, 2022, and January 6, 2023. Mr. Giambalvo made the motion to approve Mr. Paplosky using his sick time as needed to assist his Fiancé; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Smith stated that he received Change Order No. 3 from Construction Masters Services for a time extension extending the contract time by 135 days to March 31, 2023. Mr. Hoffa made a motion approving the time extension; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith mentioned that ARRO is applying for a Small Water and Sewer Grant for the next phase of the reed bed refurbishment and there are a couple items that are required. He stated that he needs to know who the Chief Elected Official will be to sign the grant documents. Mrs. Peterson stated that she will be the signer and Mr. Hart will also be a signer. Mr. Smith mentioned that it is COVID money that they are applying for, so it requires some additional things like a matching fund letter from the Borough along with information from the FFATA Sub-Recipient Data Sheet and a completed Worker Protection and Investment Certification Form.

POLICE CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his activity report for November 2022.

MIKE HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the Borough took possession of 8 Krick Avenue on Monday, December 5th. He also mentioned that he had sent a letter requesting to use the \$1.1 million grant for the Phase 2 sweep and it was approved.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Library helped with the Holiday Open House last night and did a great job. She also mentioned that Mrs. Wenonah Riegel is doing a great job over in the Library and that there have been a lot of changes.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli thanked the Rec Board for the Holiday Open House.

ROBERT METZGAR – ADMIN COMMITTEE:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they will have an Admin meeting in January.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa stated that he received a call from Derck and Edson and mentioned that the comments from ARRO were not included in the last revision. He suggested that they sit down and look over ARRO's comments and see if anything needs to be added or if we want Derck and Edson to do more work on it.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Holiday Open House went well last night. She stated that the staff holiday luncheon is next Friday and that everyone is invited to come. She also mentioned that they are doing the holiday decorations contest and asked everyone to let her know their choices. Mr. Hoffa asked where we are with the playground redesign. Mrs. Gantner stated that we decided to go with HRG for the design and will start meeting after the new year.

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that our new State Representative, Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz, is in the audience. Mrs. Cepeda-Freytiz stated that she is just doing her rounds and that she will be sworn in on January 3, 2023. She stated that she will have an office on Penn Avenue in Wyomissing and is looking forward to working with everyone.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into executive session at 7:32 p.m. for a personnel issue.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:02 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eagan
Borough Secretary