

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, February 10, 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
Denise Stine (Absent)
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 January 3, 2022 Council Reorganization Meeting, January 3, 2022 Council Meeting and the January 26, 2022 Council Workshop Meeting. Mr. Hoffa 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:

There two pieces of correspondence. The first was a letter from Mr. Smith of ARRO Consulting, Inc., thanking Mr. Hart and Borough Council for reappointing ARRO as the Borough's engineering consultant. The second was a letter of support to DCED from State Senator David Argall for the Borough's request for a time extension on two grants.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

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

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is the Wireless/Small Cell Ordinance Update. Mr. Haws stated that he did not get a chance to look over the draft Ordinance to see if changes needed to be made and that he should have it for next meeting.

The next item was the Sludge Hauling that was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Hart stated that we would like to go out for a contract so we have someone lined up just to do that. He stated that they will be putting something together to go out for bid.

The next item was the Reed Bed Refurbishment – Glass Alternative issue. Mr. Smith stated that the recycled glass passed its tests and is being installed.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is the Berks County Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Resolution. Mrs. Egelman mentioned that Mr. Hart received an email from Lower Heidelberg Township with a copy of their new Resolution which casts their vote for the individuals who will serve on the TCC Executive Committee as the primary and alternate delegates for all municipalities that lie within the same school district and that the Borough must now do their Resolution voting for the same unless the Borough wanted to vote for other candidates. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the Resolution casting the Borough's vote for Pamela Stevens and Christine Schlosman to serve on the TCC Executive Committee; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

The next item was the Ordinance authorizing the execution of the Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve the Ordinance authorizing entering into and executing the new Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTIONABLE ITEMS (Cont.):

The next item was the Senior Living Facility EDU Request. Mr. Smith mentioned that this is for the Senior Living Facility that is part of the Village Greens Development. He stated that they are requesting 54 EDUs or 11,844 GPD for their 150 bed facility and that he has reviewed the information they submitted and agrees that 54 EDUs is sufficient for the Senior Living Facility based on the information provided. He also mentioned that he updated the capacity calculation, including the flows to the treatment plant, and there remains approximately 74,830 GPD in reserve capacity after subtracting the projected flows for Village Greens, Alcon, Senior Living and downtown. Discussion ensued as to whether this usage was included with what was already reserved. Mr. Hart stated that it was not and that they only reserved capacity for the Apartments. Mr. Smith stated that the approximate remaining capacity would change to about 60,000 GPD if everything gets built per previous estimates. Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the EDU request; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they are planning a Ground Breaking Ceremony for April 8th 2022 at 1:00 P.M. He stated that he did meet with Julie from the Chamber and they are going to work with us and do all the Press Releases and get the paper there and TV. He mentioned that he already received a commitment from Senator Argall. He also mentioned that the BOSS Committee passed a new amendment to the Bylaws expanding access to the BOSS monthly meetings via telephone call-in and/or internet platform. He mentioned that they are in the middle of redesigning the BOSS website. He asked everyone to review the draft ordinance for the Downtown D-1 District Form Based Code one more time. He mentioned that he met with a gentleman that is going to help us design a billboard for down at the intersection and that he needs to speak to Mr. Hart about that. He also mentioned that he met with the Fire Company and they are discussing having a joint festival sometime in September.

SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY REQUEST:

Mr. Smith mentioned that we received a request for sewer service from South Heidelberg Township Municipal Authority for a warehouse that is being built in the Township. He stated that the warehouse is in Spring Township's sewer service area in the inter-municipal agreements but it will cost the developer \$2 million for the infrastructure improvements to get the flow to Spring Township and they believe that they can get it to the Borough's line by gravity. He mentioned that Spring Township has denied SHTMA's request to have the flow from the development serviced by Sinking Spring. He stated that at a meeting on January 25th between the Borough and SHT they discussed this and other concerns the Borough has that need to be addressed, excessive infiltration in South Heidelberg's system especially at the Willow Glen meter; and the Borough requested an additional meter from the Members First Development at the connection to the Borough's system. Discussion ensued. Council decided that it is not the Borough's issue to fix. Mr. Hart stated that he will reach out to them and let them know that we are not looking at taking on their project.

POLICE CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his report for January 2022. There were no questions.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith stated that PennDOT is reviewing the bid package for the Phase 2 HOP work and should be getting back to him with comments by the end of the week.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart stated that the Borough is now the owner of the Railroad/Historical property and that they had settlement on February 2, 2022. He mentioned that he has the Demo Specs ready for the removal of 2, 4, and 6 Krick Avenue making way for the highway project and that it should be going out for bid on February 21st. He also mentioned that Pennsylvania American Water is going to be replacing the water main on Ruth Street and they will begin on February 21st.

TRACY PETERSON – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that she was thinking about the Committees and she decided that she will put Mr. Giambalvo on the Sewer Committee and remove Mr. Hoffa and put Mr. Giambalvo on the Library Committee and remove Mr. Miller. She stated that it is a work in progress and we will see how it goes.

Mrs. Peterson reported on the Library and that things are going pretty smoothly. She mentioned that they had a luncheon for them today in the Council Chambers.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they had a meeting and that he sent out the minutes. He stated that their next meeting is scheduled for March 7th at 8:30 A.M. He mentioned that they are looking for a new IT service contract for the Borough.

Mr. Metzgar mentioned the accident last week on Shillington Road/Rt. 724 when a car was coming out of the shopping center parking lot and turning left. Discussion ensued about it being a state road and the state saying there are not enough accidents there for them to do anything. Chief Oxenreider stated that they will keep enforcing traffic down there.

LISA GANTNER - RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they met on Tuesday morning and that Mr. Pachuillo joined them by phone. She mentioned that the Pastor from the Koinos Church on Commerce Street in the Borough contacted her about helping out with activities. She stated that they are working on putting together a Popcorn and PJ's Movie Night at the end of the month the Koinos facility. She also mentioned that the pastor offered to help with filling the Easter Eggs for the Egg Hunt. She advised Council that she sent a letter to the VFW to see if they could figure out an alternative event for the parade since we will have all the road construction going on and nowhere to move our parade. She also send a letter to the Wilson Art Department about a mural possibility on the back of the Bucky building at the edge of the playground. She mentioned that they talked a lot about Playground and they are definitely doing nine (9) weeks and thinking about doing ten (10) weeks for an extra charge and combining the playgrounds down at main because we probably won't have all of our staff for the last week. She also sent letters to the leaders to see who is coming back. Mr. Hoffa asked if we were going to have the breakfast. Mrs. Gantner stated that she needed to talk to the Fire Company about that. She mentioned that the Egg Hunt will be on April 9th but the Breakfast will be a different day.

Mr. Giambalvo asked questions about the Map and where some of the businesses are going. Mr. Metzgar stated that this is part of the Revitalization Project and explained that these are not designed plans that have been approved that we are committing to and that they are a representation of what a generalized design would look like. He then explained the different phases.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that we will not have a Workshop Meeting in February unless plans come in for Village Greens.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary