

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., by Council President Tracy Peterson. After the pledge to the flag, Debra Bohn called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present: Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Lowell Leaman, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Police Chief James Oxenreider; and Debra Bohn, Borough Treasurer, who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025 Council Meeting. Mr. Eagelman made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. & Mrs. Steinhauer were in attendance to get information on the PennDOT project to redo the Penn Avenue/Shillington Road intersection. Mrs. Steinhauer stated that they are getting conflicting information from PennDOT and the Borough. She is concerned because PennDOT stated that they are taking the alley behind their house and turning it into a road, and they will lose their parking. Mr. Hart stated that PennDOT is doing that because they must provide another source of exit to McDonalds and Jiffy Lube. Mrs. Steinhauer asked about the Redevelopment Authority taking 50 and 52 Shillington Road. Mr. Hart stated that it is not for the Borough and that it is for PennDOT. Mr. Haws mentioned that they could contact a lawyer because they have rights under the eminent domain code or maybe the neighbors could ban together and contact a lawyer. Mrs. Steinhauer also mentioned that she is concerned about damage to her property when they take down the house next to hers. Mr. Haws stated that the contractor would have to have liability insurance to cover any damage to other properties. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Peterson stated that if we hear anything from PennDOT we will let them know but at this point we have no information.

The next visitor was Chazz Aden from Representative Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz office. He stated that they just wanted to remind everyone that they are here to help with any state or agency related needs.

CORRESPONDENCE/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the Municipal Officials Dinner will be March 13, 2025 at 5:00 P.M and that if anyone is interested, they must RSVP. She did mention that March 13th is our meeting night.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for January 2025. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Gantner. Mrs. Gantner asked for clarification on a bill under Police for Lost and Found Animal Control Services in the amount of \$6,429.00. Mr. Hart stated that it is our animal control contract for 2025 and that the name has changed from last year. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2025. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 6, NAYS – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw stated that his January 2025 Activity Report is included in the email packet. He mentioned that last Thursday afternoon there was a house fire in the 4000 block of Penn Avenue. He stated that the fire started in the knee wall space in the attic and traveled through the roof line and they were able to hold it to that. He stated that it was a rental property, and the attic space where the fire started was converted into a bedroom and that there was a teenage girl living up there and her only way out if there is a fire is down the steps so if the fire is on the first or second floor, she has no way out. He advised that if the Borough does rental inspections that should be looked at as well as basements. Mr. Hart stated that if they follow through with what they are supposed to do and they get permits, it is all pointed out to them, but the problem we have is people move into these buildings and convert the basements and attics without getting permits. Mr. Hart explained that Mr. Miller does check those things when he does his inspections, but we only do them every other year.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mrs. Peterson stated that their January 2025 Activity Report is included in the email packet.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa stated that they met with the new Community Coordinator, Gabriel Hirsh, and that he is working on a new business welcome package, and they are looking into some fund raising. He stated that Mr. Hirsch does have a meeting set up with DCED. He mentioned that they do expect to have a meeting next Tuesday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

The first item was the 2025 Pavement Resurfacing Project Bid Results/Award bid. Mr. Miller stated that the apparent low bidder is H & K Group with a bid of \$186,848.69. He asked Mr. Hart if he was looking to award to H & K and if everything had been reviewed and is acceptable. Mr. Hart stated that he would be looking to award the bid to them as long as the bond and everything is squared away, which he believes it is. Mr. Miller made a motion to award the bid to H & K Group contingent on legal review; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

The next item was the estimate for a new rubber roof for the WWTP Chlorine Building. Mr. Hart mentioned that the roof has been leaking for a little while now and they have been patching it, but it is beyond patching now. He stated that they went out and got three (3) bids, the lowest was from White & Sons Roofing, Inc. at \$19,750.00 and the highest quote was from Bachman Roofing at almost \$25,000.00. Mr. Eagelman made a motion to award the bid to White & Sons Roofing, Inc.; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

The next item was the Quote from Municipal Maintenance Co. for the Gate Replacement and wiring of actuator at the WWTP in the amount of \$16,930.00. Mr. Hart explained that it is a gate valve that is on the raw sewage ditch that is activated by electric motor to open and close and we can't activate it. He mentioned that there is a manual mode that we can use but that isn't working quite right either. He stated that this is the price for the new motor drive, actuator, valve stem and everything else to get it up and running again. Mr. Miller asked if they received three (3) for this also. Mr. Hart stated that it is through costars. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the quote from Municipal Maintenance Co.; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

The next item was the Sunrise Apartments Plan Revision Statement. Mr. Hart explained that they are downsizing it mostly due to construction costs so they asked if they could send in a letter stating that they wish to revise their current plan. He stated that Council can either accept that and have the revisions attached to the approved plans or we can make them go back through the entire process. He stated that there is really no impact since they are reducing the size.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (Cont.):

Mr. Haws suggested that we have them submit a detailed revision to plan of record as a new revised final plan that shows the reduced units, parking, and impervious, and have that signed. He stated that we don't have to send it back through the Planning Commission, but it would need signatures. Mrs. Peterson stated that Mr. Hart can contact them to let them know what we require, and we will wait for those plans and vote for approval at the next meeting.

The next item was the Declaration of Disaster Emergency because of the road salt shortage. Mr. Hart stated that he is doing this on the precautionary side and that we are sitting ok with road salt right now but there is a shortage throughout the whole county. He stated that this will enable the state to come up with some surplus and divvy it out to who needs it. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the Declaration of Disaster Emergency; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

LOWELL LEAMAN – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Leaman mentioned that his report is included in the email packet and that he has one action item for tonight. He stated that ARRO prepared Construction Escrow Release #3 to release contingency funds in the amount of \$377,834.83 in proportion to construction completion as directed by the solicitor. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve Escrow Release #3; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Eagelman asked about the Penn Avenue Pedestrian Crossing at Hull Street and if there was a timeline on that. Mr. Leaman stated that he will have to check on that. Mr. Hart stated that we did get the permit approved for that and now we have to get the price together to put the project together and go out for bid. He mentioned that there is a grant tied to it so we do have to get moving on it.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his January 2025 Activity Report.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that Mr. Haws reviewed H & K's bid documents, and everything is fine with the paving so we can move to the next step on that.

He advised Council that we received notice that DEP is conducting a survey on the Cacoosing Creek that runs through the Borough. He mentioned that they did it a couple years ago to the west of the borough but this time it is from our line to the Tulpehocken. He stated that our sewer plant discharges into that creek and he is concerned about what they are going to find in the creek and the new levels they will put our discharge at. He stated that he believes they are

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER (Cont.):

going to start pushing us to eliminate the use of chlorine gas for treating the sewage and if they do that it will be a major upgrade to the plant where we will have to find something else, usually UV lighting, which could be more than \$1,000,000.00 to update. He mentioned that the study was scheduled to be done sometime in January, but he hasn't heard anything yet.

Mr. Hart mentioned that South Heidelberg Township is requesting that flow from a new warehouse go to Spring Township or Wernersville Borough instead of the Borough of Sinking Spring. Discussion ensued.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they are getting into their busy season and the next event will be the Easter Egg Hunt in April so they are starting to work on that.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M.;

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary