

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, January 12, 2023, 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 (Absent)
Robert Metzgar (Absent)
Patrick Giambalvo

Other officials present were Mayor Gary Cirulli; Keith Mooney, 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 December 8, 2022, Council Meeting. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Giambalvo. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 3. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that we received an invitation to the Municipal Officials Dinner that will be held on Thursday, March 16th at the Albright College, McMillan Center Dining Hall beginning at 5 p.m. if any Council Members are interested.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for December 2022. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 3. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report for December 2022. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Giambalvo. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that their December Activity Report is included in the email packet.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that their December Activity Report is included in the email packet.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the BOSS Forward Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 17th and will discuss making a permanent change to the meeting dates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 7:10 p.m. the following action was taken. Mr. Giambalvo made a motion to approve the Grievance Settlement Agreement with the Police Officer's Association; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

There was no other Unfinished Business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is to approve Library Personnel Raises for 2023. Mrs. Peterson mentioned that all of the Library Personnel will be getting a \$1.00 per hour raise for 2023 to try to get them closer to fair market value. She also mentioned that the new hires will start at \$12.00 per hour. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve the increases; seconded by Mr. Giambalvo. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

The next item to be discussed was the Bus Patrol. Chief Oxenreider explained that the Wilson School District contacted a vendor about a program to put cameras on the school busses that will take video or pictures of vehicles passing the school bus. He stated that the videos would then go to the Police Department who will look at the video and the vendor will issue civil citations to the owner of the vehicle. He stated that there would be no cost to the Police Department. Discussion ensued. No action was taken since the School District hasn't approved it yet. Chief Oxenreider gave a copy of the Agreement to Mr. Mooney for him to review.

The next item was to discuss the Part-Time Police Officer Salary Increase. Chief Oxenreider mentioned that the Borough is not competitive as far as part-time, and he is having difficulty getting part-time officers. He suggested raising the part-time salary to \$30.00 per hour so we can compete with the other municipalities. Mayor Cirulli explained that it is difficult for the Borough because we are Civil Service, and we can't hire from within if a full-time position opens up. Discussion ensued. Mayor Cirulli stated that he would like to get rid of the Civil Service and will speak to our state representatives about it and removing it from the Borough Code. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve increasing the part-time police officer salary to \$30.00 per hour; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Smith's first item was the Roof Replacement Project Pay Applications from Warko Group. He stated that Payment Application No. 2 is in the amount of \$16,740.00 and Payment Application No. 3 is in the amount of \$27,362.60. He stated that ARRO recommends approval of both of the payment applications and that this closes out the project. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve both payment applications from Warko Group as presented; seconded by Mr. Giambalvo. Mrs. Peterson asked Mr. Hart if everything has been completed. Mr. Hart stated that they replaced the awing out back because they could not clean it and that they were out at the Sewer Plant and put a patch on there. He also mentioned that we are under warranty for a year. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

The next item was the Roof Replacement Change Order No. 1. Mr. Smith stated that the Change Order is for a time extension so they could complete the close out documents. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the change order as presented; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

The next item was the Roof Replacement Close Out Documents which was a Certificate of Substantial Completion that needed to be signed. Mr. Miller stated that it is administrative, and that Mr. Hart could sign it.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER – POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (Cont.):

The next item was the Reed Bed Clearing Pay Application No. 3 from Synargo Central, LLC in the amount of \$76,832.79. Mr. Smith mentioned that there is one year remaining on this contract with an approximate value of \$78,774.88. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the payment application; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 4, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 3. Motion carried.

POLICE CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his activity report for December 2022 and his 2022 year-end report.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER

Mr. Smith gave an update on the intersection alignment project. He stated that they located the existing 4'x4' culvert that is located on the VFW property. He stated that ARRO measured the depth to the culvert and is using that information to revise the plans for PennDOT. He mentioned that they had a progress meeting today.

MIKE HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that he was approached by a business owner on Penn Avenue, and she is concerned about the intersection at North Hull St, Penn Avenue and South Hull Street. He explained that a child was hit last weekend trying to cross Penn Avenue. He stated that the business owner asked if the Borough would consider removing some of the parking spaces on Penn Avenue to open up a better line of sight so people can be seen trying to cross the street. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hart stated that he would check with Mr. Loth to see if there are any grants available or any government programs for safer cross walks. He also mentioned that he will look to see if one of the parking spaces could be removed.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he did receive a copy of the invoice for the moving costs for 8 Krick Avenue which totaled \$14,000.00 and that we have reimbursed Ms. Keller.

ELIZABETH EAGELMAN – SECRETARY:

Mrs. Eagelman advised Council that the new Brough web site is up and running and that she and Mrs. Bohn had training on it this morning.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Rec Board met and talked about the Easter Egg Hunt which will be April 1st. She also mentioned that she is gathering a committee together to start the Park Master Plan. She stated that they also discussed the Summer Playground and that salaries will not be increased this year and that they still need to figure out the cost and the dates. She mentioned that they had a whole bunch of leaders last year that will be seniors this year. She also mentioned the Brookfield Manor Playground and that they have a kid who is going for his Eagle Scout and his family is willing to help with the improvements he would like to make there like gutters on the pavilion, storage units in the shed he is going to try to make the basketball court a half pickle ball court. She mentioned that it is our year to do a Memorial Day Parade but with the road project still going on she doesn't believe that is it feasible. She suggested doing our community breakfast that weekend or close to it to honor our veterans.


MIKE HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart stated that he and the staff would like to thank Council for the luncheon.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary