

The workshop meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., by Council President Tracy Peterson. After the pledge to the flag, Elizabeth Egelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

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

AWARD TRASH BID:

Mr. Hart stated that three (3) bids for trash hauling service for 2024 with a possible one-year extension for 2025 were received by 1 pm yesterday and opened at 1 pm yesterday, January 23, 2024. He mentioned that we received a fourth (4th) envelope, but it was just a letter stating that they declined to bid. Mr. Hart went over the bid results received (list attached). He stated that the apparent low bidder is Casella and that we sent everything over to Mr. Haws to review. Mr. Haws stated that he will look at it a little closer in the morning to confirm and let him know. Discussion ensued concerning service and costs. Mr. Miller made a motion to award the one-year contract with the possible one-year extension to Casella pending the favorable review from the solicitor; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Jonas Kreitzer from Casella addressed Council. He apologized for the service issues in the past and stated that they are under new management so that should improve. Mrs. Gantner asked what the main reason is for the high increase. Mr. Kreitzer stated that it is equipment costs and labor costs.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to be discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is to approve signing the Intergovernmental Agreement for the establishment of the Berks County Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals. Mr. Haws mentioned that this has been in place, and they just amended the contract, so they just want the Borough to sign this new revised agreement. Mr. Miller made a motion to authorize execution of the agreement; 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 to hire Library personnel. She made a motion to hire Justin Thomas, Allison Bucks and Emily Rudderrow for the Library at \$12.00 per hour for 10-20 hours per week; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

The next item was to approve the carryover of unused vacation time from 2023 for Mrs. Bohn, Mrs. Egelman and Mr. Hart. Mr. Hart explained that due to some unforeseen circumstances (sicknesses and bereavement time) some of the staff did not get to use all of their vacation time for 2023. He asked Council to approve carrying it over to 2024 and mentioned that it must be used by March 31st. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve the carryover of the vacation days; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his yearly report for 2023.

TRACY PETERSON – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Peterson stated that she wanted to create a new committee for Public Works and separate it from the Finance Committee. She went over the rest of the committees and members. List attached. She also mentioned that she would like to see each committee take minutes of their meetings and share them with the rest of Council prior to the next meeting.

Mrs. Peterson stated that she wanted to discuss the Little Food Pantry that is outside by the library entrance. She stated that the Library Director would like it removed and they have discussed it numerous times at the Library Board Meetings. She mentioned that she has different feelings about this and that she knows it is being used because she sees people using it in the evening. She stated that it is not in a good location because it sits in the sun so the food in the summer is sitting in the sun. She was looking for Council's opinion on it and if they should keep it there, get rid of it or move it. Decision was made to relocate it and Mr. Miller volunteered to talk to Ric in Public Works to discuss it.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they did have a meeting on January 8th and he will be sending out the minutes.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they did have a meeting and they are trying to figure out how to compete with other playgrounds for staff and salaries, dates for playground season, and fees for the rentals. She also mentioned that the Borough was awarded a \$75,000.00 Recreation Grant and they may be able to do one of the courts with that money.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into executive session at 7:42 p.m. to discuss possible litigation.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:08 p.m. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Metzgar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary

Re: Project Name
Trash Collection
 2024

COMPANY NAME	COMPANY ADDRESS	Rec'd DATE AND TIME	BID PRICE #1	BID PRICE #2	RANKING
AJ Blosinski Inc Eagle DISC		1-22-24 in Am	\$300,990.- 322,059.-	2024 2025	
C95119		1-22-24 @ 1:20PM	\$264,160.- 272,085.-	- 2024 - 2025	
Republic Services		1-23-24 by Fed-Ex @ 10:20am	\$	—	
JPM75090		1-23-24 @ 12:18 PM	\$339,396.- same	- 2024 - 2025	

BOROUGH OF SINKING SPRING

COMMITTEES OF BOROUGH COUNCIL

01/24/2024

FINANCE (Administration) Robert Metzgar, Chair Person – 610-291-6184
Tracy Peterson
Brian Hoffa

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (BOSS Forward)
Brian Hoffa, Chair Person – 484-797-8800
Robert Metzgar
Lisa Gantner

LIBRARY Tracy Peterson, Chair Person - 610-750-6084
Denise Stine
Brian Hoffa

PUBLIC SAFETY (Police, Fire, and Ambulance)..... Denise Stine, Chair Person – 610-802-1131
H. David Miller
Michael Caron

SEWER & SANITATION H. David Miller, Chair Person – 610-587-2620
Denise Stine
Michael Caron

RECREATION..... Lisa Gantner, Chair Person - 610-334-3576
Tracy Peterson
Robert Metzgar

PUBLIC WORKS..... Michael Caron, Chair Person – 610-517-3245
Lisa Gantner
H. David Miller