

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 7:07 p.m. following the Reorganization meeting, 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
Michael Caron

Other officials present were: Mayor Gary Cirulli, Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Brad Smith, 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 14, 2023 Council Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

State Representative Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz was in the audience and addressed Council. She congratulated the newly elected officials and gave them each a Certificate of Congratulation from the Commonwealth.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to discuss.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for December 2023. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report for December 2023. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mrs. Peterson stated that Mr. Renshaw's December Activity Report is in the email packet. She stated that if anyone has any questions, they can reach out to him.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

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

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they had their last meeting with Mr. Loth and that they regretfully accepted his resignation. He stated that they are going to start looking for a replacement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is to reaffirm the hiring of Ms. Kelly McFeaters for the Library. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to reaffirm the hiring of Ms. McFeaters at \$12.00 per hour for 10 to 15 hours per week; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Hart mentioned that we had to go out for bids for Trash removal service and that we need a motion to approve that. Mrs. Stine made the motion; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried. Mr. Hart explained that it was a three (3) year contract with the option for two (2) one (1) year extensions for 2024 and 2025. He stated that we missed sending the request in for the deadline of December 1, 2023. He explained that with everything going on, holidays, sicknesses, and him being out, it got missed and the letter did not go out until December 11 by email and Casella, formally GFL rejected our request. He stated that after Mr. Haws sent a letter to them, they did finally agree to continue collecting the trash for January and February at the 2024 rate to give us time to find another hauler. Mr. Cirulli asked about recycling. Mr. Hart stated that we also emailed a letter to Waste Management about the recycling and have not heard anything. He mentioned that he put the trash collection bid out for a one (1) year contract with a one (1) year extension so we can get it back in line with the recycling contract.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith mentioned that we were successful in getting a PA Small Water and Sewer Grant for the refurbishment of the reed beds with DCED approving \$362,404.00 for the project. He stated that once the agreement has been signed by the Borough and DCNR, ARRO will move forward immediately to get this project done and out for bid.

Mr. Smith mentioned the Phase 2 HOP project and that the base and binder paving has been completed. He stated that they are moving forward with the installation of the traffic lights so come spring they will be able to finish up.

Mr. Hart mentioned that we received a letter from Don Robitzer concerning Village Greens. He stated that Mr. Robitzer is asking the Borough to start the 18-month warranty period for the paving work they did on Reedy Road. Discussion ensued concerning damage that may happen to the roadway when they start construction of the apartment buildings. Mr. Hart stated that he would feel more comfortable waiting to start the warranty period once permits are pulled for the apartments. Mr. Hart stated that he can go out and video the whole stretch of the roadway so we have backup in case something does happen. Mr. Haws suggested speaking with Mr. Robitzer to discuss the Borough's concerns.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the brush chipper was delivered, and they have training on it tomorrow. He explained that we received a CAT 4 Grant just under \$100,000.00 for it and the Borough had to cover the other approximately \$4,000.00. He stated that he is going to apply for reimbursement as soon as we get the cancelled check back.

Mr. Hart mentioned that our original MTF Grant in the amount of \$783,000.00 for the Phase 2 Project has been used up and we have started pulling from the \$1 million Grant for the construction. He also mentioned that he pulled from the \$1.1 million for the purchase of the three (3) properties on Krick and that he spoke with Mr. Norris and advised him that they can move forward and start looking for a place. He stated that the remainder of that money can be used for construction costs as well.

Mr. Hart advised Council that we received two payments in 2023 from our health insurance carrier, PMHIC, totaling a little over \$77,000.00 for the 2022 Surplus Distribution.

Mr. Hart mentioned that once we have the Committees set, he needs to have a Sewer Committee meeting because we are having issues with the Townships and we need to update our Sewer Use Agreement.

Mrs. Stine asked where we are at with the road opening and if it would be open before Spring. Mr. Hart stated that it would not be because PennDOT will not allow them to put the wearing down due to the temperatures and without the wearing we can't do the line striping. He stated that the poles are going up for the traffic signals, but they won't be ready to be turned on either. Mrs. Stine also asked about the big bump going into the doctor's office parking lot on

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER (Cont.):

Cacoosing Avenue and if we could have something done there. Mr. Hart stated that we can, but it will cost us more money because they will have to mill it back out in the Spring. Mrs. Peterson stated that we should do something for the business and residents there because we were not expecting it to go this long. Mrs. Gantner agreed. There was also discussion concerning people not stopping at the stop sign at N. Hull and Cacoosing. Mayor Cirulli stated that we will put an unmarked car up there in the afternoon for a few days and see what happens. Chief Oxenreider stated that he will have someone sit there.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson asked if Mrs. Egelman could tell them who would be up for re-election next cycle. Mrs. Egelman stated that it would be the Mayor, Tax Collector, Mr. Caron, Mrs. Gantner, Mr. Miller and Mr. Metzgar.

Mrs. Peterson stated that the library had to shorten their hours because of Covid and lack of staff. She mentioned that three (3) people left over the holidays.

MAYOR CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli asked about leaf collection and if it could be extended to the third week in December. Mr. Hart stated that they had been going out with the street sweeper and getting any small piles that they see but the leaf vac went in for work. Mayor Cirulli stated that a lot of the trees lose their leaves late and it would help to keep the leaves out of the storm drains.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE:

Mr. Metzgar stated that they need to have an Admin Meeting and asked Mr. Hart if Monday, January 8th at noon works to which he replied that he was available then.

LISA GANTNER - RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Rec Board is going to work on setting the prices for the pavilion rentals for 2024 and then start looking to see how many playground leaders they have coming back for this year.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary