

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, June 13, 2024 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
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar
Michael Caron

Other officials present: 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 May 9, 2024 Council Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Mike Trainer of 16 Krick Avenue addressed Council. Mr. Trainer stated that barriers were put up at 14 Krick Avenue and he understands that they were put there so no one would get hurt. He stated that he is concerned about the concrete pipes that were left down here because he has seen kids down there climbing on them and that he has yelled at them when he saw them. Council thanked Mr. Trainer for letting them know.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for May 2024. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report for May 2024. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mrs. Peterson stated that their May Activity Report is in the email packet and if anyone has any questions, they can reach out to Mr. Renshaw.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

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

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa stated that they will be having a meeting this month. He also mentioned that he and Mr. Hart came up with a Job Description for the replacement of not only Mr. Loth but adding an administrative position as well. He stated that he sent it out to Mr. Metzgar and asked for his feedback on it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is to approve Ordinance #663-2024 Accepting the Deed of Dedication for a portion of Reedy Road. Mr. Haws stated that it is a two-step process. He stated that we advertised it for a Public Hearing tonight, so we have to do that first.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR REEDY ROAD DEED OF DEDICATION

Mr. Haws opened the Public Hearing to consider the adoption of the Ordinance that would accept the Deed of Dedication for a portion of a parcel of land to be used as a public street known as Reedy Road within the Borough of Sinking Spring. He asked if there was any public comment. There was none. He asked if Council had any comments or questions. There were none. Mr. Miller moved to close the hearing.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (Cont.):

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve Ordinance #663-2024 Accepting the Deed of Dedication for a portion of Reedy Road; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was to approve the Public Comment Policy Resolution. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the Resolution; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. Discussion ensued. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was the approval to do the environmental study at 8, 10, 12 and 14 Krick Avenue. Mr. Hart explained that it is part of the requirement for us to move forward with the demolition of those properties under that federal grant. He stated that the Proposal from Liberty Environmental, Inc. came out to \$8,075.00 to do all four properties. Mr. Metzgar made the motion to approve the environmental study for 8, 10, 12 & 14 Krick Avenue; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was the Train Station Roof Quotes. Mr. Hart mentioned that this would be for the office area. He explained that the roof has been leaking through the winter and that we have been patching it, but it is at the point now where we must do some serious work to it. He stated that we tried to get three quotes but only one came in. He mentioned that he had budgeted \$50,000.00 for it but the quote from Waterview Pro Services LLC came in at \$14,424.00. He stated that it is a specialized coating that gets applied to the metal roofing and that they will pressure wash and clean the existing roof and make any repairs prior to applying the specialized paint. Mrs. Gantner asked about a timeline since Wilson will be using the Freight House for their Summer Program. Mr. Hart stated that he will advise them of that and see if they can work around it. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to move forward with the quote from Waterview Pro Services LLC; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was to hire Bodi White as a Part-Time Summer Playground Leader at \$12.00 per hour effective May 30, 2024. Mrs. Gantner explained that he should have been on the last list but was missed. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve hiring Bodi White as a part-time playground leader; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Smith stated that he has one action item for tonight. He stated that at the last meeting Council requested TPD's Punch Lish for the intersection project, which he provided with his report this month. He asked Council to sign off on the Substantial Completion Form so they can continue moving along. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve signing the Substantial Completion Form; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith briefly went over the rest of his report.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his Activity Report for May 2024. He mentioned that the license plate reader that is on the traffic light at Woodrow and Penn Avenue is operating very well and that it shows expired registrations, stolen vehicles, and any registrations that are suspended.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned that some time ago the Borough received a request from Wilson School District about the Bus Patrol System where they would put cameras on the buses. He stated that they wanted to revisit that and sent him a copy of an agreement between Wilson School District and Lower Heidelberg Township. He stated that he forwarded that onto the Chief and the Mayor. Mayor Cirulli stated that they are going to hold off on that for now and that he just spoke with Chief Powell from Spring Township this afternoon and they are having their solicitor draw up a contract. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Peterson suggested that we put this on the agenda for the next Council meeting and see if we could have it finished up so we can vote on it.

MIKE HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart advised Council that we purchased 14 Krick Avenue on May 30, 2024 and that he has submitted it for reimbursement from the grant money. He stated that we still must pay for their moving expenses and attorney fees.

Mr. Hart mentioned that they will be doing a test run on the gate at the yard waste site tomorrow and then leave it open for the weekend. He stated that it will be fully activated on Monday June 17th. Mrs. Gantner asked about the fee for using the yard waste site. Discussion ensued concerning grant funding.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the library has started their Summer Reading Program and that it is going very well.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that we were awarded a grant for the intersection at Penn and Hull Street to make it safer and wanted to know where we were with that. Mr. Hart stated that Mr. Smith is researching that and will be putting a project scope together for Council to approve. Mr. Smith stated that they are waiting for a reply from PennDOT.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that JD Steaks just opened recently, and they are very good. He also thanked Mr. Haws and Barley Snyder for the invitation to the baseball game last night. He stated that it was a great night.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that Summer Playground has started and that we have 401 registrations. She thanked the Chief for the CPR training for the leaders. She mentioned that the new Recreation software is working great.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that they are going to start working on the new Police Contract. She also mentioned that it is really hard to turn onto Cacoosing Avenue from East bound Penn Avenue because the cars going west bound that are turning onto Columbia Avenue are in the middle of the intersection and you can't see if cars are coming up west bound on Penn Avenue. She stated that there is going to be an accident there.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli stated that Mr. Renshaw would like to do a one hour presentation for Council on the new station for the Western Berks Fire Department. Mrs. Peterson suggested that we check with Mr. Renshaw and see if he would be available to do the presentation on Wednesday, June 26th at the Workshop meeting. Mayor Cirulli stated that he would contact Mr. Renshaw to see if he is available.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into an Executive Session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss possible litigation and personnel salary review.

RECONVENE:

Council reconvened at 8:22 p.m. The following action was taken. Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve an off cycle increase for Mr. Hart's salary to \$104,000.00 per year retro back to April 1st. Mr. Hoffa made that motion; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary