

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, June 8, 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
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa (Absent)
Robert Metzgar
Patrick Giambalvo

Other officials present were Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, 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 May 11, 2023 Council Meeting. Mr. Metzgar made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Yajaira Stone addressed Council. She stated that she is with State Representative Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz's office and that she is here to see how they can be of service to the Borough. She mentioned that they have satellite hours at the Spring Township Municipal Building on Fridays from 9 am to 3 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that an invitation went out by email, and is also included in the packet, to attend Imagine Berks "Capitalizing on Your Municipality's Opportunities" Regional Meeting on June 22nd at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Hart stated that if anyone is interested in attending, they must first complete the questionnaire and then the registration form online by tomorrow, June 9th. He mentioned that he will be going, and he knows that Mr. Hoffa and Ms. Rider have registered.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

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

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

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

REVITALIZATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they did not meet last month. Mrs. Eagelman mentioned that Mr. Loth did submit his report and that it is included in the email packet.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the Franchise Agreement with Service Electric and Ordinance were emailed to everyone prior to the meeting for review. She asked for a motion to approve advertising the Ordinance for adoption at the next regular meeting on July 13th. Mr. Miller made the motion; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

The first item was Resolution #2023-03 Requesting a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant of \$250,000.00 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to execute the Resolution; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (Cont.):

The next item was to approve Medical Leave for Tiffany Bohn from June 28th to August 9th. Mr. Hart explained that Ms. Bohn needs to have surgery and is asking for this leave and that it would be unpaid time off. Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the unpaid medical leave for Ms. Bohn; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Smith stated that the Planning Commission, at their last meeting, recommended conditional approval of the Preliminary/Final Plan for Hofmann Industries Land Development Plan, based on ARRO's letter dated May 19, 2023. He mentioned that several waivers and confirmation of the exemption from stormwater are requested as well. Mr. Brian Cooley of D.C. Gohn Associates showed the plan and went over the project. He stated that they are just adding about 24,000 square feet of additional impervious to accommodate the truck traffic. He stated that they are requesting three (3) modifications/waivers; the first being the traffic study since they are not adding any employees or increasing truck traffic and access will remain the same. The second is for the wetland study. He stated that they provided, as part of the submission, a National Wetland Inventory Map and there is a large wetland area north of the property and it is not in the area of the improvement. The third is for the street trees which they are proposing to add four (4) new trees to the already existing Five (5) trees and the new trees would be in the area of the improvements. Mr. Miller asked if there is any additional retainage for stormwater since they are adding that amount of impervious. Mr. Smith mentioned that the apartment complex being built upstream from this parcel has a significant reduction in flow and Mr. Cooley got ahold of the report and showed that even with the additional flow from their paving, they are not increasing the flows above predevelopment flow since there is such a great reduction from the upstream property. He also mentioned that this property does meet the exemption requirements of the Borough's Ordinance but to protect public safety and welfare he always likes to make sure we are not causing a flooding problem when we grant an exemption. Mr. Smith also mentioned that there is one comment under Zoning concerning compliance with the Environmental Performance Standards. He stated that there is no change to the property but if anyone from Council is aware of any environmental problems, they should bring it to ARRO's attention, if not then Council can approve the plan and affirm the exemption for stormwater and the three (3) waivers. He mentioned that if problems develop in the future the Municipality does have the right to revoke the exemption. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to grant conditional approval of the Preliminary/Final Plan for Hofmann Industries Land Development Plan, based on ARRO's letter dated May 19, 2023 and affirm the exemption for stormwater and the three (3) waivers; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith gave an update on the Phase 2 intersection realignment project. He stated that they will hopefully be tying the stormwater filter into the culvert tomorrow and utilities and the Borough are currently relocating utility lines and services.

Mr. Smith stated that ARRO continues to work on the Phase 2 Final (Krick/Columbia Intersection) and should be submitting to PennDOT later this month. He briefly went over the remainder of his report.

POLICE CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his report for May 2023.

CHARLES HAWS – SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned 7 Brew and that he did get a cost estimate for the improvements so he will need to put a simple agreement together before the plans can be released.

MIKE HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart stated that he has the 7 Brew plans here for Council's signatures this evening and that he will hold the plans until Mr. Haws advises that the Agreement is done. He also mentioned that he put together a list of activities related to Phase 2 work and the grant. He mentioned that he had a zoom meeting yesterday with the CFA concerning the grant and they are trying to figure out how to move forward. He stated that he now must write another letter changing the scope of work that the original grant was proposed for. He mentioned that the CFA's next meeting is in mid-July.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE:

Mr. Metzgar stated that he will set up an Admin meeting for July.

LISA GANTNER - RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Summer Playground program is going well. She stated that they have 406 children registered. She mentioned that they are going to have movie night next Friday, July 16th, they are having a petting zoo on July 21st and July 28th will be a community movie night.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary