

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, June 9, 2022, 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 (Absent)
Patrick Giambalvo (Arrived at 7:02)

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 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 12, 2022 Council Meeting. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tiffany Micale and Becky Lutz from the Liberty Fire Company Social Quarters addressed Council concerning the Truck Fest they are planning with BOSS Forward and the Borough. Tiffany stated that they are trying to come up with a liability and registration form for the vendors to fill out that would like to participate. She also wanted to know if the Borough would allow parking on the Heritage Park Site during the event and if the Borough has large trash cans to use for the event. Mrs. Peterson stated that we will go over one item at a time. She asked Mr. Haws if he could assist with the liability form. Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they just want to make sure that the Borough and the Fire Company are covered. Mr. Haws stated that he could send them some language to add to the vendor registration form stating that they are responsible for their own stuff and protecting the Borough and the Fire Company. Mr. Hoffa asked that the email be sent to him, and he will forward it to the committee. The next concern was the parking. Mr. Hart stated that the Borough would allow parking on the Historical Society property and on the old Butkus property for the event. The next concern was the trash. Mrs. Peterson stated that the Borough does have large trash cans and also a dumpster at the playground pavilion. Mrs. Lutz stated that they still need a chairperson to oversee the cleanup committee if anyone was interested in helping out. Mrs. Peterson suggested putting it out on the website that we are looking for volunteers for the event. Mrs. Micale stated that the date is Saturday, September 17th from 12 noon to 10 p.m. and the rain date would be Saturday, September 24th. She also mentioned that they are looking into having bands or a battle of the bands and using the playground pavilion for that since there is electric. Council thanked them for the update.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that she received an envelope in the mail from ARRO with two copies of the Payment Application #1 from Empire Wrecking for the Reed Bed Refurbishment. She stated that ARRO recommends payment to Empire in the amount of \$266,542.62 with a retainage of \$14,028.56 for the project. Mr. Miller made the motion to approve payment to Empire for \$266,542.62; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he received some tickets for a Reading Phillies Baseball game on June 15th from the Chamber Alliance if anyone is interested in going.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for May 2022. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart mentioned that he received some bills for Phase 2 construction: one from Traffic Planning and Design for \$21,742.00, one from R & F Excavating for \$33,500.00 and one from Construction Master Services for \$86,040.00. He stated that as soon as he gets cancelled checks back, he is going to send them off to the state to get reimbursement.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report for May 2022. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

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

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

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

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they have their meeting next week. He stated that Mr. Loth sent over a Resolution that needs to be approved to apply for a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for another round of Façade Improvements. He made a motion to adopt the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is the hiring of Robert Gabrjolek as a seasonal employee for the Public Works Department. Mr. Hart stated that it would be 40 hours per week for the summer at a rate of \$15.00 per hour and he mentioned that Mr. Gabrjolek does have his commercial driver's license so he will be able to do hauling for us. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve hiring Mr. Gabrjolek as a seasonal Public Works employee at a rate of \$15.00 per hour; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

The next item was the 336 South Hull Street Sewer Lateral Repair at a cost of \$14,900.00. Mr. Hart mentioned that this lateral has been bad for a long time, and we cannot get into it to clean it correctly. He stated that we would like to dig it up and replace it and that Kim got three (3) quotes: one from Wexcon for \$14,900.00 which was the lowest, one from Barrasso for \$20,500.00, and one from Schlouch for \$25,680.00. Mr. Miller made a motion to authorize Wexcon to repair the lateral; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 1. Motion carried.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER - ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Smith mentioned that at the last meeting he was given permission to write up bid specifications for the replacement of the roof of the Borough Hall and also the roof of the control building at the WWTP. He stated that they have those specifications about 95% done and he would like permission to advertise the bid once it is complete. Mr. Miller asked if he was bidding it on Pennbid to which Mr. Smith replied yes and added that prevailing wage applies. Mr. Miller made a motion to authorize ARRO to bid the roof replacements; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 1. Motion carried. Mr. Miller asked what the cost for the specifications is up to. Mr. Smith stated that he thinks they spent about \$4,000.00 so far.

The next item was the Update of the Stormwater Ordinance. Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Hart stated that we are tabling this item because they have more questions on it.

POLICE CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his report for May 2022.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the playground has only been open for three days and they are already seeing vandalism where people are trying to break the locks and asked if it could be policed more. Chief Oxenreider stated that he will see that they patrol more down there.

BRAD SMITH – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Smith went over his Engineer's Report. He mentioned that despite their best efforts they are still trying to coordinate these utilities with moving their stuff. He also mentioned that they are working on the Final Phase for Phase Two and that there were elevation issues between the Ludgate plan and the information we received from Mr. Felty. He mentioned that the Stormwater Ordinance is required to be updated by the stormwater NPDES permit and that it needs to be done by September. He stated that he is willing to answer any questions Council may have and that they have already prepared various ordinances for other municipalities. Mrs. Peterson stated that Mr. Miller will work with them on that item. Mr. Haws stated that it is a model Ordinance and that they have an update with language in there, so it is basically a simple matter and that we just have to mark up their ordinance and advertise it.

CHARLES HAWS – BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Mr. Haws mentioned that at the last meeting he was authorized to prepare an Ordinance for advertisement on the property maintenance code using the 8-inch grass/weed height and updated fee schedule. He stated that he will have it advertised and it should be ready for next meeting.

MIKE HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that at the last meeting he was authorized to spend up to \$25,000.00 each to purchase a surplus loader and a truck from PennDot. He stated that he was able to get the loader for \$20,500.00 but was unable to get the truck because the bids went to high. He mentioned that our expense from the general fund would be \$2,050.00.

Mr. Hart mentioned that we settled on the Bilco lawsuit for the flooding issue and that today they started to install the trash rack in front of the pipe. He mentioned that we held off on that for a little because the plaintiff came up with an idea of what style of rack that they wanted so we looked around here to find one that was close to it and he made sure that the plaintiff signed off on it before we purchased it and it was half the cost.

H. DAVID MILLER – SEWER AND SANITATION:

Mr. Miller mentioned the new Downtown and asked if anyone else is concerned about the noise from the trains. He mentioned that we could look into creating a quiet zone. Discussion ensued.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that the library is looking to hire someone part-time for the summer. Her name is Emma Swartz, she is a college student, and she would be making \$11.00 per hour through the end of August. Mrs. Peterson made the motion to hire Ms. Schwartz; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 1. Motion carried. She also mentioned that Story Time is in full swing and that they are having a lot of great events at the library.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that she missed a couple of leaders when she made the list of hires last month. She made a motion to hire Elly Winkler-Quigley and Audrey Miller, both at \$10.00 per hour, as leaders for the Summer Playground Program; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 1. Motion carried. Mrs. Gantner mentioned that playground is going really well and that we now have eighteen (18) leaders, and we have 420 kids registered. She stated that the first movie night is this Friday.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary