

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, March 13, 2025, 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 (Absent)
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa (Absent)
Robert Metzgar
John Egelman

Other officials present: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Lowell Leaman, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Police Chief James Oxenreider; and Elizabeth Egelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2025 Council Meeting. Mr. Egelman made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for February 2025. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Egelman. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2025. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mrs. Peterson stated that their February 2025 Activity Report is included in the email packet and to reach out to Mr. Renshaw if there are any questions. Mr. Hart mentioned that there was a fire at the Freight House and that the building is secure, and we are waiting for the insurance company to give us direction.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mrs. Peterson stated that their February 2025 Activity Report is included in the email packet.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they did have a meeting last month and it was their first meeting with Gabriel. Mrs. Gantner mentioned that they are going to have to meet to reorganize and get officers elected and that they have a few people to reach out to that might want to join the committee. Mr. Hart mentioned that Laura has shown interest in joining and that she is affiliated with the County Planning Commission.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is the Sunrise Apartments Plan Revision Approval. Mr. Hart stated that he did receive the new plan sheets listing the revisions and if Council is ok with it, they can sign them tonight. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve the Plan Revisions; seconded by Mr. Egelman. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

The first item was to approve the Proposal from E.M. Kutz, Inc. in the amount of \$9,980.00 for the dump truck repairs. Mr. Hart explained that the main support beams for the underside of the dump body has rusted and must be replaced. He stated that the rest of the truck is in good condition and has a lot of years left in it, so they are looking to replace those main rails. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve the Dump Truck Repairs; seconded by Mr. Egelman. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (Cont.):

The next item was to approve hiring Mr. Scott Silfies as a Maintenance Technician at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Hart mentioned that the rate is \$23.16 per hour but he would like to hold \$.50 per hour until Mr. Silfies gets his CDL. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve hiring Mr. Silfies and withholding the \$.50 per hour until he gets his CDL; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

The next item was the Intermunicipal Liquor License Transfer Public Hearing. Mr. Haws explained that we received an application from the new owners of three (3) parcels that Mr. Sickafus sold, which includes the old bank building at 3730 Penn Avenue. He stated that they referred to that address because it is the only parcel with a street address and that it is Council's discretion if they want another liquor license transferred to the Borough. He stated that we will have to have a public hearing, and we can schedule it for April 10th during the next Council meeting. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Peterson suggested that we have the hearing at our next Council meeting and get our questions answered there. Mrs. Stine made a motion to hold the public hearing on April 10, 2025; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

The next item was ARRO's request for approval to advertise for bids for the Reed Bed Refurbishment. Mrs. Gantner made a motion to approve advertising for those bids; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

The next item was ARRO's request for approval to advertise for bids for Sludge Hauling; Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve advertising for those bids; seconded by Mr. Eagelman. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his February 2025 Activity Report.

LOWELL LEAMAN – ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER:

Mr. Leaman mentioned that his report is included in the email packet and that his action items for tonight have already been taken care of. Mrs. Peterson asked about the Penn Avenue Pedestrian Crossing at Hull Street. Mr. Leaman stated that the permit has been issued by PennDOT and that they are working on the specs and the bid package. He also mentioned that the Plans for the Columbia Avenue drainage fix was sent to PennDOT for review.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that the new laptops are in, and everyone should have theirs in front of them. He also mentioned that the streets in Brookfield Manor have been added to our Liquid Fuels and increased our payment by about \$4,000.00. He reported that the demo of the buildings on Krick has been completed, and the area has been graded and seeded. He mentioned that a safety fence is being installed along the driveway that is remaining because once we build out the next intersection the road will be pretty close to that property, and he doesn't want their children running out into the street.

Mr. Hart stated that he was contacted by the engineers who are designing the Penn Avenue bridge replacement at Park Road, and they want to come to a public meeting and asked if it could be hosted here for all the townships that are involved to attend. He mentioned that it will be about a 20- or 25-minute presentation, and he suggested to them about doing it at the April Workshop meeting on April 23rd.

ELIZABETH EAGELMAN – BOROUGH SECRETARY:

Mrs. Eagelman advised Council that the Newsletter should be out soon. She stated that she received the final PDF from Hometown Press and link to put on the website.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli asked Mr. Hart about an Ordinance for street signs for no tankers on Woodrow Avenue. Mr. Hart stated that we must look at a couple different proposed traffic changes and they will discuss it with the Public Works Committee and bring it to Council.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they had their Admin meeting on February 24th.

LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the Easter Egg Hunt will be April 12th. She mentioned that Justin from the Fire Company reached out stating that they might want to help with it. She stated that she responded, stating that we would be happy to work with them, but she hasn't heard back from him. She also mentioned that they have a few interviews set up for tomorrow for Playground Leaders and registration for Summer Playground should be open by the end of the month.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine advised Council that one of the Full Time Fire Fighters passed away and another one just left and went to Spring Township so they will be hiring.

JOHN EAGELMAN – PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Egelman mentioned that he would like to investigate speed tables for Ruth Street because of all the speeding. He stated that he is concerned about it because the playground is right there and the school bus stops. He asked Mr. Hart if he could check with our insurance company to see if it is allowed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Metzgar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 P.M.;

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary