

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Tracy Peterson. After the pledge to the flag, Debra Bohn called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

Tracy Peterson
H. David Miller
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner (Absent)
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar
Patrick Giambalvo (Absent)

Other officials present were Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Brad Smith, Engineer, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Police Officer William Skelton; and Debra Bohn, Borough Treasurer, who recorded the minutes of the proceeding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2023 Council Meeting. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. and Mrs. Norris of 14 Krick Avenue addressed Council. Mr. Norris asked if there were any updates as to when their property may be taken. Mr. Hart stated that there were no updates and that we would not have the funds until we have access to the grant funding.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for April 2023. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT - 2. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report for April 2023. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Jared Renshaw mentioned that everyone should have his April Activity Report and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

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

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they had a meeting on Tuesday, May 9th, with the South Central Transportation Authority (SCTA) and that they are exploring the possibility of building a mobility hub in our new downtown. He mentioned that the D-1 Design Sub Committee is working on some templates and that their next meeting is June 1st. He also mentioned that he needed to get the revisions that they made to the Form Based Code to Mr. Hart and then it can go to the Planning Commission for their next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

The first item was the Phase 2 Change Order for the Penn Avenue Storm Water Crossing not to exceed \$185,000.00. Mr. Hart stated that it is not a change order yet, but he wanted to get Councils approval to spend up to the \$185,000.00 for it now so that when the contractor is ready he can give them the green light to move forward without waiting for another meeting. Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the additional cost for the Storm Water Crossing; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

The next item was for permission to draw down the remaining 1.6 million from the line of credit before the draw down time expires. Mr. Hart explained that when we did the refinancing, we included an additional 1.6 million to cover upfront costs for the construction project that can then be submitted for reimbursement. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve drawing down the remaining 1.6 million; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (Cont.):

The next item was to hire additional 2023 Summer Playground Leaders. Mrs. Peterson stated that we needed to hire two more part-time leaders. She made a motion to hire Mia Riccitelli and Ryan Sekulski both at \$10.00 per hour; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

The next item was the MS4 update. Mr. Smith went over ARRO's Memorandum dated May 1, 2023 concerning the Borough's Stormwater (MS4) Update for 2023. He stated that the Borough's annual municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) report for the 2021-2022 reporting year to PA DEP was submitted on September 30, 2022 and is available through the Borough office. He stated that the Borough provides stormwater information on the Borough website and encourages the public to explore these materials. He mentioned that Illicit Discharge should be reported to the Borough office and that the Borough will be soliciting inspection and maintenance records for new and existing facilities to comply with Structural Best Management Practices. There were no questions or comments.

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

Mr. Smith stated that the Planning Commission, at their last meeting, recommended conditional approval of the 7 Brew Preliminary/Final Plan along with two waivers. He mentioned that there were some technical issues on the plan and that the developers engineer addressed all those and submitted new plans for Borough Council to approve tonight. He stated that he submitted another review letter dated May 10, 2023. He stated that the two waivers the Planning Commission also recommended was to waive the traffic study requirement and the other was to waive the street tree requirement along Penn Avenue since the rest of the Spring Market does not have street trees planted along Penn Avenue. He mentioned that the other thing to consider is stormwater and that the site was granted a waiver by the previous engineer. He stated that he did ask them to check our stormwater system that they would be impacting to make sure it wasn't going to overflow and according to their calculations it's not. He stated that Council has the right to deny that waiver now or sometime in the future should a problem develop. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to grant conditional approval per ARRO's May 10, 2023, review letter; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith stated that they had a progress meeting today for the Phase 2 intersection realignment project and they should be moving into the next phase within the next few weeks so the area they are working on now should be under blacktop and they should be moving further to the west and completing that section. He also mentioned that ARRO continues to work on the Phase 2 Final and should be ready to submit to PennDOT next month. Mr. Miller asked when their construction schedule was been updated last. Mr. Smith stated that they are in the process of updating it now and then it will be sent to PennDOT for approval. Mr. Miller asked if the new schedule could be sent to everyone once PennDOT approves it. Mr. Hart stated that he would send it out.

POLICE CHIEF JAMES OXENREIDER:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the Chief's report is in everyone's email packet. There were no other comments from the police department.

TRACY PETERSON – LIBRARY AND RECREATION:

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that they are in the hiring process again at the library. She also mentioned that they are doing some work with the Friends of the Library, and she should have more on that after their meeting.

Mrs. Peterson mentioned that for the Playground, they are thinking of doing a Community Movie Night on July 28th and the movie will be Top Gun: Maverick and the other two would be June 9th and August 3rd. She mentioned that they are hopefully doing a petting zoo on July 21st, and it will be a community event with the library. She also mentioned that on August 1st they will be teaming up with the Police Department for the National Night Out.

MAYOR GARY CIRULLI:

Mayor Cirulli mentioned that he sits on the Board for the Western Berks Fire Department, and they are discussing a five-year agreement with Mr. Jared Renshaw instead of doing a year-to-year agreement.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE:

Mr. Metzgar mentioned that they had an Admin meeting on April 19th and that he sent the meeting minutes out. He stated that he will schedule a meeting for June.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary