

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, September 12, 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 (Absent)
Robert Metzgar (Arrived at 7:11)
Michael Caron

Other officials present: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Brad Smith, ARRO Consulting; 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 August 8, 2024 Council Meeting. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no visitors signed in.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills for August 2024. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the Treasures Report for August 2024. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Jared Renshaw stated that he had a quick power point so show this evening, and he mentioned that they will be hosting their annual Fire Prevention Week Open House on October 5th, 2024 at their Wernersville station. Mr. Renshaw went through the Power Point presentation which showed the obstacles that they face and the benefits of the Crew Force Software that they are beta testing. He stated that it is an app so they can use it on their iPads and phones and will not need to purchase any additional computers.

Mr. Metzgar arrived at 7:11 p.m. after a prior engagement.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

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

REVITALIZATION:

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item is the Bus Patrol. Mayor Cirulli stated that we are going to move forward with it. Discussion ensued. Mr. Haws stated that Mrs. Eagelman has the Resolution authorizing entering into an Intermunicipal Agreement for Bus Patrol that was typed up in 2023. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve the Resolution No. 2024-06; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mrs. Peterson stated that the next item was to approve the purchase of headwords gas detection system for the sewer plant that was tabled at the last meeting. Mr. Miller stated that he does not have any more information on that and suggested that it be tabled until next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mrs. Peterson stated that first item is to approve the 2025 Police Pension MMO in the amount of \$11,924.00. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve the 2025 Police Pension MMO; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

The next item was to approve the 2025 Non-Uniform Pension MMO in the amount of \$63,265.00. Mrs. Gantner made the motion to approve the 2025 Non-Uniform Pension MMO; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (Cont.):

The next item was to Approve Resolution No. 2024-05 approving Master Lease Agreement for the 2024 Ford F-150 4x4 Police Responder. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve Resolution No: 2024-05; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

The next item was to approve the re-hire of Emilie Braun for the Library at \$12.00 per hour for 8-20 hours per week. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve re-hiring Emilie Braun; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Smith stated that he and Mr. Hart have completed their negotiations with CMS and have agreed on a closing price for the intersection project. There is a Final Change Order in the amount of \$154,121.38 for approval and signature tonight. He stated that the final price of the intersection project was \$3,322,687.08. Mr. Metzgar made a motion to approve the change order; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Mr. Smith briefly went over the rest of his report. Municipal Engineering Item No. 1: He mentioned that they are proceeding with the Hull Street Pedestrian Crossing and verifying the right of way data. Item No. 2: He mentioned the Columbia Avenue Final Phase and that Earth Engineering had a drill rig out taking core samples of the soil. Item No 8: He stated that ARRO provided a draft intermunicipal agreement with Spring Township for an MS4 project for the Borough's review. Item No. 9: He mentioned the Hofmann Subdivision and that the Planning Commission has given preliminary approval pending zoning hearing approval from Spring Township. Environmental Engineering item No. 1: He stated that ARRO is ready to submit the Water Quality Part II Permit Application to PADEP for the Reed Bed Refurbishment and just need Mrs. Peterson to sign it. Item No. 2: He stated that he has not gotten anything from the DRBC on the Borough's DRBC Docket Renewal. Item No. 3: He stated that the Borough's NPDES Permit for the WWTP will expire at the end of this month, but it will be administratively extended until we get the new permit which PADEP's target date is February 11, 2025.

Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Lowell Leaman is with him this evening and that Mr. Leaman will be taking over for him because he has resigned his position at ARRO. He stated that he has enjoyed working with everyone at the Borough. Mrs. Peterson and all of Council thanked Mr. Smith for all of his work with the Borough.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his Activity Report for August 2024. He mentioned that they are going to be doing a Trunk-or-Treat with the Western Berks Fire Department on Halloween in Sinking Spring.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that she sat in on the interviews for the new paid fireman for the Western Berks Fire Department and that it was very interesting. She stated that no decisions have been made and that the test results have not come back yet.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A resident from Maria Avenue addressed Council concerning cars running the 3 way stop at Maria Avenue and Huron Drive. He mentioned that South Heidelberg has a sign on their stop sign listing the fee amount if you don't stop. He also asked about electric scooters in the street and if there are any rules. Chief Oxenreider stated that there is not.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council went into Executive Session at 7:47 P.M. for a Police Contract issue and a Zoning Hearing issue.

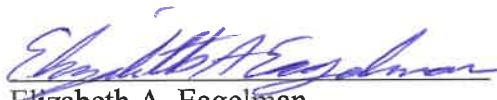
RECONVENE:

Council Reconvened at 8:26 P.M. No Action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Caron made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary