

Mayor Randall Gartner called the January 3, 2011 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Frank Schnee, Ron Becker, Jr., David W. Rohrbach, Harvey Marshall, Abby Wertz, Bob Pierce and Michael Kocher. Also attending the meeting were Police Chief Scott Wagner, Solicitor Andrew George and Secretary Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Vernon Bright, David Randler and Steve DeLucas of the Reading Eagle.

Mayor Gartner swore in Abby Wertz, Harvey Marshall and Ron Becker to their council seats. (Frank Schnee had been previously sworn in at the District Magistrate's office) At this time, election of officers took place. Harvey Marshall nominated Abby Wertz for President. Frank Schnee nominated Harvey Marshall. Mr. Marshall declined the nomination. No other nominations were made. On a unanimous vote, Ms. Wertz was named President of Council. Next, Mr. Becker nominated Mr. Marshall for Vice President. Mr. Pierce nominated Mr. Rohrbach for Vice President. Mr. Rohrbach declined the nomination. No other nominations were made. On a unanimous vote, Mr. Marshall was elected Council Vice President. At this time, Ms. Wertz presided over the meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the December 5, 2009 meeting were approved. Mr. Schnee abstained from voting.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Mr. Randler asked to speak later in the meeting when multi-unit discounts for rental inspections were discussed.

MAYOR – No report.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George presented the following ordinance for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-1

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING AN FIXING THE TAX RATES UPON REAL
PROPERTY WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA AND ESTABLISHING AND
FIXING DISCOUNTS AND PENALTIES FOR THE SAME FOR THE BOROUGH
OF ROBESONIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012.**

On a motion by Mr. Becker, second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, ordinance 2012-1 was passed.

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2012-

- PLGIT and National Penn Bank- Robesonia Branch- as the Borough's depository
- Mogel, Speidel, Bobb & Kershner as Borough Solicitors at a rate of \$200/meeting, \$150/hour for partner, \$100/hour for associate
- Technicon Enterprises II, Inc. as Borough Zoning Officials at an hourly rate of \$91.75/consulting engineer, \$87.25/senior engineer, \$75.00/engineer, \$40.00/clerical
- Spotts, Stevens & McCoy as Borough Engineers at an hourly rate of \$115.00/Senior Engineer, \$105.00/engineer, \$38.00/clerical.
- CIA (Jerry Farro) as Borough's Building, Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical, Accessibility and Commercial Building Inspector.
- Kraft Code Services as the Borough Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officials
- Frank Schnee as Assistant Zoning Officer
- Schultz, Speicher & Company as Borough Auditors at a rate of \$4,750.00/ yr.
- Lisa Heilman as Borough Secretary/ Treasurer
- Gary Heck to a 5-year term on the Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority (2016)
- Jimmy Bright, 5 year term on the Robesonia Municipal Authority (2016)
- Gary Heck, 5 year term on the Robesonia Municipal Authority (2016)
- Vernon Bright, 5 year term on the Parks & Recreation Board (2016)
- David Hartman, 5 year term on the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority (2014)
- Jimmy Bright, 5 year term on the Planning Commission (2016)
- John T. Ravert, 5 year term on the Shade Tree Commission (2016)
- Kenny Bright, 5 year term on the Wernersville-Robesonia Municipal Authority (2014)

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- Western Berks Planning Commission representatives: David Rohrbach, Randy Gartner, Jeff Gerhart 1 year term. Next meeting to be held on 1/19/12 at 7PM at Heidelberg Township Building.
- David Rohrbach, Bob Pierce, Michael Kocher and Frank Schnee, 1 year term on the Western Berks Regional Police Commission

On a motion by Mr. Rohrbach, second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously passed, all appointments were approved with the exception of Frank Schnee as Assistant Zoning Officer until issues of legality can be determined.

ENGINEER – The engineer’s report was included in the packet. The Beautification Project was updated.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2012, if needed.

SECRETARY – Presented requests from “Field of Dreams” team (Willie Hartranft) and Berkshire Red Sox for use of the ball field in 2012, and library for use of Council room in 2012.

Motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried to approve use of field, and fee waiver, for use of field, weekend of August 11/12 for Field of Dreams team and for Library use of Council room for requested dates. Also, Berkshire Red Sox request for field dates was approved.

Discussion ensued on Berkshire Red Sox and the batting tunnels when secretary advised Council that the Red Sox intended to erect the batting tunnels by end of March. (Council had voted in November to remove batting tunnel base). Mr. Rohrbach made a motion to send a certified letter to Dan Clouser of the Berkshire Red Sox advising him of a deadline to have the batting tunnel installed. Mr. Schnee seconded the motion and Council voted 5-2 against the motion. (Mr. Rohrbach and Schnee were the two assenting votes). Secretary was directed to update website with personnel/committee changes.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- Motion by Ms. Wertz, seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties. Secretary advised Council the insurance premiums were slightly increased this year, primarily due to the new property values provided to the insurance company.

COMMITTEE REPORTS- Committees were reorganized as follows:

Finance/Administration – (Wertz, chairperson; Becker, Pierce) No report.

Fire Protection/Safety – (Marshall, Becker) No report..

Streets/Highways/Sewer – (Marshall, chairman; Rohrbach, Becker)

Parks & Recreation – (Marshall, Becker- Borough liaisons) Mr. Bright advised there will be a meeting on Thursday, January 19th.

Library – Mrs. Wertz will stay on the Library Board as the Council liaison.

Personnel: (Wertz-chairperson, Schnee, Marshall)

Environmental Advisory Council – Ms. Wertz will stay on as Council liaison.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – Announced he will arrange a meeting with Kraft Codes Service to discuss possible changes in multi-unit discount billing for rental property inspections. Mayor asked to be advised of date of meeting. Results of the meeting to be discussed at workshop meeting on January 17th.

Schnee – Thanked everyone who voted for him and advised he’ll keep the good of the Borough and its residents in mind. Also advised Council there is an upcoming Berks Municipal Partnership/CCL dinner on February 16th at the Reading Country Club at a cost of \$10/person if anyone is interested in attending.

Becker- Expressed his concern over the “homeless” man walking up and down Rte. 422. The man is not homeless, as he lives at the Penn Werner hotel during the week and in Philadelphia on the weekends.

Rohrbach – No report.

Pierce- Suggested a couple of trees in the planting strip in front of Nancy Snyder’s property be removed to allow for a better view of the new Town Clock. And expressed his concern over the dilapidation of the property at 19 South Robeson Street (falling fence, junk in front yard, unregistered/unlicensed vehicle in back yard).

Kocher- No report.

Wertz - Ms. Wertz made a motion to award the contract to pour the concrete slab at the Sunoco Station at West Penn Avenue to Bertolet Construction in the amount of \$1,470.00. Mr. Kocher seconded the motion and Council voted 6-1 to approve the contract award. Mr. Rohrbach was the lone dissenting vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The Borough’s responsibility to pay for the new radios needed by the Fire Company was discussed. The Borough may contact the County DES to perform a needs assessment to ensure the

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Borough is only paying for those radios needed to perform the job. Also, the Borough has been paying the Fire Company's vehicle insurance for many years, as well as the internet connection. Those expenses may be passed back to the Fire Company.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Gartner advised Council the hydrant rental fees will not be increased until 2013 and that he is working with the Water Authority to get the proposed increase reduced.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Secretary