

Mayor Randall Gartner called the January 4, 2016 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Abby Wertz., Harvey Marshall, Frank Schnee, Rod Soliday, and Tony Wirebach. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andy George and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Fire Chief Gerry Ochs, Chief of Operations of Western Berks Ambulance Assn, Ed Moreland, Vernon Bright, David Bright, Preston Breininger, Lori Brown, Dave Randler and Val Lacin of the Reading Eagle. Mayor Gartner swore in Tony Wirebach, Harvey Marshall, Abby Wertz and Rod Soliday to their council seats. At this time, election of officers took place. Tony Wirebach nominated Abby Wertz for President. Rod Soliday seconded the motion. On a unanimous vote, Ms. Wertz was named President of Council. Next, Abby Wertz nominated Mr. Marshall for Vice President. Rod Soliday seconded the motion. 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.

Mr. Soliday made the motion to appoint Michael Martin to one of the two vacant council seats. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Martin to a two year term. Next Mr. Marshall made the motion to appoint Mr. William Langjahr, Jr. to a second vacant council seat. Mr. Wirebach seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved Mr. Langjahr to a two-year term. At this time, Mr. Gartner swore in Mr. Martin to his Council seat. Mr. Langjahr will be sworn in before the February meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Schnee, seconded by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the December 7, 2015 meeting were approved. Mr. Schnee made the motion and Mr. Marshall seconded, to approve the meeting minutes from the December 15, 2015 Workshop meeting. Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – David Bright advised Council of the placement of the new flag disposal box by the PO of A Camp 113 in the Borough Lobby. Signage to be determined and placed by PO in the near future. Chief Gerry Ochs provided Council with the annual report, noting a total number of calls responded to at 362. He thanked Borough Council for their support and advised Council that their annual fund drive was very successful. Ed Moreland, Chief of Operations with Western Berks Ambulance Assn, also provided Council with an annual report advising Council they are busier than ever and stretched very thin (as every ambulance service in Berks County is). He advised council that 200 calls were responded to in the Borough, which represents approximately 2% of their annual call responses. He noted they are looking at possible expansion/new building in the future, but for now are just looking to place a new sign in front of their building since the old one was damaged by weather. Preston Breininger attended to observe Council's decision on disbursement of the Fire Escrow Funds the Borough is holding as a result of the fire suffered at his residence. David Randler brought up the subject of rental property inspections. He asked what value landlords are getting for their dollar? He stated the same landlords who necessitated the adoption of this program are still problem landlords with problem properties. The lack of uniformity of the inspections from one inspector to the next, and even from one rental inspection to the next by the same inspector was discussed. It was decided that Mayor Gartner, Mr. Marshall and Mr. Soliday will review the property maintenance code, the minimum standards of habitability and the inspection guidelines and determine if more restrictive measures may be needed. They will then discuss their findings with Kraft Codes Services. Manager Lisa Heilman advised Council that Vernon Bright has agreed to go back on the Zoning Hearing Board. Council thanked Mr. Bright for his willingness to continue serving. All other visitors were observing.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner wished everyone a Happy New Year. Mayor Gartner brought up the Fire Escrow Account funds the borough received following the fire at Preston Breininger's home. He felt the borough should work with Mr. Breininger by releasing the funds in increments. After some discussion, Mr. Marshall made the motion to disburse the funds in four equal payments as follows: (1) One payment of \$7,000 after initial framing inspection has passed. (1) One payment of \$7,000 following the passage of the electrical/plumbing/mechanical rough-in. (1) One payment of \$7,000 after the walls/drywall have been erected and passed inspection, and (1) One final payment of \$7,000 upon the final inspection. Mr. Soliday seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George presented the following ordinance for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY,

PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING AND 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 2016.

Mr. George advised Council that the tax rate remained the same at 4.65 mils. On a motion by Mr. Martin second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, Ordinance 2016-1 was passed.

Mr. George presented Council with Resolution 2016-1 as follows:

RESOLUTION 2016-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA AMENDING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR THE SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND APPLICATION FEES AND OTHER CHARGES FOR ON-LOT SEWAGE

On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Schnee and unanimously carried, Resolution 2016-1 passed.

Mr. George presented the 2016 Appointments for approval as follows:

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2016:

- PLGIT and National Penn Bank- Robesonia Branch- as the Borough's depository
- Andrew George and Kozloff-Stoudt as Borough Solicitors at a rate of \$200/meeting, \$160/hour for partner, \$140/hour for associate, \$125/hr for paralegal
- Technicon Enterprises II, Inc. as Borough Zoning Officials at an hourly rate of, \$93.00/senior engineer, \$80.50/engineer,\$56.25/Sewage Enforcement Officer;\$49.50/zoning officer, \$42.75/clerical
- Spotts, Stevens & McCoy as Borough Engineers at an hourly rate of \$122.00/Senior Engineer, \$112.00/engineer, \$42.00/clerical.
- CIA (Jerry Farro/Jeff Farro) as Borough's Building, Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical, Accessibility and Commercial Building Inspectors @ 85% of permit fees.
- Eugene Orlando of Orlando Law Services as Zoning Board Solicitor @ \$155.00/hour
- Kraft Code Services as the Borough Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officials
- Reading Tax Solutions as the Borough Auditors at a rate of \$4,400/year.
- Lisa Heilman as Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer
- Barbara Orth, 5-year term on the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority (2020)
- Gary Heck to a 5-year term on the Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority (2020)
- James Bright, 5 year term on the Robesonia Muncipal Authority (2020)
- Joel Costenbader, 3 year term on the Zoning Hearing Board (2018)
- Vernon Bright, replacement on Zoning Hearing Board (2017)
- Dennis Rick, 5 year term on the Robesonia Planning Commission (2020)
- David Hannigan, 5 year term on the Shade Tree Commission (2018)
- Western Berks Planning Commission representatives: Randy Gartner, Jeff Gerhart 1 year term. **Next meeting to be held on 1/21/16 at 7PM at Womelsdorf Borough Building**, (Frank Schnee as alternate)
- 1 year term on the Western Berks Regional Police Commission (4 members needed)

Randy Gartner, Tony Wirebach, Frank Schnee, and Harvey Marshall

On a motion by Mr. Wirebach, second by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, all appointments were approved.

ENGINEER – There was no engineering activity to report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for January 20, if needed.

POLICE CHIEF BILL SCHLICHTER: Chief Schlichter reported a total of 63 calls for the month of December. He advised Council that he is working with Emergency Management and the Fire Department on updating the Operational Plan.

MANAGER – Presented request from "Field of Dreams" team (Willie Hartranft) for the weekend of August 13/14 with a fee waiver. On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Wirebach and unanimously carried, approval was granted.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- Motion by Mr. Wirebach seconded by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS- Committees were reorganized as follows:

Finance/Administration – (Wertz, chairperson; Schnee, Wirebach) No report

Fire Protection/Safety – (Martin, Marshall-alternate) No report.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – (Marshall, chairman; Soliday) No report.

Parks & Recreation – (Marshall, Wirebach- Borough liaison) No report.

Personnel: (Wertz-chairperson, Soliday, Langjahr) No report.

Western Berks Regional Police Commission: (Gartner, Schnee, Wirebach, Marshall)

RESOLUTION 2016-2

Resolved, that National Penn Bank is designated a depository of funds for the Borough;

Resolved, that any prior resolutions remain in effect except as changed by those adopted today. The Borough ratifies all transactions purportedly done on its behalf with the Bank before the delivery of this resolution to the Bank. Any changes to these resolutions will take effect only after the Bank has received written certification of the changes and has had a reasonable time to verify and act on the changes.

Resolved, that the Borough agrees to be bound by the Bank's Commercial Deposit Account Agreement for each account permitted by these resolutions;

Resolved, that the Bank is authorized to honor, pay and charge the Borough's Accounts for any item purporting to have been signed on behalf of the Borough with a facsimile signature that resembles a specimen the Borough has certified to the Bank, no matter by whom or by what means the actual or purported signature may have been made;

Resolved, that the persons named below, whose manual and/or facsimile signatures are provided next to the respective names, are authorized to perform the powers listed based on numbers following their respective names. The Bank has no duty to inquire into any power before executing it, even if the power benefits the signer individually. The required number of signatures immediately follows the description of that power;

POWERS:

1. Open and close deposit accounts, sign account agreements, and sign contracts for deposit-related or other services. Signatures required: 1
2. Sign and authorize checks, drafts, withdrawal slips, and any other orders for payment of money, whether by paper, electronic, or any other means, even if payable to the signer or used to discharge or reduce any obligation of the signer. Signatures required: 2
3. Borrow money by signing promissory notes, checks, drafts, credit agreements, agreements for letters of credit, and any other contracts that obligate the Borough to repay funds. Signatures required: 2
4. Assign, endorse, discount, transfer, mortgage, or pledge any of the Borough's property as collateral for any obligation, direct or indirect, absolute or contingent. Signatures required: 2
5. Lease, have access to, and terminate leases for safe-deposit boxes. Signatures required: 2
6. Give releases, waivers, receipts and notices of all kinds that relate in any way to any relationship of the Borough with the Bank. Signatures required: 2

Resolved, that the secretary of the Borough is directed to certify and deliver a copy of this relation to the Bank, the signature cards bearing the genuine signatures of the person named below, and any other documents that the Bank requires.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Schnee and unanimously carried, Resolution 2016-2 passed.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Langjahr – Absent.

Martin- No report.

Soliday – Mr. Soliday advised Council the RCA will be holding the Frosty Balls Crawl on January 30th. Tickets go on sale on Saturday January 9th at 4PM and cost \$10.00 each.

Schnee- No report.

Wirebach- No report.

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Wertz - No report.

Mayor Gartner - Mayor Gartner advised Council the Robesonia Fair Committee will be holding a benefit auction at the Robesonia Fire Company on January 31st. It's a lot of fun and helps raise money for the annual Street Fair.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No report.

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Gartner asked for an executive session to discuss personnel issues at 8:34. Regular session reconvened at 8:52PM.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Meeting minutes from the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority November meeting
- 2016 Meeting Notice

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager