

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA
January 6, 2014
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Mayor Randall Gartner called the January 6, 2014 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Abby Wertz, Ron Becker, Jr., Harvey Marshall, Robert Pierce and Michael Kocher. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Jason Ulrich and Secretary Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Vernon Bright, Sally Marshall, Tony Wirebach, David Rohrbach and Cindy Murdough. Mayor Gartner swore in Michael Kocher and Robert Pierce to their council seats. At this time, election of officers took place. Bob Pierce nominated Abby Wertz for President. Mr. Kocher seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. Mr. Marshall made the motion to close the nominations which Mr. Becker seconded. On a unanimous vote, Ms. Wertz was named President of Council. Next, Mr. Becker nominated Mr. Marshall for Vice President. Mr. Pierce seconded the motion. Mr. Kocher made the motion to close the nominations and Ms. Wertz seconded. 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.

At this time, Mr. Marshall made the motion to appoint Mr. Rodney Soliday to one of the two vacant council seats. Mr. Becker seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Soliday to a two year term. Next Mr. Pierce made the motion to appoint Mr. William Langjahr, Jr. to a second vacant council seat. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved Mr. Langjahr to a two-year term. At this time, the two new Council members provided Affidavits of Residency to Mrs. Sally Marshall to be notarized.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the following appointments were made for 2014.

- 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, \$93.00/senior engineer, \$80.50/engineer, \$49.50/zoning officer, \$42.75/clerk
- **Spotts, Stevens & McCoy as Borough Engineers at an hourly rate of \$122.00/Senior Engineer, \$112.00/engineer, \$42.00/clerk.**
- 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
- Robert J. Davidson & Associates, LLC as Borough Auditors at a rate of \$4,750.00/ yr.
- Lisa Heilman as Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer
- David Hannigan to a 5-year term on the Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority (2018)
- David Hannigan, 5 year term on the Robesonia Municipal Authority (2018)
- Albert Wenrich, 3 year term on the Zoning Hearing Board (2016)
- Calvin Yoh, 5 year term on the Robesonia Planning Commission (2018)
- David Hannigan, 5 year term on the Shade Tree Commission (2018)
- Western Berks Planning Commission representatives: Randy Gartner, Jeff Gerhart and Frank Schnee as alternate; 1 year term. **Next meeting to be held on 1/15/14 at 7PM at Robesonia Borough Building**
- Mayor Gartner, Ron Becker, Bob Pierce and Mike Kocher; 1 year term on the Western Berks Regional Police Commission
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Upon completion and submission of the Affidavits of Residency, both Mr. Soliday and Mr. Langjahr were sworn in by Mayor Gartner and took their seats at the Council table.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the December , 2013 meeting were approved. Mr. Marshall made the motion and Mr. Pierce seconded, to approve the meeting minutes from the December 17, 2013 Workshop meeting. Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Mr. Rohrbach asked the status of the parking ordinance amendment. Mr. Marshall advised him that the solicitor was still awaiting some dimensions to be included in the amendment but it should be moving forward at the February meeting.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner advised everyone of the pancake and bacon breakfast being sponsored by the RCA at the Fire Company on Sunday, January 12 from 8-12 and asked everyone to come out and support the RCA's efforts in supporting the Easter Egg Hunt and the Life Begins at 75 Banquet.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor Ulrich presented the following ordinance for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 2014-1

**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 2014.**

Mr. Ulrich advised Council that the tax rate remained the same at 4.40 mils. On a motion by Mr. Becker, second by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, ordinance 2014-1 was passed.

ENGINEER – There was no engineering activity to report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for January 15th, if needed.

MANAGER – Presented request from "Field of Dreams" team (Willie Hartranft) for the weekend of August 16/17 with a fee waiver. On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, approval was granted.

Submitted a request from the Library for use of the council room on several dates in 2014. On a motion by Mr. Becker, second by Mr. Pierce and unanimous approval by Council, motion passed.

Advised Council that a voting delegate to the Berks County Boroughs Association was needed. Frank Schnee volunteered to fill this position and, as an associate member of the Mayors Association, is eligible to do so. On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Langjahr and unanimous approval by Council, motion passed to appoint Mr. Schnee.

Advised Council that a request was received by Bluerocks Baseball Organization for the use of the field for 2014. Ms. Heilman advised Council that she had received a couple of points of contact to check with before approval is granted. Council also would like to hear from CWCA Baseball and the Robesonia Pioneers before making any plans with the Bluerocks organization. Approval was tabled until further information could be gathered.

Last, Ms. Heilman presented the Shade Tree Committee's recommendation to award tree work to Stoltzfus Professional Tree Service at a cost of \$3,250. Murdough Landscape Service's bid was \$3,375. Mr. Becker made the motion to award the bid to Stoltzfus Professional Tree Service. Mr. Kocher seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS- Committees were reorganized as follows:

Finance/Administration – (Wertz, chairperson; Becker, Pierce) Payment of the SSM bill for \$3,700, for the West Penn Avenue Storm Sewer work, was discussed. Mr. Kocher made the motion to make no payment on the invoice and Mr. Becker seconded. Council voted unanimously to not pay the invoice. Borough Manager will notify SSM of their decision.

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

Streets/Highways/Sewer – (Marshall, chairman; Soliday, Becker) Mr. Marshall reported that two trucks were down due to problems found or created when plowing. Several council members mentioned the street crew did a good job on plowing over the weekend.

Parks & Recreation – (Becker- Borough liaison) Mr. Becker asked Manager to keep him apprised of all baseball field use requests/emails.

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

Personnel: (Wertz-chairperson, Kocher, Langjahr)

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Environmental Advisory Council – Ms. Wertz will stay on as Council liaison. Ms. Wertz advised Council that the first stormwater management seminar scheduled for January 4th was postponed till the first Saturday in February due to the weather.

Western Berks Regional Police Commission: (Gartner, Becker, Pierce, Kocher) Next meeting January 7th at 7PM in Wernersville. Mr. Pierce reported the new contract has still not been signed.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously passed by Council, all committees were approved.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Langjahr – Everyone welcomed Mr. Langjahr to Council.

Becker- Mr. Becker expressed his appreciation for the job the street crew did plowing.

Soliday – Everyone welcomed Mr. Soliday to Council. Mr. Soliday asked about the ordinance requiring vehicles to be moved following a snow/ice event. He was told the ordinance dictactes that all vehicles be moved within 12 hours following the end of the event to allow the street crew to push back the snow to the curb lines.

Pierce- Mr. Pierce also acknowledged the good job the street crew did with plowing. He did comment that several properties did not shovel their sidewalks following the snow. Manager advised everyone to notify her following a snow event of uncleared walkways and letters would be sent.

Kocher- No report.

Wertz - No report.

Mayor Gartner - Mayor Gartner advised Council that the Water Authority will be seeking bids to remove the dam since all permits/paperwork are in order to do so.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Mr. Becker sought Council's permission for Garry Degler to use one of the Borough's trucks to help remove the wreaths placed at Indiantown Gap. Mr. Degler has agreed to volunteer his time to help with the project. Mr. Pierce made the motion and Mr. Soliday seconded to approve the use of the Borough truck. Council approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Rohrbach reminded Council that a new W-R-W COG member would need to be appointed. He intends to continue his work with the recycling promotion and work with the COG as a non-voting member. He advised Council that 2014 is the year a new contract will need to be negotiated. He also advised Council that the first COG meeting in 2014 is scheduled for January 23. Mr. Langjahr volunteered to serve in that position. Mr. Marshall made the motion and Mr. Becker seconded to appoint Mr. Langjahr to the W-R-W COG. Council unanimously approved.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Kocher and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager