

President Abby Wertz called the February 2, 2015 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Tony Wirebach, Bob Pierce, Rod Soliday, Bill Langjahr, Mike Kocher and Junior Council member, Grayson Ziegler. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Mayor Randall Gartner, Police Chief Bill Schlichter and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Streets Supervisor Garry Degler, Frank Schnee, Vernon Bright, David Bright, David Rohrbach, Erica Ziegler and Carole Duran of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr. Langjahr, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the January 5, 2015 Council meeting were approved as presented.

On a motion by Mr. Soliday, second by Mr. Wirebach and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the January 20, 2015 Workshop meeting were approved.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – David Rohrbach voiced his support of the regionalized police department and commission. He feels it needs to be made to work and it is important to continue to have the 24/7 coverage. He voiced his disappointment that Bob Pierce was not reappointed to the police commission since he has been on it since the beginning and put a lot of time into the position.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner thanked all the volunteers involved in the Frosty Balls Crawl since it is one of the biggest fundraisers held during the year for the RCA who runs the Easter Egg Hunt and the Life Begins at 75 Banquet every year. The event went very well but the one concern he heard was the state of the sidewalks, several of which have not been cleared off and have created a hazard for pedestrian traffic in town. He suggested we use a part-time street worker to walk around town and gather a list of those sidewalks that have not been cleared. The manager will then send ordinance enforcement letters to the property owners of those properties. Mayor Gartner advised everyone that a Benefit Auction will be held at the Fire Company on Sunday, February 8 from 1-4 to benefit the Robesonia Fair Committee. This is a fun event and helps raise money to pay for the entertainment and fireworks for the Street Fair.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George advised Council that Section 2 of Ordinance 2013-2 (Operation and Parking of Motor Vehicles during Snow Emergencies) needs to be amended to increase the parking fee to \$20.00 to be in sync with the amended parking fee in Ordinance 2014-3. Mr. Pierce made the motion to amend the ordinance and Mr. Langjahr seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

ENGINEER- The Engineer's report was included in the agenda packet and included information on the MS4 Permit and advised Council that the WRJA website was up and operating.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting, scheduled for February 18th, if needed.

MANAGER – Ms. Heilman advised Council that Trinity Lutheran Church had to move the circus dates to June 5-6 (and possibly 7th). Also, discussed possible options for the UCC Appeals Board. Mr. Randler advised Council that Heidelberg Township has an agreement with Womelsdorf and that Robesonia (and possibly North Heidelberg Township) may want to consider going in on a Joint Appeals Board with them. Council expressed an interest in doing so. Manager will contact North Heidelberg to determine their interest.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter reported that the PD answered 71 calls in Robesonia in the month of January, resulting in 22 officer contacts. Mayor Gartner thanked the PD for ticketing the cars that failed to move following the previous week's snowfall event.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration – No report

Fire Protection/Safety – No report.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – Meeting minutes from the January meeting were included in the agenda packet.

Parks & Recreation –A meeting has been set up for February 19 for any organizations interested in using the ball field for the 2015 season. Mr. Wirebach reported that he has reached out to the 2014 playground leaders to determine their interest in returning for the 2015 season. So far, only Kady Yoders has responded with an interest in returning. Several Council members advised that Emily Hogan has also expressed an interest in returning.

Personnel: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Wirebach - No report.

Langjahr – Mr. Langjahr advised Council the Trash COG is asking each municipality to appoint an alternate representative to the COG in order to keep things rolling in the event of the absence of the primary representative since a majority vote is needed. Mr. Soliday offered to be the alternate to the Trash COG. Council thanked him for volunteering.

Soliday- No report.

Pierce- Mr. Pierce asked why, after 5-1/2 years on the Police Commission, he was not reappointed for 2015. He also asked why no one had the courtesy to tell him before the meeting. Mayor Gartner explained that it was felt that since the last two contracts were passed while Mr. Pierce was on the commission, and Mr. Pierce claimed no knowledge of what was in the contracts, it was time to appoint a representative that may be more inclined to represent the Borough's interests. Mayor Gartner then asked Mr. Pierce why, when he assured the Mayor twice prior to the reorganization of the Police Commission that he had his support for Chairman of the Commission, he proceeded to support Chris Boylan for the Chairman position. Mr. Pierce stated he changed his mind. He stated he felt Mr. Boylan would be the better Chairman since it was no secret that the Mayor has been opposed to this regionalization effort from the beginning. Mayor Gartner stated he was not opposed to regionalizing, he simply felt an effort should be made to join with Heidelberg Township since it made more sense geographically and we had been in a cross coverage agreement with Heidelberg Township many years ago.

Kocher- Mr. Kocher thanked Mr. Rohrbach for his support of the Western Berks Regional Police Commission and focusing on the positives, rather than the negatives.

Wertz – No report.

Ziegler- No report.

Mayor Gartner: No report.

NEW BUSINESS – No business

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Council discussed the cost sharing of Workers Compensation Insurance with other municipalities sharing in the services of the Volunteer Fire Department. A meeting was set up for February 17 at 7PM at the Robesonia Borough Hall between Heidelberg Township and the Borough. Mayor Gartner will contact Chris Eves of North Heidelberg to attend the meeting where, hopefully, the division of the costs can be worked out. Frank Schnee asked the status of the questions to be worked out with the Western Berks Regional Police Commission and the Wernersville Borough Council. He suggested that if the questions were addressed to the Commission first, and they're in agreement, then the Wernersville Council would not be an issue since a majority of their Council is on the Commission. He asked about the provision of agreeing to stay in the Charter Agreement for three more years if Wernersville agrees to an equitable split of equipment should one of the municipalities withdraw from the Charter. Mayor Gartner explained that provision would ensure no one would immediately abandon the Charter upon consent by both municipalities.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA Treasurer's Report and meeting minutes for December.
- Monthly police report and Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Wirebach asked about the payroll report promised by the WBRPD as it was not provided with the regular report and meeting minutes. Mr. Kocher advised Council that Denise Curtis would be sending out to Commission members first to look over before providing it to the Councils.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer
Borough of Robesonia