

President Abby Wertz called the February 6, 2012 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, , Bob Pierce and Michael Kocher. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Officer Ed Wilson and Secretary Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Gerry Ochs, David Bright, David Randler, Lori Brown, Vicki Richards and Chris Reber of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Schnee, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the January 3, 2012 meeting were approved.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – Gerry Ochs, representing the Pioneer Hose #1 Fire Company, presented the annual report, advising Council of the number of calls made for the flooding in September and the increase in Motor Vehicle Accidents in the Borough. He thanked Council for their continued support and Mayor Gartner thanked him and all the volunteers for their service to the community.

Lori Brown asked Council how long residents have to move their vehicles in a snow emergency. The tenants in the building next to her candy store did not move their vehicles and PennDOT could not push the snow back to the curb. Council advised her that no snow emergency had been called during the last snow event since it was only a few inches, however, the regular snow ordinance states all vehicles must be moved within 24 hours after a snow/ice event. They also stated that PennDOT is not responsible for pushing snow back to the curb. Their only responsibility is to keep the driving lanes open. She asked how a snow emergency is determined. The Mayor advised her that he consults with the Police and Streets Departments and if they determine it is necessary, a snow emergency is called. She asked if there was any way a letter could be sent to landlords reminding them of the snow ordinances (snow removal from sidewalks, moving vehicles within 24 hours of a snow event, snow emergency, etc.) Council directed Secretary to send letters to landlords reminding them of ordinances. The property at 205-207-209-211 East Penn was discussed. Secretary directed to send letter to landlord advising him to provide trash cans to his tenants and encouraging them to actually use them instead of allowing trash to pile up at the front of the property from one week to the next. Lastly, Ms. Brown asked where the new GFI outlet requirements came from on the rental property inspection requirements? Mayor Gartner advised her they are part of the National Electrical Code.

Ms. Richards asked how many people are allowed to live in a two-bedroom apartment? Secretary advised her this is determined in the International Property Maintenance Code and was probably based on square footage, etc. Ms. Richards stated there are four adults, four children, two dogs, a cat and a bird living in the two-bedroom unit next to their house on West Penn Avenue. Council will direct Kraft Codes Services to handle this problem. The Borough has attempted to handle this issue in the past to no avail. The landlord (who resides in California) has been contacted several times and stated she did stop in at the apartment when they were in Pennsylvania in the summer and found no indication of that many people living in the unit and the apartment was being kept in very good shape. Ms. Richards asked what was being done about the deplorable condition of the curbs in town. Mr. Marshall stated that an inventory was to be done by the Streets Supervisor and Jeff Gerhart to determine those curbs most in need of repair. He stated letters would go out by 3/31/12. Council discussed how many days to give homeowners in which to complete the repairs. Mr. Marshall will oversee this issue. Ms. Richards then asked why nothing was done to the pots for the holiday season. She was told that since the Beautification Committee all resigned, there was no one available to re-do the planters for the holiday season. She stated they all thought that Mr. Randler had taken over the pots for the whole year and they were not needed. It was explained that was not the case.

**MAYOR** – No report.

**SOLICITOR** – Solicitor George presented the following zoning permit fee schedule for adoption:

1. The following structures, if the structure has a building area less than 1,000 sq. ft., and is accessory to a detached one or two family dwelling, and multi-family dwelling units:
  - a. Detached Carport \$75.00
  - b. Detached private garage less than 1,000 sq. ft. \$75.00
  - c. Greenhouse \$75.00
  - d. Sheds and gazebos less than 1,000 sq. ft. \$75.00
2. All Agricultural Buildings, irrespective of size, \$75.00  
As defined by Act 45, Section 103

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3. Uncovered decks and patios, with a floor height of 30" or less above finished grade \$75.00
4. Fences that are no more than 6'0" in height \$50.00
5. Issuance of a Use and Occupancy Permit for a change of use on an existing building to a similar type use, with no structural alterations \$75.00
6. Signs
  - a. Residential Home Occupation or home-Related business \$50.00
  - b. Commercial- Non-structural replacement or repair of an existing sign \$75.00

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Becker, motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Schnee abstaining. Solicitor George presented the new WRW Trash COG by-laws for adoption. Mr. Rohrbach made the motion to adopt the new by-laws as presented by the Trash COG solicitor, Kozloff-Stoudt. Mr. Schnee seconded the motion and council unanimously approved. Mr. Rohrbach advised Council the Trash COG was having an "agreed upon procedures" audit performed.

**ENGINEER** – The engineer's report was included in the packet, including updates on the beautification project and the potential replacement of the South Church Street stone culvert.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2012, if needed.

**SECRETARY** – Presented request from the library for use of Council room on August 16 for a free library program. Motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, motion passed.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES**- Motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Becker 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** – Mr. Becker and Mr. Marshall will be attending a meeting on 2/7/12.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – The application for FEMA/PEMA money to reimburse for flood damages has been completed and we should be seeing the money in the near future.

**Parks & Recreation** – Use of the ball field was discussed. Secretary advised she was working with the Robesonia Pioneers to try to coordinate use between them the CWCA and the Berkshire Red Sox for the 2012 season. Secretary is to contact last year's playground leaders to determine their interest in returning for the 2012 playground season. Nelson Choc has already stopped by to express his interest in returning. The Street Department will be picking up diamond-tex for the ball field and Vernon Bright has asked to have the field sprayed at a cost of \$220/treatment. Scott's Lawn Service suggested three to four treatments. Rec Board needs to be advised of their \$1,000 ball field budget.

**Library** – No report.

**Personnel:** No report.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – No report.

**Schnee** – Mr. Schnee asked if a snow emergency is called, will the police be expected to make the vehicles move along the snow emergency routes? Yes. All vehicles are required to be moved along snow emergency routes during a called emergency. Otherwise, vehicles have 24 hours following a snow event in which to move their vehicles off all other streets to allow the Street Department to push back to the curbs.

**Becker**- No report.

**Rohrbach** – Mr. Rohrbach asked if the Water Authority is planning to do any further water main replacements this year. Engineer David Bright (in audience) advised Council he is working on plans for more water main replacement work, but there is no fixed schedule for the work to be performed.

**Pierce**- Police Commission meeting will be held at the Robesonia Borough Hall on Tuesday, February 7.

**Kocher**- No report.

**Wertz** - Ms. Wertz suggested a committee be organized to plan and replant the flower pots along Penn Avenue this spring. Secretary offered her help. Meeting will be planned.

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**Mayor Gartner:** Robesonia Street Fair will be holding benefit quarter auction on 2/11/12, starting at 1PM . Mayor Gartner asked Council to consider increasing water authority board members' salaries from \$20 to \$50/month. The change would not take effect till next term. A motion to increase the salaries of the water authority board members to \$50/month was made by Mr. Rohrbach and seconded by Mr. Marshall. Council approved unanimously. Mayor Gartner advised Council that a meeting was to be held with DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers at the dam on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM to discuss the removal of the dam.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – Mr. Schnee reported he spoke to the owner of 19 South Robeson Street about the condition of her property. She assured him she would work on securing the fence over the summer. The new radios needed by the Fire Company were discussed. Mr. Marshall, Mr. Becker and Mayor Gartner plan to meet with Chief Ochs and discuss options.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No report.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Secretary