

President Abby Wertz called the February 6, 2017 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Frank Schnee, Tony Wirebach, Mike Martin, Bill Langjahr and Rod Soliday. Mayor Randy Gartner was absent. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Streets Supervisor Garry Degler and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Bright, David Rohrbach, Vernon Bright, Lori Brown, David Randler and Fire Chief Josh Babura. Also attending was Val Lacin of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Schnee and second by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the January 3, 2017 council meeting were approved with the following change:

Under Planning Commission: Mayor Gartner asked that it be noted that Mr. Baim was advised at the January meeting that he would be required to hook up the house at 238 S. Freeman Street to the public sewer prior to sale of the property. Mr. Baim and Mr. Miller acknowledged the requirement.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS-** David Bright advised Council that the Remembrance Service date/time has been established as May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. He will issue reminders till that date. Fire Chief Josh Babura presented Council with the 2016 fire report. Mr. Schnee asked Chief Babura the status of the new fire truck. Chief Babura advised Council that the cost currently stands at \$672,000 but changes were still being made. The purchase/financing of the new fire truck was discussed. Mr. Babura invited two members from council to attend the meeting to discuss the financing of the truck following the regular meeting on Tuesday evening (the meeting will start at approximately 8:30). Mr. Randler asked several questions of Chief Babura regarding the purchase of the new tanker and expressed his concern that the payments for the new truck may fall on the municipalities that the Fire Company serves. He stated that the taxpayers of these municipalities cannot afford higher taxes or a fire tax to pay for a new tanker that is not required. Manager, Lisa Heilman, advised Council of recently passed legislation regarding a municipality's ability to reduce the property tax (up to 20%) for certain volunteer firefighters that have met certain criteria. The Council thanked Chief Babura and our volunteers for their service. Mr. Rohrbach mentioned the fact that the water tank at Sonoco Products was looking really bad again and should be repainted. A letter will be sent to Sonoco asking them to consider repainting the tank. All other visitors were observing.

**MAYOR** – Absent.

**SOLICITOR**. Solicitor George advised Council that one of the liens filed on behalf of the Borough and RMA has been paid off and one is in the works. Manager thanked Solicitor George and his paralegal for all their hard work on the Borough's behalf.

**ENGINEER-** There was no engineer's report for the month of January. SSM provided a written quote for the MS4/NPDES permit renewal at a cost of \$3,400. Mr. Martin made the motion to accept the quote and direct SSM to prepare the permit renewal. Mr. Langjahr seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Schnee mentioned that a suggested date of July 1<sup>st</sup> due date was mentioned at the LOGAC meeting for something pertaining to the MS4 requirements. Mr. Bright was unaware of any July 1<sup>st</sup> requirements.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Mr. Schnee advised Council the next PC meeting is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>, if necessary.

**MANAGER** – Ms. Heilman advised Council that a revised E&SC MOU between the Borough and the Berks County Conservation District needs to be approved. The revisions pertain primarily to agricultural operations. Mr. Martin made the motion and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Chief Schlichter did not attend the meeting.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** On a motion by Mr. Schnee, 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.

**Personnel:** President Wertz advised Council that several P/T, as-needed streets workers have been hired to help Garry as needed

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Mr. Martin advised Council to check out the drawing/schematic for the fire tanker before they leave.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** –There was no meeting in January, however, the bid packet has been prepared for the 2017 Street Work and is ready for advertising. Mr. Marshall made the motion to advertise the street work for a March 6<sup>th</sup> opening. Mr. Martin seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

**Parks & Recreation** –Ms. Heilman reported the Rec Board will be meeting with baseball organizations interested in setting up field use on February 16 at 6PM. All organizations are paid up for 2016.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – Mr. Marshall brought up several concerns he has with the library's use of the council room. He told them that the heat has been left turned up several times, lights are left on all day and they are not cleaning up well after their childrens' programs. He suggested that should this continue, Council should consider charging them for part of their electric use. Ms. Wertz advised Council that she would discuss this with them at their board meeting on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Langjahr** – Mr. Langjahr reported that the COG has decided to exercise their option of a fourth-year for the Trash COG contract, with no pricing change, but needs each member municipality to approve. Mr. Soliday made the motion to approve the fourth-year option and Mr. Marshall seconded it. Council approved unanimously.

**Soliday**- No report.

**Wirebach**- No report

**Martin**- No report.

**Schnee**- Mr. Schnee advised Council that a bill currently in the legislature regarding mini-cell tower placement will override any local ordinances regulating them.

**Wertz** – No report.

**Mayor Gartner**- Absent.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No new business

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – The acquisition of the Breininger property was discussed. Mr. Marshall expressed his desire to get a determination on whether the Breiningers would be willing to pay for the engineered schematic that Mr. Engleman and Mr. Beane seem to feel we need to have done in order to move forward with the grant writing for the Breininger property remediation and redevelopment into a compost transfer facility and historic preservation passive recreation area. Ms. Wertz directed Ms. Heilman to write a letter to Mr. Engleman and Mr. Beane by February 15<sup>th</sup> seeking an answer.

**COMMUNICATIONS-**

- WRJA meeting Treasurer's Report and meeting minutes.
- Kraft Codes January property maintenance reports.
- Western Berks Regional Police monthly report, meeting minutes and payroll report (December/January)
- Robesonia Library 2016 highlights

On a motion by Mr. Wirebach, seconded by Mr. Martin, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA  
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Respectfully submitted,  
Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary  
Borough of Robesonia