

President Abby Wertz called the March 3, 2014 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Ron Becker, Jr., Bob Pierce, Bill Langjahr, Rod Soliday and Mike Kocher. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Jason Ulrich, Police Chief Bill Schlichter, Mayor Randall Gartner and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Vernon Bright, David Bright, Lori Brown, Greg Purnell, Tony Wirebach, and David Kostival of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr. Soliday seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the February 18<sup>th</sup> workshop meeting were approved as presented.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – David Randler presented Council with several concerns, the first being regarding the rental property maintenance inspections. He asked why, after two rounds of inspections, the same problem landlords continue to be problems. The tenants have privately told him stories of mold and drug paraphernalia being found in the apartment buildings. He suggested the tenants are afraid to come forward publicly for fear of retaliation by their landlords. He feels these issues need to be addressed. His second concern was the police contract currently being negotiated. He stated he has heard, through second and third-hand sources, that if the police get what they are asking for in this contract, there are some that could potentially get 24-1/2 weeks of time off through vacation, compensatory time, personal time, sick time and holidays. He feels this is excessive and suggested that at no place in the private sector would you find that kind of benefit. He also does not understand how the Chief can be making less than his Sergeant. Mr. Pierce suggested Mr. Randler attend the Commission meeting on Tuesday, March 4, at the Wernersville Borough Hall at 7PM and have his concerns addressed there. Mr. Randler advised Mr. Pierce that the last time he attended a Commission meeting he was summarily dismissed.

Tony Wirebach offered to help the borough with the upkeep/updating of their website. He also asked who could help him determine how the borough is doing financially. The Borough Manager advised Mr. Wirebach to come see her in the office and bring his list of questions and she'd be happy to help him.

All other visitors were observing.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner asked the Borough Solicitor to look into Pennsylvania law regarding the amount allowed to be charged on delinquent bills. He advised everyone that the RCA will be holding a \$1 Taco Night at the Robeson Fire Company on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please support the RCA since they run the annual Egg Hunt and Life Begins at 75 Banquet.

**SOLICITOR** – Solicitor Ulrich advised Council that the System End User Agreement received from the County was sent in error and no action is need from Council on this matter.

**ENGINEER** – No report.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting, scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>, if needed.

**MANAGER** – No report.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Chief Schlichter advised Council that the Police Department will be holding a bicycle rodeo and registration event one Saturday in June. The rodeo will be for children ages 9 through 12.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second 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** – Ms. Wertz advised Council that she spoke with Swift Reach about the possibility of utilizing their emergency notification system. Set-up costs would be a one-time \$200 fee. The annual cost would be \$995 which would include training. Two messages a month, or twenty-four messages a year, are allowed for that cost. Any additional maintenance work needed would be billed at \$1,000/day plus expenses.

Mr. Marshall made the motion to obtain the Swift Reach notification system. Mr. Becker seconded the motion and Council unanimously agreed.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Next meeting March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – Mr. Marshall thanked the police department for handling the trash situation of the vacating tenant at 102 North Church Street. He advised Council that the Borough is in good shape for salt supply in spite of the current shortage and that we sold several tons to Wernersville Borough and the CW School District to help them out till they could obtain more. Mr. Langjahr asked Mr. Marshall if the streets department is aware of the large pothole in the underpass on South Church Street. Mr. Marshall and Mr. Degler advised Mr. Langjahr

that the pothole would be repaired (along with several others created by the harsh winter) when weather once again allowed.

**Parks & Recreation** –Mr. Becker advised Council that he will be contacting Siani to apply the first crabgrass application to the ball field. Also, the Rec Board will be meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> with all interested organizations to discuss the use of the ball field.

**Personnel:** No report.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – No report.

**Langjahr** – Mr. Langjahr asked if anything could be done about the tractor trailers left idling all night on Meadow Avenue. The noise and odor are big nuisances and several of the neighbors in that area have complained to him. The police were directed to keep an eye on the situation since it is a state law that prohibits such activity.

**Becker-** No report.

**Pierce-** Mr. Pierce advised Council that the borough of Jim Thorpe uses the odd/even method of plowing.

**Soliday** – No report.

**Kocher-** No report.

**Wertz** - No report.

**Mayor Gartner:** No report.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mr. Pierce made the motion to increase the parking ticket charge to \$20 at the request of the police department. Mr. Langjahr seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. The Solicitor was directed to amend the ordinance.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No business.

**COMMUNICATIONS-**

- WRJA Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Monthly police report.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Secretary