

President Abby Wertz called the March 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. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Andrew George, Streets Supervisor Garry Degler and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Bright, Vernon Bright, Lori Brown, David Randler, Wanda Ramos, Jordan Stone and Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Schnee and second by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the February 6, 2017 council meeting were approved.

VISITORS & CITIZENS- David Randler sought Council's assurance that the businesses in the borough could count on the Police Department's assistance in keeping the driveways to area businesses clear and open during the PennDOT construction project on SR422 (Penn Avenue). He stated he hopes J.D. Eckman/Wexcon do a much better job than UGI did last summer. He also advised Council that SSM's quote of \$3,400 to perform the MS4 work for 2017 was an excellent quote.

MAYOR – No report.

SOLICITOR. Solicitor George provided Council with an Act 172 update and provided them with the requirements should Council decide to go forward with the tax break for emergency personnel that meet the criteria established by Council and Act 172. The Borough currently has seven volunteer firefighters that would qualify for the tax break. Mayor Gartner suggested that he and Mike Martin should form a committee to look into the matter a bit further. Mr. Schnee asked that, should the Council approve this tax break, the report provided by the Fire Company be an annual report, rather than the occasional report as stated in Act 172. Council agreed.

Solicitor George then advised Council that he is working with Mike Bechtold of Buzgon Davis Law Firm on fulfilling the requirements (advertising/public hearing, etc) needed for the Fire Company to obtain a low-interest loan for the purchase of the new tanker.

Mr. George advised Council that a re-appointment was needed for Gary Heck on the Robesonia Municipal Authority (it was missed at the January meeting). Mr. Langjahr made the motion and Mr. Soliday seconded to appoint Gary Heck to a 5-year term on the Robesonia Municipal Authority. Council approved unanimously.

ENGINEER- The Engineer's Report was included in the agenda packet and included preliminary work on the MS4 permit renewal, an update on the RMA's sanitary sewer replacement project and several suggestions for the Keener Heights Subdivision before it can move forward.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Mr. Schnee advised Council the next PC meeting is scheduled for March 15th, if necessary.

MANAGER – Ms. Heilman advised Council that the Soccer Shots program will once again be using the small field next to the Tot Lot Pavilion on Tuesday evenings for ½ hour for 8 weeks starting 3/14. They expressed their sincere appreciation for the use of our field for their program. Ms. Heilman presented a request from Calvary Bible Fellowship Church for the use of the ballfield pavilion on July 4th for a Community 4th of July picnic. Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve the use, free of charge, and Mr. Martin seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion for the use for a community July 4th picnic.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter did not attend the meeting.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- On a motion by Mr. Schnee, second by Mr. Martin 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: No report.

Fire Protection/Safety – Mr. Martin thanked Council for their support of Act 46 (property tax breaks for volunteer emergency services workers).

Streets/Highways/Sewer –The February meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall reported to Council that three bids were obtained for the 2017 Roadwork project. The results were:

	S Church (mill & overlay)	S. Church (C-I-P)	S. Pearl	W. Oak
Pennsy Supply:	\$251,302.06	\$264,010.53	\$36,130.96	\$74,803.01
New Enterprise:	\$270,696.39	\$296,380.50	\$43,619.50	\$86,445.05
Landis Deck:	\$195,168.90	\$232,094.20	\$34,351.20	\$67,489.10

Mr. Marshall made the motion to award the entire project (using the mill & overlay option for South Church Street) to Landis Deck for a total cost of \$297,009.20. Mr. Martin seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. Mayor Gartner asked if there would be any money left to repair the driveway at the Borough Garage since it is in terrible shape. Mr. Marshall will look into the matter. David Bright noted that the Robesonia Municipal Authority will be opening their bids for the sewer pipe replacement project on South Church Street in two weeks. That work will be done prior to the Borough’s project.

Mr. Marshall then advised Council he would like to reduce the speed limit on Oak Avenue for, minimally, the duration of the PennDOT construction project since it will be getting used by many people trying to avoid Penn Avenue while that work is being done. He noted that the police have agreed to heavily monitor Oak Avenue while this is going on. The PD did report that they have been clocking cars on Oak Avenue at 21-24mph. He would like to reduce the speed limit to 15mph and add stop signs at the May Street and Annas Street intersections. He noted there are several intersections like this where there are no stop signs. Ms. Wertz suggested reducing the speed limit on all alleys to 15mph. Council was reminded that the existing ordinance needs to be amended and adopted in order for the police to enforce the proposed changes. Following discussion, it was decided that the speed limit on several of the Borough’s smaller/narrower streets should be reduced. President Wertz directed Mr. Marshall to gather a list of the streets/intersections needing either reduced speeds or stop signs and get it to the Borough Manager who shall then organize the list and pass it on to the Borough Solicitor for amending and advertising the ordinance for adoption at the March 21st workshop meeting. Mr. Schnee made the motion to advertise/ adopt the proposed changes and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Parks & Recreation –No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Langjahr – No report.

Soliday- Mr. Soliday asked the Borough Manager whether she’s heard back from Carl Engleman regarding the Breininger property acquisition. She reported she had not. Mayor Gartner advised Council that he had spoken to Mr. Engleman. We are still awaiting a price quote from Spotts, Stevens & McCoy for the recommended engineering schematic of the compost transfer facility property.

Wirebach- No report

Martin- No report.

Schnee- Mr. Schnee advised Council that the article in the Friends of the Furnace newsletter was extremely touching to him. He feels WWII defined America. Also, he suggests IXL Hair Studio tell their clients they may park behind the business during the course of the Penn Avenue project if their front driveway is blocked.

Wertz – No report.

Mayor Gartner- Mayor Gartner reported that the Friends of the Furnace Annual Dinner will be held on 3/21/17 at Ozgoods. Tracy Rice will be the speaker and she will discuss the Furnace operations from 1885-1927. Also, tours of the Furnace Museum and Ruins are available. He suggested that now is a good time to tour the ruins since the foliage is down.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Marshall advised Council that he received a call from Jack Keener who expressed his desire to complete his project in the near future (...again). He also advised Council that he and the Borough Manager forwarded the plan and all the correspondence/discussion/actions on this project to Technicon and asked them to determine if what has been passed to date is still in compliance or should Mr. Keener be required to start over because of the amount of time that has lapsed since the conditional approval was received and no further action, with the exception of getting a new NPDES permit, has been taken since that time. David Randler brought up some stormwater run-off concerns he has with Mr. Keener's project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA meeting Treasurer's Report and meeting minutes.
- Kraft Codes February property maintenance reports.
- Western Berks Regional Police payroll report
- Thank you from Trinity Lutheran Church for Borough's support of Jack Frost Parade
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On a motion by Mr. Langjahr, seconded by Mr. Marshall, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary
Borough of Robesonia