

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA
April 2, 2012
Page 1 of 2

President Abby Wertz called the April 2, 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 Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Andrew George, Police Chief Scott Wagner and Secretary Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Gerry Ochs, David Randler, Lori Brown, Timothy Wallace, Todd Sauber, Erica & Grayson Ziegler, Carol Baim, Joel Costenbader, Melissa Costenbader, Jen Davies, Shawn McCloy, Curtis Wallace, Tanya Tijas, David Bright and Chris Reber of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the March 5, 2012 meeting were approved.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Fire Chief Gerry Ochs advised Council that Berks County DES is gearing up to apply for the first round of radios. Berks DES has applied for grant extension. All emergency vehicles will initially carry both the old and the new radios until everything is in place. Mr. Schnee advised Council that he was told at a Local Government Advisory Council meeting that municipalities may be able to pay as little as \$500/unit vs. the proposed \$5,000/unit and he suggests the Council hold off on making any commitment until that possibility can be confirmed. He would like Council to commit to a contribution amount (first payment will be due on 6/30/13). The Finance Committee will discuss at its monthly meeting and make a recommendation at the May Council meeting. Mr. Randler advised Council that Heidelberg Township is not very pleased with the wording of the promissory note required by the County. Borough Solicitor will look it over and advise.

Scoutmaster Todd Sauber discussed the Boy Scouts' role in the placing of the flags for the patriotic holidays. He asked if anything had been done yet to provide boxes to keep the flags in between uses. He also advised that, due to the smaller size of his troop, he would like to ask the Girl Scouts if they had any interest in helping to place the flags. He also advised Council that the Scouts would be interested in placing a container to collect aluminum cans as a fundraiser for the Scouts. Council did remind Mr. Sauber that the Borough also benefits from the collection of cans as it receives grant money each year based on the total tonnage of recycling collected.

Erica Ziegler, on behalf of the Robeson Street Fair Committee, sought permission to hang banners at the east and west ends of town to advertise the street fair. Council provided Ms. Ziegler with PennDOT contact information since their permission will be needed to hang anything across SR422. Joel Costenbader advised Council the Street Fair Committee is planning a "cruise-in" on Friday, June 22 and asked permission to close South Brooke Street to traffic that day and to place No Parking signs announcing the closure. Chief Wagner will seek assistance from the Fire Police in directing traffic. Council agreed to all requests.

David Bright, representing the POSofA sought Council's approval to place a flag collection box at the Borough Hall. Council approved.

Lori Brown commented on the trash situation in the 200 block of East Penn Avenue. She stated the situation has improved considerably and thanked Council for solving the problem.

Shawn McCloy discussed the parking situation along West Oak Avenue. He stated his neighbor consistently has three trucks parking along the alley (which is a no parking area) and the police have not been enforcing it. Chief Wagner advised they would keep a closer watch on the situation. He asked Council to consider to eliminate all parking along May Street and Pearl Street, stating the two streets were barely wide enough to allow for parking on one side and traffic to pass safely. He advised Council that his neighbors have dug a pit in their yard and the kids are building bonfires in the pit and playing with sticks, etc. Council advised Mr. McCloy to contact either the police or the Fire Company to enforce the open burning ordinance when this occurs.

MAYOR – Advised Council he spoke with Jamie Motley of Motley Engineering who offered their services for \$55.00/hour (or perhaps a percentage) for rental property inspection. Council will contact him when working on 2013 budget.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George advised Council he and Engineer David Bright are working on getting the Floodplain Ordinance updated as required, by July 3rd.

ENGINEER – The engineer's report was included in the packet, including updates on the repair of flood damages and the updating of the Floodplain Ordinance. Mr. Marshall made a motion to direct Spotts, Stevens & McCoy to complete and submit GP-3 and GP-11 permits (to repair flood damage) at an estimated cost of \$6,500. Mr. Schnee seconded the motion and Council passed unanimously. Engineering costs will be able to be submitted to FEMA/PEMA for reimbursement.

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA
April 2, 2012
Page 2 of 2

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2012, if needed.

SECRETARY – Secretary advised Council that a new Zoning Board member is needed. Mr. Pierce made a motion to appoint Joel Costenbader. Mr. Kocher seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve with Mr. Schnee abstaining.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- Motion by Schnee, seconded by Mr. Marshall 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 – Next meeting scheduled on 4/3/12

Streets/Highways/Sewer – The large sycamore tree that fell in the creek is being removed on 4/3/12. FEMA's representative will be present.

Parks & Recreation – The meeting minutes from the baseball meeting were presented. Ms. Wertz reminded Council of the scheduled creek restoration volunteer day on April 28th.

Library – No report.

Personnel: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – Mr. Marshall advised Council that in order to receive the free No Smoking signs for the Borough's public parks, etc. our current ordinance prohibiting smoking by minors in public places would have to be amended to include adults. Mr. Schnee made a motion to leave the ordinance as is. Mr. Kocher seconded and Council unanimously approved the motion.

Schnee – No report.

Becker- No report.

Rohrbach – Redistricting of the magisterial district courts was discussed. Council has offered its full support to Chief Wagner to prevent Robesonia being redistricted to DJ Book's office in Bernville due to time/fuel cost constraints.

Pierce- Advised Council the Western Berks Regional Police Commission meeting is scheduled for 4/3/12 in the Robesonia Borough Hall.

Kocher- No report.

Wertz - Council has decided to participate in the Wernersville Memorial Day Parade. Ms. Wertz is in. Is anyone else interested in walking/riding in the parade with her?

Mayor Gartner: Mr. Gartner advised Council the Robesonia Street Fair Committee will be holding a dance on April 20th from 9PM to 12AM at the Robesonia Fire Company. Come out and support the fair committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No report.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Secretary