

President Abby Wertz called the April 3, 2017 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Frank Schnee, Mike Martin, Bill Langjahr and Rod Soliday. Tony Wirebach was absent. 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, David Rohrbach, Ed Moreland of Western Berks Ambulance, David Randler, and Steve DeLucas of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Langjahr and second by Mr. Schnee and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the March 6, 2017 council meeting were approved. On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the March 21, 2017 workshop meeting were approved.

VISITORS & CITIZENS- David Bright reminded Council of the May 25th Memorial Remembrance ceremony at HPR Park at 6:30PM. David Randler advised Council that he submitted a letter (which was included in the communications in the agenda packet) regarding the rental inspection program. Mayor Gartner advised Council that he wanted to discuss same under his name. David Rohrbach suggested that during the course of the Route 422 reconstruction project the trash hauler may want to pick up the trash and recycling behind the homes along West Penn Avenue that are affected by the lane shifts. Manager will contact County Wide Sanitation and work with them to make this happen. Once agreed upon, letters will be sent to those residents affected by the change and it will be posted on the Borough's FB page. Manager also advised Council that the mail delivery for those living along the construction zone has been halted and that residents must pick up their mail at the post office. Ed Moreland advised Council that 17 calls were answered in the Borough in February. Their busiest times are Sundays at 3PM. WBEMS had several employees compete in a national competition in Salt Lake City where they placed 10th of 26 teams. WBEMS is receiving Gold Plus status from the American Heart Association. There is going to be a 550 mile bike ride in May honoring fallen emergency responders. Ed plans to participate in the entire event. They will be riding through Robesonia on the afternoon of May 17th.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner advised Council that he has spoken to another landlord in the Borough, John Richardson, about the rental property inspection program. There was some discussion on what could be done to cut the good landlords a break while more heavily enforcing the program for those landlords that continually fail to comply with the requirements. Mayor Gartner questioned whether a Borough Official could accompany the rental property inspectors when inspecting some of the more questionable rental properties in the Borough to ensure consistency among the inspectors. It was decided to organize a “Housing Committee” consisting of a few Council representatives and a few landlords. They will meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7PM in the Borough office. Preliminary members are Mayor Randy Gartner, Council Members Abby Wertz and Rod Soliday, Landlords David Randler and John Richardson. Mr. Soliday suggested that at this time legislation heavily favors the renters.

SOLICITOR. Solicitor George had nothing to report. The public hearing for the financing of the new fire truck will be held on Thursday at 10AM at the Borough Hall.

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 an update on the Dean Baim subdivision. The RMA provided a letter to the Council advising them that Mr. Baim has been advised that there is capacity available. Since Mr. Baim has still not paid his tapping or review fees this in no way guarantees capacity when he does decide to connect to the sewer system.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Mr. Schnee advised Council the next PC meeting is scheduled for April 19th, if necessary. He suggested Council take their time to look over the Technicon and Kozloff-Stoudt letters regarding the Keener Heights subdivision since nothing has moved too quickly since the beginning of this project. He also suggested that even though Mr. Keener mentioned a 55+ community, nowhere does it mention that in his plans. He feels Council should consider that fact carefully (and

require it in writing if that is their intent for this project) before approving anything. Solicitor George suggested Council could require Mr. Keener to start at the beginning with the review process should he present a whole new set of plans.

MANAGER – Ms. Heilman advised Council that Berks County Conservation District is requiring those municipalities with a Memorandum of Understanding with them to update the MOU to accommodate for the DEP revisions to the Erosion and Sediment Control requirements.

ON a motion by Mr. Langjahr, second by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, motion passed to adopt the new MOU.

Ms. Heilman presented Council with the annual request from Little Peoples Nursery School for the use of the tennis courts on May 9th & 10th for the bike rally and May 25th & 26th for the tot lot pavilion for the end-of-year party. On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, Council approved for use with fee waivers.

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: No report.

Fire Protection/Safety – Mr. Martin reminded everyone of the Easter Ham Raffle being held at the Fire Company on Sunday, April 8th at 2PM and asked all to come out and support the raffle/fire company.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – Mr. Marshall advised Council that he is seeking a used truck to replace the 84 Ford dump since we only put approximately 1,700 miles/year on the vehicle. He asked Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$45,000 from our general equipment fund for the purchase. Mr. Soliday made the motion, Mr. Schnee seconded and Council unanimously approved the expenditure up to \$45,000.

Parks & Recreation –Use of the ballfields has begun.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Langjahr – No report.

Soliday- No report.

Wirebach- Absent.

Martin- No report.

Schnee- Mr. Schnee asked Council to consider requiring all home owners to have their house numbers clearly marked to assist first responders in locating their homes if necessary. Will follow up next meeting.

Wertz – Ms. Wertz reminded everyone of the RCA Egg Hunt on April 15th at 1PM. The Easter Bunny will be there and free hot dogs will be served to the kids.

Mayor Gartner- No report.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The Breininger property acquisition was discussed. Mr. Soliday asked if the Breininger heirs have indicated their willingness to take back the property should the Borough not be able to obtain the necessary remediation grant funding within five years. Mayor Gartner stated that we are not yet at the point where that needs to happen since the Borough does not have to take ownership of the property until the grant funding has been secured. He also advised Council that Lisa Breininger was unaware of any conversation between her mother, Barbara, and their attorney, David Beane, in which she indicated her willingness to pay for a share of the remediation costs if necessary and will be looking

into that. She asked Mayor Gartner if he had any idea how much that might be and Mayor Gartner told her we'd have a better idea after the information was gathered for the purpose of grant writing.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA meeting Treasurer's Report and meeting minutes.
- Western Berks Regional Police monthly report and meeting minutes
- Thank you note from Girl Scout Troop 1814 for Council Room use.
- MS4 Workshop announcement.
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On a motion by Mr. Langjahr, seconded by Mr. Schnee, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary
Borough of Robesonia