

President Abby Wertz called the April 7, 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 Andrew George, 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, Tony Wirebach, David Rohrbach, James Swartz, Chris Boylan, Garry Degler, Solicitor John Muir and Karen Feick of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr. Becker seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 Council meeting were approved as presented.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – All visitors were observing.

Council recessed for Executive Session at 7:32 PM to discuss contract negotiations and potential litigation. Regular session resumed at 8:15PM.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner asked Council to consider posting current police contracts to the Borough's website. Mr. Becker made the motion, Mr. Soliday seconded, to have current police contracts posted to the Borough's website. Council passed unanimously.

**SOLICITOR** – Solicitor George presented Council with Ordinance 2014-3 and advised them it has been advertised for adoption. Ordinance 2014-3 allows for the increase of parking fines from \$15 to \$20.

### **Ordinance 2014-3**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,  
AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1977-23 AND ORDINANCE NO. 2009-3 ESTABLISHING  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF PARKING REGULATIONS.

Mr. Kocher made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2014-3. Mr. Pierce seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved.

**ENGINEER** – The issue of whether Council wants to send a letter to PennDOT, asking them to consider the cross slopes on areas east of North Church Street, was discussed. Council thought it would be a good idea to address the request in a letter to Ryan Stauffer of PennDOT.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting, scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>, if needed.

**MANAGER** – Ms. Heilman presented request from Little Peoples Nursery School to use tennis courts on May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> for their annual bike rally and the pavilion on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> for their end of year party. Ms. Heilman advised Council that the rental fees have always been waived in the past. Mr. Marshall made the motion to grant the usage, and waive the fees, for the tennis courts and pavilion for the requested dates. Mr. Becker seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Chief Schlichter thanked Garry Degler and the road crew for painting the new Vascar lines. Also, the Chief advised Council of an incident in town in which two men, posing as Water Authority employees, entered a house at the west end of town, claiming to need to check the owner's water. When the resident advised them she was calling her daughter, they ripped her phone cord from the wall and took off. Chief Schlichter advised Council that this is the time of year when such scams (driveway sealing, roof repair, etc) become much more common. Please call the police immediately when such activity is noticed. The chances of catching those perpetrating these acts is much more successful if the police are notified in a timely manner. Chief Schlichter also advised Council that the Police Department will be holding the bicycle rodeo, for both Wernersville & Robesonia on June 14<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon at the Conrad Weiser Middle School. The rodeo will be for children ages 9 through 12.

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

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Next meeting April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – Mr. Marshall advised Council that the Streets Department will begin street sweeping on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Parks & Recreation** –Mr. Becker advised Council that during the March meeting the ball field use schedule was successfully completed and suggested the Borough post on its Facebook page that we are seeking summer playground leaders.

**Personnel:** No report.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – No report.

**Langjahr** – No report.

**Becker-** No report.

**Pierce-** Mr. Pierce asked when the 20 minute parking signs would be installed at the bank. Mr. Marshall advised that the signs need to be ordered and would be ordered along with the many speed limit signs needed for the police to be able to enforce speeding violations within the borough.

**Soliday** – No report.

**Kocher-** No report.

**Wertz** - Ms. Wertz asked the status of the SwiftReach process. Manager advised that she had contacted SwiftReach for some assistance on filling out the required paperwork. Everything should be ready to sent to SwiftReach by the end of the week.

**Mayor Gartner:** Mayor Gartner advised Council that the company in charge of removing the dam has been staging their equipment on site to begin the removal process.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mayor Gartner asked if the borough would be getting answers to the questions submitted to the police department. John Muir, solicitor for the WBRPD advised Council that Mayor Gartner was to find out which questions, specifically, Council wanted answered. He stated that several of the items on the list presented to the WBRPD for answers were statements. Mayor Gartner asked if Robesonia Borough was going to need to request information through a Right-to-Know request every time information was requested from the police department. Attorney Muir suggested that any time Council has questions they can be brought to the police commission meetings. Mayor Gartner and Attorney Muir then debated Interrogatory vs Right-to-Know requests. At this point, Mr. Marshall stated that based on the current situation and the lack of communication and transparency between the police department and the council, he was making the motion to dissolve the Western Berks Regional Police Department unless more open transparency and communication can be established and the Charter Agreement can be revisited. Mr. Soliday seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority of 5-2 (Marshall, Soliday, Langjahr, Becker and Wertz voting yes; Pierce and Kocher voting no).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No business.

**COMMUNICATIONS-**

- WRJA Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Monthly police report.
- Invitation to Municipal Officials' Breakfast

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager  
Borough of Robesonia