

President Abby Wertz called the May 1, 2017 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Frank Schnee, Mike Martin, Tony Wirebach and Rod Soliday. Harvey Marshall and Bill Langjahr were absent. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Andrew George and Streets Supervisor Garry Degler. Manager Lisa Heilman was absent. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Vernon Bright, Lori Brown, David Rohrbach, Barry Kalbach, David Randler, and Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Martin and second by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the April 3, 2017 council meeting were approved with the following corrections: The actual date of the Memorial Remembrance service is May 25th, not 27th. Mr. Martin also mentioned that MaryKay Steinman should be listed as the Fire Company President, not the Treasurer, in the meeting minutes from the special hearing held for the new fire truck financing.

VISITORS & CITIZENS- Barry Kalbach provided Council with a list of complaints regarding the property at 112 North Church Street (attached to his property at 114 North Church Street). The list included an unregistered/uninspected van parked in the back yard, speculation that the owners are going to macadam their back yard and add a deck off the back of the house (and this property is in a federal flood zone), and the fact that they have people living in the attic and the basement.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner advised Council that Freeman Street will be closed from May 7-12 at the railroad crossing for repairs. The Arbor Day celebration was held on Friday, April 28th and was attended by Ms. Murdough's 6th grade class. He advised Council that it was the Borough's 27th year as a Tree City USA designee and that there are many big cities that do not have the Tree City USA designation at all. He next noted to Council that the Reading City Council asked the Sheriff's Department not to work with the feds NOT to identify illegal aliens. Mayor is making a declaration that Robesonia is NOT a sanctuary city and if he knows of any illegal aliens he will report them to ICE.

SOLICITOR. Solicitor George noted that one more lien has been satisfied. The hearing for the financing for the new truck was held and went smoothly.

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.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Mr. Schnee advised Council the next PC meeting is scheduled for May 17th, if necessary. He felt it important to keep Council apprised of the two subdivisions in progress: Dean Baim's subdivision was discussed first. Based on comments in the engineer's report it seems it is on hold awaiting Mr. Baim's posting a plan review deposit. Mr. Keener's subdivision was discussed as well. It appears he is planning to move forward with his project since he attended both the Water Authority and Sewer Authority meetings noting his intent to post the required bonds, etc.

MANAGER – Absent

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 – No report.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – New truck is in and will be picked up this week. A new request for a handicapped parking spot at 138 Pennbrooke Avenue has been submitted. There is already one currently vacant property with a handicapped parking space. Both owners are in homes. Contact will be made with the owners to determine the ongoing need for this parking space.

Motion: Mr. Wirebach made the motion to approved the new request and Mr. Martin seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Parks & Recreation –Playground registrations have begun.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Langjahr – No report.

Soliday- No report.

Wirebach- Mr. Wirebach has a problem with stray cats in the neighborhood and the woman across the street is feeding them and promoting the ongoing issue. His sister-in-law is involved with No Nonsense Neutering and was wondering if the Borough would be interested in partnering with the organization to get the problem under control. He would report back with more details as he gets them on this program. The Mayor asked Solicitor George if the Vector Control ordinance could be used against those residents feeding these strays as the food they are putting out could also potentially attract mice, raccoons, etc.... Mr. George will check with other

Martin- Mr. Martin reported that he and Mr. Marshall attended the first MS4 workshop in the series of three. There is a lot of things we are going to need to be concerned with as a municipality. He expects that he and Mr. Marshall will report back at the next meeting on the additional meetings. This next MS4 round entails from 2018 to 2022. It appears that after that you will not even be able to wash your car on your own property. Council was very vocal about the possibilities and potential costs of this program. Mayor Gartner feels that if the federal government is going to saddle the states and local governments with federal mandates, then they should provide federal money to comply with the mandates. Mr. Soliday asked where the money is coming from to re-do all the handicapped ramps that he sees getting done as part of the PennDOT project. Mayor Gartner stated it was his understanding that it was coming from federal monies, which are still taxpayer dollars. He feels it is wasteful as the Borough already re-did them not that long ago but the federal government changed their design standards in the meantime so they all have to be redone every time you do anything at an intersection, whether it is water line replacement, street repair/replacement, etc.

Schnee- No report.

Wertz – Ms. Wertz advised everyone that she received an invitation to the Grand Opening of the Penn State Health/St. Joseph facility on Friday, May 12th from 4-6PM. Ms. Wertz asked if anyone is interested in attending. Mayor Gartner, Ms. Wertz, Mr. Soliday and Mr. Martin all suggested they are interested in attending.

She received a letter from the Bern Township Police seeking Fire Police assistance for the WWII weekend and air show on June 2-4. They are also seeking Fire Police assistance for August 6-12 for the Reading Fair. Mr. Wirebach made the motion to approve our Fire Police in assisting the Bern Township PD for traffic control for both events. Council approved unanimously.

Mayor Gartner- No report.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Mr. Schnee advised Council he is still working on the house numbering project and was in contact with Shannon Rossman at BCPC but still has nothing concrete to report at this time. He also sought the status of the HPR Park Veterans' Bricks status. David Randler advised Council that the pouring of the concrete in the HPR Park for the new veterans' bricks would be done in conjunction with the sidewalk replacement work in the 300 block of West Penn Avenue. Mr. Rohrbach said he was under the impression that the state would be replacing the sidewalk. Mayor Gartner asked if any of the bricks have been made yet and Mr. Rohrbach stated that he had not since there was nowhere to put them yet. No cut-off has been made since as long as there are openings available, a brick can be purchased for that spot. The Breininger property acquisition was discussed. Mayor Gartner stated that

Carl Engleman has gotten a sales agreement for the Water Authority's portion of the property. Things are not moving quickly but they are moving. Mr. Randler reminded Council there is a Joint Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 18th at 7PM at Womelsdorf Borough Hall to address two items: One is the cost of doing the Joint Comprehensive Plan for the four member municipalities (the county is going to do a presentation on that) and to find out if Marion Township is going to go in on the Joint Plan. The other is to rewrite the Joint Zoning Ordinance to address the mini cell-towers which, for now, are prohibited from being placed in planting strips, etc. as the communications companies were fighting for.

Mr. Randler then asked if the tax relief for emergency responders has yet been passed. He was told it has not yet been passed. He inquired about the requirement of the 30% participation rate to qualify for the tax relief. Ms. Wertz stated that she had heard that an emergency responder was tax exempt for up to five years after leaving the emergency organization. Mayor Gartner stated he thought the municipality could set those standards in their ordinance, when written. Ms. Wertz stated that she understood from the PSAB chat board that we could not enact the ordinance until 2018. Although there was a meeting to address the call participation/training requirements in order to be eligible for tax relief, there has been no ordinance passed or official action taken to date. Ms. Wertz advised Mr. Randler that he would be advised of any new information on this as it becomes available from the PSAB chat board.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA meeting minutes.
- Kraft Codes monthly report.
- Meeting minutes from special hearing for the financing of the new fire truck.
- Mr. Martin updated Council on Pokey (Richard) Dissinger's situation. He had fallen in his garage, found by neighbors, taken to the hospital and since sent to Phoebe Berks for rehab. He will not be returning to his home behind the borough hall. He will be living with one of his children when he gets out of the rehab.

On a motion by Mr. Wirebach, seconded by Mr. Soliday, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary
Borough of Robesonia