

President Abby Wertz called the May 2, 2016 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Tony Wirebach, Frank Schnee, Rod Soliday, Mike Martin and Junior Council member, Grayson Ziegler. Council member Bill Langjahr was absent. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Mayor Randall Gartner, Police Chief William Schlichter and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Carl Engleman, Esq., David Randler, David Bright, Lori Brown, David Rohrbach, and Steve DeLucas of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Schnee and second by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the April 4, 2016 council meeting were approved as presented. On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Wirebach and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the April 19, 2016 Workshop Meeting were approved as presented.

VISITORS & CITIZENS- David Bright reminded Council of the upcoming Memorial Day Remembrance ceremony being held at the Henry P. Robeson Park on May 26, at 6:30 PM. All are encouraged to attend.

Lori Brown complained of the disrepair of the rain spouting at 19 West Penn Avenue and was wondering how it passed a rental inspection. Council directed manager to contact Kraft Codes Services to discuss and get problem rectified. All other visitors were observing at this time.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner asked for an Executive Session at 7:35pm to discuss the matter of a potential property acquisition. Regular session reconvened at 8:15pm.

SOLICITOR. Solicitor George presented the following ordinance to approve advertising for adoption at the June meeting:

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES BY AMENDING CHAPTER XXIV ENTITLED “TAXATION, SPECIAL”, PART 1 ENTITLED “EARNED INCOME AND NET PROFITS”, TO: (1) AMEND THE DEFINITIONS OF “COLLECTOR”, “LOCAL TAX ENABLING ACT”, “TAX”, AND “TAXING AUTHORITY”, AND ADD A DEFINITION FOR “TAXPAYER”; AND (2) AUTHORIZE THE ENGAGEMENT OF A THIRD-PARTY COLLECTION AGENCY TO PURSUE AND COLLECT DELINQUENT TAX IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS

Mr. Martin made the motion to approve advertising Ordinance 2016-2 for adoption at June meeting. Mr. Schnee seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

ENGINEER- There was no engineer’s report for the month of April.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting, scheduled for May 18th, if needed.

MANAGER – Ms. Heilman presented the following:

Reminder: Four council members (quorum) must be present at the June 16th Joint Planning Commission meeting in Womelsdorf at 7PM.

Invitation has been extended to municipal officials to attend a BCERT field training exercise on May 14th. Anyone interested in attending must let her know no later than May 11th for registration.

Presented Council with a letter from Candace Kintzer Perry (daughter of David Kintzer) offering the Borough a .27 acre tract of land located off North Brooke Street, behind Lincoln Avenue. Council declined the offer and directed Borough Manager to respond and offer Tom & Heather Auchenbach as alternatives to receive the property (after confirmation from the Auchenbachs that they would still take it).

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter advised Council that there were 68 calls and 87 contacts made during the month of April and that vehicle accidents (both reportable and non-reportable) have been

down since the beginning of the year and he is very pleased with that result. He advised Council that the police are ready to participate in the Robesonia fair.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Soliday 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 reported the next meeting is scheduled for 5/3/16. All are welcome to attend. Mr. Martin advised Council that Fire Chief Gerry Ochs is in the hospital and advised everyone they are doing what must be done to keep on top of things at the Fire Company during his absence.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – April meeting minutes were included in agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that Jamie Swoyer has been hired as the new permanent part-time streets help and is working out very well so far. Council was informed that he and Borough Manager attended a meeting with PennDOT and Tom Kinsman of JD Eckman to discuss the 422 Improvement project. Ms. Wertz asked the status of the curbs. Mr. Marshall advised that we were assured during the meeting that any curbs damaged during the project would be repaired (PennDOT and JD Eckman must still work out the particulars of that, but they assured us they would be repaired). It was suggested that assurance be gotten in writing from PennDOT. Also, Mr. Marshall suggested that any curb replacement needing to be done between Church Street and the west end of town not be aggressively pursued for now since the project requires them to dig down 28 inches and he fears this could adversely affect many newly repaired curbs. Since there is no moratorium on cutting into the street following the project, he suggested we wait to go after any curbs in that area that may still need improvement till after the project is complete. Letters will be sent to those properties from Church Street eastward, allowing them until 5/31/17 for completion since no work can be done on the curbs while the project is going on in the Borough. Those who received previous letters will get reminder letters telling them their projects must be complete by 5/31/16.

Parks & Recreation –Mr. Marshall advised Council that the water fountain at the ballfield pavilion has been taken down..

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report

Langjahr – Absent.

Soliday- No report.

Wirebach- No report.

Martin- Mr. Martin advised Council that he will need volunteers to put out flags on Thursday, May 26, in the morning (for the Remembrance Ceremony) or, if necessitated by a prediction of rain, on Wednesday morning.

Schnee- Mr. Schnee advised Council that he attended the CNN awards at the High School and he felt the turnout of local officials should have been better since the kids did a great job on their videos. There were over 2,000 submissions for the awards, eight of which were awarded in Pennsylvania. And three of those were to Conrad Weiser students and that is something that should be acknowledged.

Wertz – Ms. Wertz stated that Shrek the Musical was great and Grayson Ziegler gave a terrific performance as Shrek.

Ziegler- Grayson thanked everyone for their support.

Mayor Gartner- No report.

NEW BUSINESS – Manager reminded everyone that spring clean-up is on May 6th & 7th. Also, she has Ribbons of Respect for anyone wanting some to hang up during the month of May.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Mr. Rohrbach stated he was just following up from last month and asked what the result was from the environmental attorney. Mayor Gartner stated he is planning to meet with Jack Keener for his assistance to get firmer figures for the proposed clean-up of the Breininger property. Ms. Wertz stated a final determination would be made by the July meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA meeting minutes.
- WBRPD Treasurers Report, payroll report, monthly report and meeting minutes.
- Kraft Codes monthly property maintenance report.

On a motion by Mr. Wirebach, seconded by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8.59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary
Borough of Robesonia