

President Abby Wertz called the May 4, 2015 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Tony Wirebach, Bob Pierce, Rod Soliday and Frank Schnee. Council Member, Bill Langjahr and Jr. Council Member Grayson Ziegler were absent. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Mayor Randall Gartner, Police Chief Bill Schlichter and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Streets Supervisor Garry Degler, Fire Chief Gerry Ochs, David Bright, Charlia Koch and Val of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr Pierce, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the April 6, 2015 Council meeting were approved as presented. On a motion by Mr. Schnee, second by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes for the April 21, 2015 Workshop meeting were approved.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – David Bright, on behalf of the POSofA reminded Council of the Memorial Remembrance Service being held the Henry P Robeson Memorial Park on May 28th at 6:30 PM. All are invited and encouraged to attend. Charlia Koch was following up on a complaint she had previously issued regarding the foul balls from the baseball field damaging her garage and her concern over bodily injury from the balls landing in their yard. When Council explained that the netting looked into to protect her property was cost prohibitive, Frank Schnee suggested we look into the possibility of placing a fence just behind her garage to protect, at least, that building. She will discuss with her son-in-law (who owns the other half of her house) and let us know if that would be an acceptable alternative (providing the cost is reasonable to the borough). The issue of whether to place the fence on borough property or on Ms. Koch's property (with some type of legal agreement acknowledging the fence is actually borough property) was discussed.

Chief Gerry Ochs presented Council with a proposal to add an endorsement to the Fire Company's Vehicle insurance which would allow the Fire Company's insurance to be the primary insurance for any of the volunteers responding to a call that might get involved in an accident. The annual cost for the endorsement is \$238.00. Since the annual cost of the insurance is actually less than it was in 2014, Manager explained the money was in the budget to cover the additional cost of the endorsement. Mr. Pierce made the motion to add the endorsement, Mr. Wirebach seconded and Council unanimously approved. Mr. Ochs thanked Council for their support.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner thanked Garry Degler for his work on the Keystone Marker at the east end of town. The sign looks great and his efforts are greatly appreciated. Mayor Gartner asked that the properties at 310 West Oak Avenue (former Porter's Lawnmower Service) and 284 Freeman Street be turned over to Kraft Codes Services for clean-up. Mayor Gartner advised Council of a Facebook post received from resident Desinie Esterly-Smith regarding feral cats. He advised Council that he told Ms. Smith what she could do (obtain live trap and contact Animal Rescue League to pick up the cats) to rectify the situation, but Ms. Smith was resistant to the idea and suggested the problem is the Borough's to handle.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George provided Council with the suggested amendments to the Police Charter Agreement. Council reviewed the proposed changes and discussed the verbiage for several of the issues. Under Article V, Section D, Council felt one year appointments should be maintained. Under Article VI, Section D, Council felt the budgetary issue component should be more detailed (to include any purchases over 1% of the budget). Under Section VII, Section A, Council felt the October 1st date for the submission of a final budget could be kept as is. Under Section VII, Section B, it is felt that the Treasurer should be bonded, however, the determination should be made who actually has access to the money in the accounts and that person should be bonded. Article IX, Section B, the Council agreed that this paragraph is redundant and should be removed. Article XV, Section C was discussed at length. The list of identifiable costs was very murky, i.e. what do "Contingent welfare benefit costs" consist of? And what are "Awards and legal fees regarding collection bargaining Charter Agreement and unfair labor practices"? What is "Unit cost increases to remaining Charter Municipalities" referring to? All will be discussed at the Tuesday, May 5th Commission meeting.

ENGINEER- The Engineer's report for April consisted of minimal MS4 work and preparation for an upcoming mock DEP visit.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting, scheduled for May 20th, if needed.

MANAGER – Council was advised that at the Western Berks Joint Planning Commission meeting, the quorum present voted to approve up to \$1,000 additional in legal fees to wrap up the ACRE lawsuit.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter advised Council that 69 calls were answered in Robesonia in April. He also advised that all calls regarding telephone scams be forwarded to the Police Department.

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

Fire Protection/Safety – No report

Streets/Highways/Sewer – The April meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall reported a large sinkhole opened up on Pearl Street and A.H. Moyer was called to repair it. Mr. Schnee asked about the section of the Streets meeting minutes that discussed Mr. Marshall's suggestion that the Borough use Liquid Fuels money for the next three years to do as much base repair as possible. When the bridge loan is paid off, he suggested we borrow another \$500,000.00 to do as much overlay as possible with it since our streets (like most other municipalities) are seriously deteriorating. Mr. Marshall also advised Council that after seeking their approval at the April workshop meeting to have the South Church Street culvert repaired, he realized that due to the estimated cost, the project would have to be advertised and put out for bid. He's also since been told that a GP-3 permit will have to be obtained for the project as well.

Parks & Recreation –Mr. Wirebach sought Council's approval to build a playground registration form that could be completed online. He previously submitted a proposal to perform the work for \$276.00. The question arose about how much a Council Member could make while providing a service or goods to the municipality for which they serve. Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve the building of the registration form upon confirmation that Mr. Wirebach is within the allowed limits of earnings. Mr. Schnee seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved, with Mr. Wirebach abstaining from the vote. David Randler, as Chairman of the Heidelberg Township supervisors, advised Council that Heidelberg Township would be contributing \$500 to the Borough's playground program for allowing Heidelberg Township children to attend the playground program. Mr. Wirebach advised Manager that if Child Abuse checks are done through our local representative's office, they will go through much more quickly.

Personnel: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Wirebach - No report.

Langjahr – Absent

Soliday- No report.

Schnee. Mr. Schnee questioned the comment in the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority's meeting minutes referencing "Keener priced too high". Mayor Gartner explained it was referring to some property in Lebanon County that Jack Keener was interested in selling to the WRJA. Mr. Schnee thanked him for the clarification.

Pierce- No report

Wertz – No report.

Ziegler- Absent. (Serving as NEED Camp Counselor for the week)

Mayor Gartner: Mayor Gartner asked that the properties at 301 West Oak Avenue (the former Porter's Lawn Mower shop) and at 284 Freeman Street both be turned over to Kraft Codes Services for follow up. Both properties are a mess.

Mayor Gartner suggested that a follow up for curbs might be in order. Several residents are in the process of fixing their curbs, but there are still many to go. He suggested that, perhaps, reminder letters should be sent.

NEW BUSINESS – No New Business

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –Worker's Comp Insurance Cost Sharing is still being discussed.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA Treasurer's Report and meeting minutes for February.
- Monthly police report and Commission meeting minutes.

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On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Wirebach and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer
Borough of Robesonia