

President Abby Wertz called the May 7, 2012 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Frank Schnee, Ron Becker, Jr., David W. Rohrbach, Harvey Marshall, Bob Pierce and Michael Kocher. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Andrew George, Police Chief Scott Wagner and Secretary Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Lori Brown, Alton Hartman, Alissa Grove, David Bright, Timothy Madsen and Chris Reber of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the April 2, 2012 meeting were approved.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Alissa Grove, of 107 Furnace Street, asked if there was any way the Borough could remove the large sign in front of the cement barricades at the bridge on Furnace Street. It was explained to Ms. Grove that the sign is there as required by PennDOT. She asked if the sign could possibly be replaced by guiderail w/deflectors or something less obtrusive. Streets Committee will check with PennDOT on that possibility and get back to her. David Bright, on behalf of the POSofA, advised Council the flag box project is moving ahead. He provided Council with invitations to the Memorial Day Service being held at the Henry P Robeson Memorial Park on Thursday, May 24th at 6:30 PM.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner suggested Council consider contributing \$1,000/year toward the required fire radios. His suggestion is based on the fact that the Borough provides the Fire Company's vehicle insurance and internet connection as well as fully funding the workers' comp insurance. Mr. Schnee reported that the \$500 radios he had mentioned at the April meeting were compatible with FCC requirements but not with the county's. Solicitor George advised Council that he has received a revised promissory note, including some modifications requested from other municipalities, from the County. Mr. Rohrbach made a motion to approve the \$1,000 annual contribution to the fire radios. Mr. Pierce seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved the motion.

At 7:46, Council went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Regular meeting reconvened at 7:58PM.

SOLICITOR – Council unanimously directed Solicitor George to advertise the new Floodplain Ordinance for adoption at the June Council meeting on a motion by Mr. Schnee and second by Mr. Becker.

ENGINEER – The engineer's report was included in the packet, including updates on the repair of flood damages and the updating of the Floodplain Ordinance. Mr. Marshall made a motion to direct Spotts, Stevens & McCoy to complete the annual MS4 report at an estimated cost of \$1,000. Mr. Pierce seconded the motion and Council passed unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2012. The plans for Dr. Wertz's office will be discussed.

SECRETARY – Secretary presented request from 5th grade teachers for 5/30, 6/1, 6/4 & 6/5 for use of tot lot pavilion for end-of-year parties (including fee waiver). On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Marshall & unanimously carried by Council, requests were approved.

Submitted a complaint to Council regarding the property at 19 South Robeson Street. Mr. Schnee will check it out and give secretary assistance in composing a letter to the property owner. Owner will be given thirty days to correct all issues, then the matter will be turned over to Kraft Code Services (June 6), if not corrected.

South Heidelberg will be hosting a shredding event in September and seeking Council's interest in participating with them. Mr. Rohrbach suggested we take a month to consider the request and make a determination at the June meeting.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- Motion by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Marshall 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 – Meeting minutes from the April 16th meeting were included in agenda packet.

Parks & Recreation – The meeting minutes from the April 19th meeting were presented. Mr. Becker advised Council that a team from the Reading Softball League has started using the softball field and has paid for 7 games (\$140) up front.

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Library – No report.

Personnel: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – Mr. Marshall provided Council with information from Council on Chemical Abuse about limiting the public areas in which the Borough could allow people to smoke. He will be passing the information around to determine if there is any interest amount Council.

Schnee – No report.

Becker- Mr. Becker expressed concern over some of the overgrown vegetation in the Borough. There are several abandoned properties where the grass is over 6” tall and at least one property (425 West Penn Avenue) where the shrubs have grown over a large portion of the sidewalk. Mr. Becker made a motion to direct the Borough Street crew to mow the three properties and file liens against them. Mr. Kocher seconded the motion and Council passed unanimously. A letter will be issued to the property owners of 425 West Penn Avenue to remind them to keep their shrubs trimmed behind the sidewalk to allow for the free flow of pedestrian traffic.

Rohrbach – Mr. Rohrbach complimented the Streets Crew for doing a great job in removing the large sycamore tree from the creek (left behind during the September flood) and to Mr. Marshall and the Borough Secretary and Street Crew in their help in the distribution of the new recycling containers.

Pierce- Advised Council the Western Berks Regional Police Commission would like all complaints filed against the police department (or a particular officer) to be submitted in writing on the appropriate complaint form. Chief Wagner will provide forms to the Borough Secretary for use.

Kocher- No report.

Wertz - Ms. Wertz extended a thank you to all volunteers who helped with the creek area work on April 21st. We had 29 volunteers show up to help and a lot got done. She also reminded everyone that on May 12th volunteers will be needed (meeting at 9AM) to help replant the planters along Penn Avenue. She also advised Council that one of the planters was destroyed on Friday evening (5/4) in a car accident. Costs will be submitted to the insurance company of the driver for reimbursement for the replacement of the planter. She also asked Council’s approval to spend up to \$1,000 for the replanting of the pots. Mr. Rohrbach made a motion to approve the \$1,000 expenditure and the submission of the replacement costs for insurance reimbursement. Mr. Becker seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

Mayor Gartner: Mr. Gartner asked Borough Secretary to notify Kreitzer Sanitation that the trash collection has been missed several times at 123 North Robeson Street.

He also asked Chief Wagner to look behind 425 West Penn Avenue for two unregistered/uninspected vehicles and to have a notice sent to the property owner to have the vehicles brought into compliance or disposed of.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Al Hartman asked, once again, about the large tree in front of his property. He was, once again, told it is on the Shade Tree Commission’s list of trees on which action is to be taken.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Secretary