

President Abby Wertz called the June 1, 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, Bill Langjahr and Jr. Council Member Grayson Ziegler. 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, David Bright, Charlia Koch, Sheila Bucher, Lori Brown, Erica Ziegler, David Bean, Jim Cinelli, Lou Pichardo and Karen Feick of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr Pierce, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the May 4, 2015 Council meeting were approved as presented

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Sheila Bucher, of 18 East Penn Avenue, addressed Council on several issues she’s been having with the neighbors (and property owner) at 20 East Penn Avenue. She advised Council that the neighbors called the police on Friday, May 29th regarding her son walking through their yard (to talk to the neighbor at 22 East Penn Avenue) and three police cars showed up to respond. She felt the police overreacted to the incident. She advised Council that the neighbors put up a surveillance camera pointed at her property but questioned the legality of such an action. Solicitor George suggested she contact the Berks County Bar Association to get a consultation at a special rate for Seniors to discuss any legal recourse she may have. He explained to Ms. Bucher that Council can only enforce local ordinances and cannot enforce any criminal or civil matters. Charlia Koch asked the status of the net/fence being considered to protect their garage. Frank Schnee presented Council with the estimate provided by AKA The Fence Company to erect a 12’H x 30’W net behind the garage on borough property. The base cost provided was for \$1,640 (including the disposal of the dirt from the post holes). Ms. Koch advised Council that they would prefer not to have the fence erected. She suggested her son-in-law would erect a wood wall behind their shed if Council would consent to purchasing the materials. Council asked Ms. Koch to provide an estimate for the materials. All other visitors were observing (other than David Bean, Jim Cinelli and Lou Pichardo who would be presenting to Council under Mayor Gartner).

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner introduced David Bean (environmental lawyer) and Jim Cinelli and Lou Pichardo (Liberty Environmental). He advised Council that there was a piece of land that was part of the Breininger Estate that was found to be contaminated with lead as a result of the Furnace operations in the past. The plot of land involved is approximately three acres. Solicitor Bean advised Council on the legalities involved if Council should choose to purchase/take ownership of the property. He suggested the Breiningers have another entity interested in purchasing the untainted portion of the property. Mr. Cinelli advised Council on their options to remediate the property and potential funding sources should they choose to take ownership of the property. Council and Borough Manager had several questions for Mr. Bean and Mr. Cinelli. David Randler, as Heidelberg Township Supervisor, provided a cautionary statement to Council regarding the clean-up of brownfields sites, citing their experience with the brownfields site on Ryeland Road. It ultimately required three separate clean-ups, costing over \$13,000,000.00. Council President Wertz suggested a Workshop Meeting be held on June 16th to discuss the matter further. Mayor Gartner then asked Council if there were any objections to selling bricks to veterans to completely fill up the wall at HPR Park. No one had any objections.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George advised Council the suggested amendments to the Police Charter Agreement would be reviewed by Wernersville Council on Wednesday evening. He also advised Council that the overdue trash bills sent to the District Justice’s office have been getting positive results. 75% of the bills have been paid.

ENGINEER- The Engineer’s report for May consisted of minimal MS4 work and consultation with Pat Paterson regarding the South Church Street culvert.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting, scheduled for June 17th, if needed.

MANAGER – Manager presented request from Strausstown Borough for additional Fire Police Assistance for their 100th Anniversary Parade on Friday, June 12 and Saturday, June 13. On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Schnee and unanimously carried, motion was approved.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter advised Council that 103 calls were answered in Robesonia in May. He also advised Council that the Michael Wise Memorial Ride will be held on Sunday, June 14th and the lights will be put on flash for the duration of the ride going through the two boroughs.

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 – No report

Streets/Highways/Sewer – The May meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall sought Council's approval to award the work to CM High (as low bidder) for the Christmas light pole (6) replacement and the electrical work to replace timers and disconnects. Total costs: \$7,071.00

On a motion by Mr. Schnee and second by Mr. Soliday, Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Marshall then advised Council that the new recycling container/planters have arrived. He presented Council with a quote from DP Randler Landscaping for \$8,895.00 to install concrete pads to install the 6 recycling containers and the concrete pad and installation of the bus shelter.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Schnee and unanimously approved by Council, motion carried to award the work to DP Randler Landscaping. Both projects will be paid from the beautification grant money. Solicitor George reminded Council that an easement agreement was still needed for the bus shelter being placed in front of 2 West Penn Avenue.

Parks & Recreation –Mr. Wirebach reported that playground registrations have begun coming in.

Personnel: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Wirebach - No report.

Langjahr – No report.

Soliday- No report.

Schnee. No report.

Pierce- Mr. Pierce asked the status on the property clean up for David Hannigan's property (on Oak Avenue) and Michael Showalter's property on South Freeman Street. Manager advised that Kraft Codes has begun the process (via letter, photos etc). It was noted that Mr. Hannigan has begun cleaning up around his property. He next brought up the condition of the fence at 19 South Robeson Street. The fence in the rear is falling down (leaning out toward the alley). Manager advised that property now has a new owner and a letter will be sent asking owner to remove said fence. He advised Council that furniture (mattresses, etc) was left outside at 14 West Penn Avenue. Letters will be sent to both property owners. Mr. Pierce asked if the oversized trailer parking ordinance included boats. He advised Council that Mike Gerhart always has his boat parked along Railroad Avenue.

Wertz – No report.

Ziegler- Greyson stated he had a great time serving as a NEED Camp counselor but was happy to be back. Erica Ziegler advised Council that Greyson has been appointed as the president of the National Honor Society. Council congratulated him and applauded his accomplishments.

Mayor Gartner: Mayor Gartner reminded everyone of the upcoming Street Fair, explaining it costs \$13,000-\$14,000 to hold the fair every year. Everyone's participation is GREATLY appreciated!

NEW BUSINESS – No New Business

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –Worker's Comp Insurance Cost Sharing is still being discussed. Ms. Wertz asked that the call-volume spread sheets for North Heidelberg Township be obtained from Brian Gottshall (BCEMA) prior to the June workshop meeting. The ongoing curb replacement project was discussed. Mayor Gartner and Mr. Marshall will take the list and check which curbs have been repaired/replaced. Options for those curbs that have had nothing done were discussed (i.e. municipal liens?, revocation of Certificates of Occupancy for rental properties?, etc). Mr. Marshall suggested the curb in front of the Borough Hall needs to be repaired/replaced and advised that he received one bid to date. Council suggested more bids be obtained prior to awarding the work. Also, Mr. Marshall suggested that the Borough needs to consider repair/replacement of the curbing along Penn Avenue at the HPR Park. If we are going to require our residents along Penn Avenue to replace their curbing, we need to set a good example.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA Treasurer's Report and meeting minutes for April.
- Monthly police report and Commission meeting minutes.
- Western Berks Joint Planning Commission meeting minutes.

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On a motion by Mr. Langjahr, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer
Borough of Robesonia