

President Abby Wertz called the July 2, 2012 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Ron Becker, Jr., Harvey Marshall, Bob Pierce, Frank Schnee and Michael Kocher. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Jason Ulrich, Police Chief Scott Wagner and Secretary Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, David Bright, Gerry Ochs, Al Hartman, Barry, Katie & Fox Bryan, Karen Krater of Hoffert Surveyors and Chris Reber of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the June 4, 2012 meeting were approved. Mayor Gartner asked if a letter had been sent to the owners of 77 Patterson Drive regarding the fence. Borough Secretary advised the letter had not been sent to date and would be sent as soon as possible.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – Fire Chief, Gerry Ochs, gave a mid year report. Barry Bryan, of 368 South Freeman Street, asked Council to consider passing an ordinance prohibiting odors from drifting onto neighboring/adjoining properties. Mr. Bryan stated the odor from his neighbor's cigar smoke permeates his property, giving his wife migraines, his son asthma problems and him sinus issues. Borough Solicitor will investigate and determine what could, potentially, be done about this matter. Karen Krater of Hoffert Surveyors, presented the plan to Council for the Wertz Medical/Professional Building. They are asking Council to waive review to Heidelberg Township since the majority of the project is located in the township. Frank Schnee, as Planning Commission Chairman, confirmed Ms. Krater's assessment and advised Council that based on a recommendation from Dennis Smaglinski of Technicon Enterprises, II, the Planning Commission is also recommending the waiver of the review to Heidelberg Township. Mr. Schnee made the motion to defer review of the Wertz Medical Building project to Heidelberg Township. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved. Ms. Krater thanked Council. All other visitors were observing.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner thanked all the community organizations and volunteers who helped make the street fair a success.

**SOLICITOR** – Solicitor Ulrich advised Council that the meeting held with Fox Rothschild, the special solicitor representing Berks County in the Public Safety Radio project on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> was fairly unproductive and most municipalities/solicitors are still awaiting the agreement with the actual numbers in place before signing. The terminology in the agreement has been found to be offensive by many municipalities and lease/purchase agreements have been discussed as an alternate approach.

**ENGINEER** – The engineer's report was included in the packet, including updates on the repair of flood damages (GP-3 & GP-11 permitting) and MS4 annual report submission. On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, Mr. Bright was ordered to prepare the MS4 renewal application. Also, based on Mr. Bright's recommendation, council unanimously voted to pay the County approximately \$3,000 over the course of the next 5 years to continue participating in the unified approach for the MS4 education/outreach requirements on a motion by Mr. Becker, second by Mr. Marshall.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, if needed.

**SECRETARY** – Secretary notified Council that she was approached by borough resident, William Langjahr, who expressed an interest in being appointed to the Assistant Zoning Officer position. He is volunteering his time to handle the simple fence/shed matters as they were handled in the past. Mr. Schnee made the motion to appoint Mr. Langjahr to the Assistant Zoning Officer position. Mr. Becker seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** Motion by Mr. Pierce seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

**Finance/Administration** – Preliminary budget work will begin in July. Ms. Wertz made a motion to move \$30,000 from the General Fund to the Bridge Fund. Mr. Pierce seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – No report. Next meeting 7/3/12.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – Meeting minutes from the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were included in agenda packet. On a recommendation by Shade Tree Commission Chairman, John Ravert, Mr. Marshall made a motion to award bid

for proposed tree work to low bidder Stoltzfus Tree Service. (Bid for Penn Avenue work was \$1,020 and side street work was \$2,820. Mr. Schnee seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

**Parks & Recreation** – The playground leaders will be addressed regarding the mess being left behind for the Streets Department to clean.

**Personnel:** Changes to the non-uniform personnel policy were discussed. Mr. Pierce stated he felt part-time employees should receive no benefits. A meeting will be held on July 17 at 7:00 PM to further discuss the proposed changes.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – No report.

**Schnee** – Mr. Schnee sought the status of the bus shelter potentially being placed at the Getty property at the corner of South Robeson and West Penn. Since the Getty people are not responding to the Solicitor's attempts to contact them, other property owners will be approached about the possibility of placing the shelter on their property. Mr. Schnee will speak to Larry Kelchner (corner of South Church & West Penn). The possibility of placing the shelter at the Dollar General Property at the end of East Penn Avenue was also discussed. Mr. Schnee also advised Council that a basketball goal was placed in the planting strip in front of 34 N. Wayne Street for the children to play in the street. Since the planting strip is considered Borough property, the issue will be addressed as such, with the Borough Solicitor assisting the Secretary in writing the correspondence to address the problem.

**Becker**- No report.

**Rohrbach** – Absent.

**Pierce**- Mr. Pierce asked what the rules were regarding the rental of the Borough pavilion. He witnessed a party using the Borough's water supply for a sprinkler for the kids during one party. Council felt that the rental fee covered any water usage by renters. The suggestion was made to consider increasing the fees charged to rent the Borough Hall and Pavilion. Current rates are \$50 for residents and \$60 for non-residents. Due to the wear and tear on the properties, walls will need painting and carpet will need replacing in the near future. The fees charged are the lowest in the area and Council would like to consider restructuring the fees. Secretary will provide copies of the current rental agreement to all council members.

**Kocher**- No report.

**Wertz** - No report.

**Mayor Gartner:** No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No report.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mr. Pierce reported that Heidelberg Township voted against joining the Western Berks Regional Police Department. He also advised Council the next WBRP Commission meeting is scheduled for 7/3/12 at 7PM.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Secretary