

President Abby Wertz called the July 3, 2017 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Frank Schnee, Mike Martin and Tony Wirebach. Rod Soliday and Bill Langjahr were absent. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Andrew George, Streets Supervisor Garry Degler and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Vernon Bright, Lori Brown, David Bright, David Randler, Barbara Orth, Russell Getz, Douglas Zechman, Anthony Witman, Lori & Jerry Houck, Lori & Dan Broadbelt, Alyse & Mike Moore, Amber Knappenberger, J.C. Hoffa, Joey Eckenroth, Julie & Craig Hobschaidt, Kirstin Horner, John Minacapelli, Tiffany Hinkle, Marge Mengel, Beth Sattizahn. On a motion by Mr. Schnee, second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the June 5, 2017 council meeting were approved.

VISITORS & CITIZENS- John Minacapelli asked what the Borough is doing about the graffiti on the railroad underpass. Mr. Marshall advised him that the Borough purchased something called Taginator as recommended by Berks County Graffiti Abatement. We are hoping that between that and a new turbo nozzle for the pressure washer, we will be successful in removing the graffiti. Mr. Moore also recommended a product from Goof Off (which we will consider if the Taginator does not do the job). All other visitors were there to hear about the fiscal requirements for the MS4.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner explained to the audience that the MS4 program is an unfunded mandate passed down by the federal government as part of the Clean Water Act of 1987. He explained that the requirements to comply with this program are onerous and costly, especially for small municipal governments. He stated that the loan for the bridge repairs would be paid off in 2018 and we were hoping to take that money and use it for street repairs but now it would have to be used toward the MS4 compliance. He asked everyone to contact their state and federal representatives and express their outrage and opposition. He advised the audience that some of the requirements to comply in the future included removing their rain leaders to the streets and not washing their cars in their driveways. Additionally, they may be required to pay a “rain tax” or install rain gardens as a means of mitigating their stormwater runoff and paying for the compliance implementation. The engineering costs alone for the Pollutant Reduction Plan (which we just discovered is needed....and DEP is unwilling to grant us an extension for) and the completion of the NPDES application is estimated to be between \$20-25,000. Visitors were told that one of the simplest things they can do is to NOT blow their grass into the streets when mowing. The lack of enforcement for this was discussed as there is currently not an ordinance in place to prohibit this. Mr. Marshall made the motion to amend the current ordinance regarding grass/weeds or initiate a new ordinance. Mr. Wirebach seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

Mayor Gartner, as Treasurer of the Robesonia Fair Committee, apologized for the fireworks at this year’s street fair. There was a glitch with the battery used to set off the fireworks. The company has offered a \$1,000 refund and the promise to roll back the price for their show to the price paid two years ago and the assurance of a back-up battery if the Street Fair Committee goes with them again next year.

SOLICITOR. Solicitor George advised Council that the Keener Heights project is moving forward

ENGINEER- The Engineer’s Report was included in the agenda packet and included ongoing work on the MS4 permit renewal and an update on the Dean Baim subdivision.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Mr. Schnee advised Council the next PC meeting is scheduled for July 19, if necessary. He advised Council that the Planning Commission will take no action until Technicon has reviewed the new plans and advised the Borough of their recommendations.

MANAGER – Presented a request for Fire Police assistance for the July 22nd Shartlesville Fire Company Block Party. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve and Mr. Marshall seconded. Council approved unanimously.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter did not attend the meeting.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- On a motion by Mr. Schnee, second by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties.

Mr. Marshall then made the motion to approve the Manager to pay invoices prior to the Council Meeting and the due date of the invoice, up to \$5,000/invoice, to avoid any additional charges. Mr. Schnee seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration – Preliminary work will begin on the budget in July.

Personnel: No report.

Fire Protection/Safety – No report.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – Meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet.

Parks & Recreation – There are approximately 50 playground registrants this year.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall Mr. Marshall advised Council that he was approached with a quote from Technicon to perform the Borough's annual MS4 permit application and prepare the required Pollutant Reduction Plan. The price quoted was \$17,000 - \$22,000 (although they feel they will be on the lower end of that quote). David Bright, SSM, stated he wished he'd known the Borough was going to solicit other bids so he could have offered a more refined quote. Mr. Marshall informed Council that he spoke with Lee Murphy at the DEP (in charge of the state's MS4 program) who told him they do not change a municipality's designation unless a waiver is requested by them. He stated he feels that Kent Morey at SSM dropped the ball on this and we are now in a position to submit our PRP late as a result of it. Although a late submittal of the PRP is not fineable at this point, it will generate a reprimand letter from DEP. David Randler stated that Jennifer McConnell has done a great job on Heidelberg Township's MS4 program and that she attended the audit with DEP and they passed with flying colors. He advised Council that Jennifer also attends all the MS4 seminars/meetings and trainings on their behalf as well. David Bright stated they have the original listing from January from which SSM obtained the original designation of the Borough that required no PRP at that time. Frank Schnee has been telling us since March that there was something we were going to have to prepare, advertise and pass in order to be compliant with the MS4 requirements.....and yet, it was not followed through on. Following some discussion, Ms. Wertz made the motion to stay the course with SSM and allow them to complete the MS4 required NOI and PRP and to continue to lead the Borough in their MS4 compliance. Mr. Wirebach seconded the motion. Ms. Wertz and Mr. Wirebach voted yes. Mr. Marshall, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Martin voted no. Motion failed to pass.

Mr. Marshall made the motion to give the work to Technicon to complete. Mr. Schnee seconded the motion. Mr. Marshall, Mr. Schnee, Mr. Martin and Mr. Wirebach voted yes. Ms. Wertz voted no. The MS4 compliance of the Borough will be given to Technicon II, Inc.

Langjahr – Absent.

Soliday- Absent

Wirebach- No report.

Martin- No report.

Schnee- Mr. Schnee advised Council that he is still working on the house number matter.

Wertz – No report..

Mayor Gartner- Mayor Gartner reminded everyone that the Furnace Artisan's Show is scheduled for August 18/19, 8AM-3PM.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Borough Manager provided Council with the guidelines and sample ordinance on Act 172 as requested.

Mayor Gartner spoke with Carl Engleman regarding the Breininger Property Acquisition. Mr. Engleman asked for more info on the compost transfer facility.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA meeting minutes, treasurer's report and special meeting minutes.
- Kraft Codes reports from June and July.

On a motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Marshall, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary
Borough of Robesonia