

President Abby Wertz called the July 6, 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 Jr. Council Member Grayson Ziegler. Frank Schnee and Bill Langjahr were absent. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Mayor Randall Gartner, Police Officer Dan Albright and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Streets Supervisor Garry Degler, Vernon Bright and David Kostival of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr Marshall, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the June 1, 2015 Council meeting were approved as presented. On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes for the June 16, 2015 Workshop meeting were approved as presented.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – All citizens and visitors were observing.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner expressed his thanks to all who came out and supported the street fair and particularly thanked Harvey Marshall, Garry Degler, Erica Ziegler and Jim Beidler who all showed up to help with the clean up. Abstaining votes need a form filled out. Manager to check with PSAB for copy of form. Mayor Gartner advised Manager to send letters to 102 & 104 Birch Street (one has sofa and one has dresser sitting in front of properties...also, a letter to 119 North Brooke Street regarding sofa in front of their property.). He asked the status of the curb letters. Mr. Marshall advised Council that he is currently in the process of reorganizing the lists since the list he and Mayor Gartner provided to the Manager contained 49 new addresses to receive letters. He feels that Council needs to give the new recipients more than three months to repair/replace their curbs since the initial list of property owners received a year in which to improve their curbs. Council agreed. President Wertz advised all that the letters to the new recipients must be out by July 20<sup>th</sup>, while the strongly-worded follow-up letters to the initial recipients be out no later than July 31<sup>st</sup>. Then all must be combined into a master spreadsheet and distributed to Council at the August meeting. The Borough may need to consider taking out a bank loan to have all the curbs fixed on Penn Avenue and liens will be placed on the properties. Rental properties may be able to have their rental licenses revoked and liens filed until the work is completed.

**SOLICITOR** – Solicitor George advised Council the suggested amendments to the Police Charter Agreement would be voted on officially by Wernersville Council at their next scheduled meeting. He advised Council that The Wernersville Council accepted the changes to the Charter Agreement as presented.

**ENGINEER-** The Engineer's report for June consisted of a mock DEP visit with Kent Morey regarding the MS4 program and correspondence regarding the Route 422 Betterment Project.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting, scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup>, if needed.

**MANAGER** – Manager advised Council that the Robesonian Swimming Pool is in dire financial straits again and if they cannot drum up additional support, they may have to close their doors. Part of the the issue is excessive taxes (there was some discussion as to whether the number they are citing as their taxes includes ONLY property taxes or if that includes ALL their taxes...including withholding and the like). Heidelberg Township has money budgeted to give to the pool, however, they told the board they would not donate the money till their financials were given to the Heidelberg Board. At this time, they are still awaiting copies of the financials).

Ms. Heilman advised Council that she has been speaking to Paul Brooker of Reading Tax Solutions, LLC about performing the Borough's annual audit. The service with the current company has been subpar and extremely frustrating. The Borough is currently paying \$5,880 for their annual audit. Reading Tax Solutions, LLC has submitted a proposal to perform the audit for approximately \$4,500/year (a \$1,500 savings). Mr. Pierce made the motion to appoint Reading Tax Solutions in 2016. Mr. Soliday seconded the motion. After several minutes of discussion, the motion and second were rescinded and it was advised that two or three other proposals should be sought before making the final appointment. Manager will seek other proposals.

Manager presented email and resolution being sought by the PSAB General Membership in support of Senate Bill 3, the Medicinal Cannabis Act. Council discussed the various benefits of medicinal cannabis and the large number of people that would benefit from its use. Mr. Soliday made the motion, Mr. Wirebach seconded and Council unanimously approved supporting the resolution to support the legalization of medicinal cannabis.

Ms. Heilman submitted a request from Weight Watchers seeking a reduction in their weekly rental fee for the use of the Borough Hall. Council declined their request for a decrease since they are already being provided a discounted cost.

Ms. Heilman presented a request from a recent renter of the Tot Lot pavilion for a reimbursement of their rental fee since they felt they were misled by the rental agreement. Council felt it was the renter's responsibility to take a look at the property they were renting PRIOR to their rental to ensure their needs would be met. Request was denied. Council also suggested the rental agreement be broken out into two separate agreements to avoid any confusion in the future. Manager will divide current agreement into separate agreements.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Officer Albright discussed the options Council may have in getting the black truck parked in the 300 block of West Penn Avenue moved. He suggested the Borough first write a letter and if that failed, perhaps the police could come in at that point and try to assist in having it moved.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second 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** – The June meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Pierce asked the purpose of tar and chipping (as he's seen it done on several roads recently). Mr. Marshall described it as "poor man's asphalt" and as a measure to extend the life of a road. It is meant to be sealed within a certain amount of time following tarring and chipping.

**Parks & Recreation** –Mr. Wirebach reported that playground program is going well. Manager noted that the children at playground this season are a very young group and included several from Heidelberg Township.

**Personnel:** No report.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – Mr. Marshall reported that the sinkhole on South Pearl Street is finally (hopefully!) repaired. It took 72 yards of concrete and a large patch to repair the entire area.

**Wirebach** - Mr. Wirebach noted that the property owner next to 19 South Robeson Street has been putting out large amounts of cat food to feed all the feral cats in that neighborhood.

**Langjahr** – Absent

**Soliday**- No report.

**Schnee**- Absent

**Pierce**- Mr. Pierce advised Council that the fireworks were excellent this year.

**Wertz** – Ms. Wertz thanked Garry Degler for moving the last three buckets from the street fair for her.

**Ziegler**- Greyson thanked everyone who came out and helped at and/or supported the street fair. He asked the status of the available bricks at the Veteran's Memorial Wall at the HPR Park. (85 open bricks). Mayor Gartner advised him he's not yet had a chance to speak with the mason regarding the matter.

**Mayor Gartner:** Mayor Gartner asked Manager to write a letter to owner of 19 South Robeson Street regarding the fence blocking the sightlines from Dogwood Street onto Oak Avenue, even though we cannot force them to move it since it has been an existing fence for many years. Mayor Gartner advised Council that Jr. Council member, Grayson Ziegler, will be applying to the Naval Academy and has asked him to write a letter of recommendation. He asked Council's permission to write the letter on the Borough's official letterhead. Council approved wholeheartedly provided the letter is proofed by the Borough Manager prior to being provided to Grayson for his use.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No New Business

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** –No report.

**COMMUNICATIONS-**

- WRJA meeting minutes for April and May.
- Kraft Codes monthly report.
- Ron Seaman's report on the 6/4/15 TCC meeting.

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On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager/Treasurer  
Borough of Robesonia