

President Abby Wertz called the August 1, 2016 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Frank Schnee, Mike Martin, Tony Wirebach and Bill Langjahr. Council member Rod Soliday and Mayor Randy Gartner were absent. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Police Chief William Schlichter, Streets Supervisor Garry Degler and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were *Jacob Baum observing for Boy Scouts*, Lori Brown, David Bright, David Randler, Phyllis and David Hartman, Geoffrey Fisher, David Rohrbach and Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Langjahr and second by Mr. Schnee and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the July 5, 2016 council meeting were approved with the following correction: Under Streets and Highways the storm sewer work is in the 300 block of West Penn Avenue.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS-** Phyllis and David Hartman spoke at length about the issue of people burning chimineas and firebowls and the unhealthy smokey environment created by these things. Mr. Hartman stated that the smoke hangs along the mountain and does not rise. Mrs. Hartman advised Council of several medical ailments she suffers as a result of the smokey environment. Mr. Fisher stated that his 88 year old mother, Jean Fisher, cannot stand the smokey environment either even though she is a smoker. They also expressed concern about the chance of a stray spark starting a fire since children are allowed to play with the fire. Solicitor George suggested writing a letter to the neighbors may be helpful and documentation of the correspondence/burning/etc may be helpful in the event they need to pursue the matter if neighbors are not cooperative with their request. Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Hartman also expressed dismay at a neighbor's dog who escapes from his house/yard and defecates on their property. The recommendation was made to contact the police when it occurs (and, again, to get pictures, etc as proof) since it is a violation of the Pennsylvania Leash Law and these people have been notified before about keeping their pet on their own property. Mr. Randler and Mr. Rohrbach asked to speak later in the meeting and all others were observing.

**MAYOR** – Absent

**SOLICITOR**. No report.

**ENGINEER-** No report.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting, scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup>, if needed. It appears Mr. Baim will be moving forward with the zoning variance for his proposed subdivision plan.

**MANAGER** – Manager presented letter to Council written by Shade Tree Commission Chairman, John Ravert, that he would like signed by Council president and sent to Trinity Lutheran Church regarding the replacement of four trees in front of their property that are dead or dying as a result of weed whacking their trunks. Council felt the best approach would be to speak to Pastor Bill first then follow up with a letter. Manager to follow up.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Chief Schlichter reported 78 calls and 74 police contacts for the month of July. He advised Council that the WBRPD's bicycle safety presentation to the library kids and the Workplace Violence speech to the employees of Snap-On Tools both went very well. He reminded Council of the Coffee with a Cop event scheduled for August 17 from 8AM to 10AM at the Dunkin Donuts.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** On a motion by Mr. Schnee, 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.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Mr. Martin reported that the Fire Company made \$3700 on the Gun Raffle. He asked Council to consider allowing the Fire Company to do a boot drive (not sure if they are going to attempt it this fall or next spring if permitted). He advised Council that they are attempting to raise

money for a new truck and they would prefer to do so through fundraising...not tax increases. He reminded Council that there was going to be a vote for all members to decide whether to go tobacco-free at the Fire Company and Social Quarters or to continue to allow smoking/tobacco use. The meeting is on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** –July meeting minutes were included in agenda packet.

**Parks & Recreation** –No report.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – Mr. Marshall advised Council that he and Garry met with Steve Bright of EJB Paving to discuss the repair of South Church Street, South Pearl Street and West Oak Avenue for next spring.

**Langjahr** – No report.

**Soliday**- Absent

**Wirebach**- Mr. Wirebach asked if there were any guidelines in place to address the issue of time limitations when audience members address Council. Council advised Mr. Wirebach that a five minute time limit was established. This reminder will be included on the sign-in sheet going forward.

**Martin**- Mr. Martin thanked those who have helped in the past and reminded Council that the flags will be placed on Penn Avenue for Labor Day on Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10AM. Anyone willing/able to assist him would be greatly appreciated. Jacob Baum, Boy Scouts, suggested the Scouts may be able to help. Also, it will be put out on the Borough's Facebook page.

**Schnee**- Mr. Schnee advised Council that he'd found a cigarette butt in the grass beside his house and expressed concern about the possibility of starting fires with such careless actions during this time of drought.

**Wertz** – No report.

**Ziegler**- Grayson advised Council that this would be his last meeting attendance and that it has been an eye-opening experience dealing with government at the local level. He thanked Council for the opportunity to serve. Council thanked Grayson for his participation, wished him luck in his future and gave him a round of applause.

**Mayor Gartner**- Absent.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mr. Rohrbach asked why the water fountain at the HPR Park was not turned on. Garry Degler, Streets Supervisor, advised that it had been turned on but he would check it to determine the problem.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – Ms. Wertz asked the status of the curb repair project. Ms. Heilman reported the list has been updated again based on the new inspections done by Mayor Gartner, and Council Members Harvey Marshall and Bill Langjahr. Ms. Wertz then asked if the three bids had been obtained for the curb repair work. Mr. Marshall expressed several concerns regarding this project including the ability of any contractor to get this work done while Penn Avenue is being reconstructed and the funding for such a project. If we start on Penn Avenue, then we will have to move on to all the side streets and more funding will have to be obtained. How to fund? Ms. Wertz suggested the possibility of having to increase taxes to pay for it. Ms. Heilman suggested the consideration of passing an ordinance requiring all property owners have sidewalks/curbs inspected and repaired/replaced upon the sale of real estate. Mr. Marshall feels all options should be explored. Ms. Wertz suggested dropping the entire project. No decisions were made.

Mr. Randler advised Council that, once again, he is not happy with the rental inspection process. He noted that inspections were not performed uniformly/consistently. They vary from unit to unit and inspector to inspector. Mr. Schnee suggested the Borough request the use of only two inspectors to do all of the inspections and to discuss with those two inspectors exactly what the Borough wants/expects from each of these inspections. The possibility of seeking another firm to perform the inspections was also discussed.

David Rohrbach advised Council that based on the quote obtained from DP Randler Mulch & Landscaping the bricks for the walkway in the HPR Park would remain at \$40/each. The same form used for the wall will be updated and used for the walkway.

**COMMUNICATIONS-**

- WRJA meeting Treasurer's Report and meeting minutes.
- List of Active Firefighters and Fire Police
- Complaint from Phyllis Hartman regarding the burning and smoke of firebowls/chimineas.

On a motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary  
Borough of Robesonia