

President Abby Wertz called the August 3, 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, Frank Schnee, William 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, Vernon Bright, David Bright, Lori Brown, Terri Groff, Alton Hartman and Val Lacin of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr Marshall, seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the July 6, 2015 Council meeting were approved as presented. Frank Schnee asked that it is noted that in the June 16th workshop meeting minutes it states that “a few well-placed trees would probably help mitigate the problem of foul balls hitting the side of their garage”. The actual suggestion was for one or two well-placed trees.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – David Bright, on behalf of his wife, thanked the Borough for the placement of the new trash/recycling receptacles along Penn Avenue and noted they look very nice. Alton Hartman voiced his displeasure at the deteriorating condition of 110 North Robeson Street. It is in the foreclosure process and no one is caring for it. Borough Manager advised Mr. Hartman that the Borough would take a look and, if necessary, send in the street crew to maintain it and file a lien against the property. Ms. Groff, of 101 Mountain Road, advised Council of a mail delivery issue she is having with the post office. Mr. Marshall has been working with Ms. Groff on the matter. He told Council that the Post Office initially told Ms. Groff they would not deliver her mail because the Borough was not plowing the road. That was not true as the Borough was plowing the road all winter. Next, they stated they would not deliver the mail because of the big pothole in front of their mailbox. Road Supervisor, Gary Degler, has been working on getting that matter rectified (it has been an ongoing process due to water run-off from the mountain). Then they said they would not deliver the mail due to “unsafe” turn around conditions. Mr. Marshall stated he could easily, and safely, turn around his pick-up truck in the area. (The postal carrier drives a Jeep Cherokee which should easily be able to turn around at the same spot). Ms. Groff stated she’d have no problem letting them turn around at her garage as well. The Post Office also stated they cannot go more than a quarter mile off the road. Mr. Marshall measured the distance and it is only 570’ from South Church Street to the mailbox....significantly less than a quarter mile. Mr. Marshall and Mr. Schnee have offered to meet with the Post Office, on behalf of the Council, to try to bring this situation to a mutually satisfying conclusion for all parties. Council agreed.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner advised Council that the Friends of the Furnace Vendor show will be held on August 22 & 23, from 8AM to 4PM. Mayor Gartner asked Manager to have Kraft Codes take a look at the property at North Robeson Street. There is an old camper parked out back and the back yard is a mess. Mayor Gartner noted he is getting complaints about the potholes in town. Mr. Degler told Council that he is working on the potholes this week. Mayor Gartner presented Council with an article about the actions being taken by Minersville regarding vacant/abandoned properties and suggested the Borough of Robeson consider passing a similar ordinance in order to combat blight. Solicitor George suggested he will email Fleetwood’s current similar ordinance to Council for their review.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George presented Council with the final amended Charter Agreement for approval and reminded Council they needed to rescind their motion to withdraw from the Western Berks Regional Police Commission. Council suggested they would like to be able to fully read the final version before approving at the September meeting.

ENGINEER- There was no Engineer’s report for July.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting, scheduled for August 19th, if needed.

MANAGER – Manager advised Council that the Robeson Swimming Pool has provided their financials for 2013 and 2014 (both were included in agenda packet for Council’s review). Ms. Heilman advised Council that the annual Community Shredding Event is scheduled for October 24th from 10AM to 2PM. The cost to Robeson in 2014 was \$22.67. Mr. Pierce made the motion, and Mr. Soliday seconded, to participate in 2015. Council approved unanimously.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter advised Council that 73 calls and 84 contacts were reported in July. To date, 594 calls answered. Chief Schlichter also told Council the new Speed Detection Machine was working well.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- On a motion by Mr.Langjahr, second by Mr. Pierce 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 July meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that he's been spending a lot of time answering calls on curbs since the 2nd notices and new letters were sent out. He told Council that he will get quotes on the curb replacement for the HPR park after specs are obtained. He and Randy Gartner will measure and determine specs.

Parks & Recreation –Mr. Wirebach reported that he's been told the ballfield is in need of field reconstruction (all new diamond tex laid down). He will obtain some quotes to be included in the 2016 budget, if possible.

Personnel: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Wirebach – No report.

Langjahr – No report.

Soliday- No report.

Schnee- Mr. Schnee asked if we followed up on getting a legal agreement signed by the new owners of 100 East Penn Avenue for the garage being converted into an in-laws quarters. We will follow this up with Solicitor George. He also asked if any bricks could still be added to the wall at the HPR Park. Mayor Gartner stated there was still some room on the veteran's side of the wall for bricks to be added.

Pierce- No report.

Wertz – Ms. Wertz advised Council that the Finance Committee discussed the possibility of composing a 5 or 10 year plan for the replacement of curbs in the borough. Also, the possibility of determining a plan for the replacement of streets was discussed. A committee was formed consisting of Harvey Marshall, Rod Soliday and Randy Gartner. Based on a conversation with EJB Paving, any road work needed next year should be put out for bid this year to get the best pricing. Mr. Marshall again mentioned his idea of using our current liquid fuels allocation (approximately \$183,000), plus next year's allocation (approximately \$47,000) to do all base repair work, then when the bridge is paid off, take out another large loan to complete the overlay work.

Ziegler- No report.

Mayor Gartner: Mayor Gartner relayed to Council that the dam work has been completed for the Water Authority. A parking area below the hatchery is again open to the public, until such time vandalism makes the Authority reconsider. He suggested everyone get up and take a look at the work as they've done a really nice job on the project.

NEW BUSINESS – No New Business

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –No report.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA meeting minutes for May and June.
- Kraft Codes monthly report.
- Police payroll report.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer
Borough of Robesonia