

President Abby Wertz called the August 4, 2014 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Ron Becker, Jr., Bob Pierce, Rod Soliday and Bill Langjahr and Mike Kocher. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Mayor Randall Gartner and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Frank Schnee, Falco DiBiase, Pastor Keith Yeager, David Bright, Charlia Koch, Garry Degler, and Steve DeLucas of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr. Langjahr seconded by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the July 7, 2014 Council meeting were approved as presented.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Frank Schnee advised Council that Muddy’s BBQ has requested the ability to hold “special events” at its current location at 141 West Penn Avenue. Both Mr. Schnee and the Borough Manager feel that “special events” needs to be better defined before approval is granted since these events could greatly impact traffic and parking (since most of Mr. Baum’s tenants are assigned parking spaces in the lot next to Muddy’s). Falco DiBiase and Pastor Keith Yeager were seeking Council’s approval to allow Mr. Yeager to hold small church services at 15A North Robeson Street. Again, Frank Schnee and Borough Manager, Lisa Heilman, expressed some reservations due to the parking situation. Wells Fargo bank denied access to their lot for these services. Pastor Yeager explained there would probably be only about seven vehicles at his services to be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. He explained that they would have to move if his church expanded by much. Since the bank is closed at those times, the parking along the west side of North Robeson Street would support, at least, four vehicles and parking on the east side would probably be able to support another three or four. Mr. Becker made the motion to provide a Temporary Occupancy Permit with the ability to revisit the situation should parking become a problem. Mr. Langjahr seconded the motion and Council unanimously passed. Charlia Koch thanked the Rec Board and Council for providing the trees to help protect her property. However, there is still the problem of foul balls hitting the side of her garage. Council discussed the possibility of putting up some kind of netting to protect the property. Since the ball season is over, Council will look into having the matter rectified by the end of March next spring.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner thanked everyone involved in spreading mulch in the tot lot over the weekend. Several Council members and RCA members participated and the tot lot looks great with the addition of the new mulch. Mayor Gartner discussed H.B.2408 which would amend the Sunshine Act to require municipalities, municipal authorities, committees, etc. to provide agendas to the public ahead of the meetings and, unless the topic is included on the agenda or in an advertisement, the Council would be unable to either discuss or vote on the matter. Additionally, all agencies would have to give an additional public notice at least 24 hours in advance of the start of the meeting with a copy of the agenda. All of this would result in considerable cost and slowing of the governing process. This bill would also require all executive sessions to be recorded and the recordings saved. Mayor Gartner feels each Council member should contact their legislators to voice their strong opposition and concern for this bill.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George provided Council with a copy of the revised Charter Agreement. The revisions were gone over individually and discussed. One small revision was suggested to the wording under Article SV, Section H, to include the wording *in the event of more than two municipalities are involved in the agreement*. Mayor Gartner suggested that, if passed by Council, the revised agreement should then go to Wernersville for their approval. Mr. Langjahr made the motion to approved the revisions to the Police Charter Agreement as presented. Mr. Soliday seconded the motion. On a motion of five to two (5-2), with Mr. Pierce and Mr. Kocher voting nay, the motion carried.

ENGINEER – The Engineer’s report included renewing the Highway Occupancy Permit for the stormwater pipe under the 300 block of West Penn Avenue and Kent Morey’s attendance at the quarterly MS4 Steering Committee Meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting, scheduled for August 20th, if needed.

MANAGER – Ms. Heilman advised Council the Borough received a nice thank you letter from the Robesonia Fish and Game Association for our donation to their annual trout rodeo. Also, sought Council’s approval to allow the library board to hold a Kauffman’s BBQ fundraiser on November 1 in front of the Borough Hall. Council approved.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter thanked Mayor Gartner for his assistance at the Street Fair and reported that 91 children were fingerprinted at the event. He also advised Council that the WBRPD was considering running another bike rodeo in the fall, this time separating the two municipalities into two separate events.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second 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 – Ms. Wertz asked all Committee Chairs to bring their budget numbers for 2015 for their respective committees to the next budget meeting scheduled for August 27 at 7PM

Fire Protection/Safety – No report.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – Meeting minutes from the July meeting were included in the agenda packet. Solicitor George advised Council that a letter had been sent to the owners of 101 Mountain Road about the possible vacation of the street (or the removal of the installed gate). Curb letters were sent out to 90-96 property owners. Mr. Pierce thanked Garry and the streets department for fixing the pothole on South Pearl Street.

Parks & Recreation –The playground program is winding down, with August 8th being the last day of the program. The kids went to The Works (thanks to the generosity of Harvey Marshall for providing transportation in his motorhome since the cost of other transportation options were prohibitive) and had a terrific time.

Personnel: The Performance Evaluation process will be starting following the August 19th Personnel Committee meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – Mr. Marshall advised Council that he met with the owner of McDonald's in Womelsdorf who is remodeling the restaurant and selling off much of the old equipment. We can purchase a 3-basin sink, 3 tables and two storage shelves, all in stainless steel, for \$900. We've already ripped out all the old counters/cupboards in the ball field pavilion and Mr. Marshall would like to pressure wash and repaint the concession stand and replace the old counters/cupboards with the stainless steel equipment. Mr. Becker made the motion to purchase the equipment. Mr. Pierce seconded and Council unanimously passed the motion. Several Council members volunteered to help pressure wash/paint the pavilion.

Langjahr – Mr. Langjahr reported a complaint he received from Tom Wenrich on West Ruth Avenue about flooding issues he's had in his basement. Ms. Wertz advised Mr. Langjahr to remind Mr. Wenrich of all the stormwater management seminars the Environmental Advisory Council held from January through May to educate people on what they could do to help mitigate stormwater run-off and how little interest anyone showed in attending these seminars until the flooding affects them.

Becker- Mr. Becker recommended another tree-trimming day be held in the fall.

Soliday- No report.

Pierce- Mr. Pierce asked if anyone had purchased a ticket, or even knew where to purchase one, for the car raffle being held to help pay for the Jack Frost Frolic Parade. Borough Manager advised Council that she has 10 to sell if anyone is interested. Mr. Pierce asked how follow-up on complaint letters is handled.

Kocher- No report.

Wertz - Ms. Wertz discussed the placing of the flags along Penn Avenue during Memorial Day, Labor Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veteran's Day. It appears that the Boy Scout Troop has not recently had the support to do this properly. The Borough will contact the Scout leader to get all the flags back and keep them at the Borough Hall. Volunteers will be sought (including community service kids at the high school) via a newsletter article. The Scouts will be more than welcome to assist the volunteers.

Mayor Gartner: Mayor Gartner advised Council that the dam project is complete and all heavy equipment has been vacated from the premises. The South Church Street road project can commence if the Streets Committee chooses to do so.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Marshall advised Council that a meeting was held with PennDOT and the Larson Design Group personnel to discuss the 422 Betterment Project and we've been advised that PennDOT will pay entirely for the replacement of the storm sewer under the 300 block of West Penn Avenue. Additionally, several more storm drains will be added to compensate for the removal of the crown in the road. Our thermoplastic lines (that PennDOT milled off two months after putting them down) will also be replaced. We have agreed to maintain the white parking/bike lane lines that will be put down during the project. He also advised a center turn lane will be included in the final product.

Borough Manager, Lisa Heilman, sought a motion from Council to direct Spotts, Stevens & McCoy to prepare and submit the annual MS4 report on behalf of the Borough. Mr. Pierce made the motion, Mr. Marshall seconded and Council unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No report.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- Monthly police report and Commission meeting minutes.
- Code enforcement report.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager
Borough of Robesonia