

President Abby Wertz called the August 5, 2013 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Ron Becker, Jr., Bob Pierce, Frank Schnee, Mike Kocher and David Rohrbach. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Police Chief Bill Schlichter, Mayor Randall Gartner and Secretary Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Vernon Bright, David Bright, Lori Brown, Bennie Freeman, Dawn Landis, Vance (Skip) Ulrich, Terry Getz, Robert May, Donald & Darlene Noll, John & Pam Seiger, Dale Stauffer, Patricia Bechtel, David Zwicky, Scott Wagner, Pastor Bill Weiser of Trinity Lutheran Church and Pastor Tim McBratney & Matt Fuhrman of Illuminate Church. On a motion by Mr. Schnee, seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the July 1, 2013 meeting were approved. On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Schnee and Council's unanimous approval, the meeting minutes from the July 16th Workshop meeting were passed.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Lori Brown was following up on the parking issue discussed at the June and July meetings and opted to wait to speak until it was discussed under old business. Bennie Freeman presented photos and explained to Council that he has had a water run-off issue from South Freeman Street since the old house on that property was razed and a new dwelling erected. He has tried to talk to the current property owner but has had no success in getting them to re-direct the water onto their own property or out to the street. Council directed Borough Secretary to contact the Codes Enforcement Officer to address the issue and pursue it until it is corrected.

Dawn Landis and Skip Ulrich asked Council what can be done to prevent flooding like they had during the rain event of July 22 (Ms. Landis told Council she measured 9-1/2" of rain from that event). They feel the swale and detention pond need some type of alterations to make them more effective. Pat Bechtel, David Zwicky, Dale Stauffer, Terry Getz, Robert May, Donald & Darlene Noll and John & Pam Seiger were all at the meeting to discuss flooding issues along North Church Street and Lincoln Avenue. Ms. Bechtel advised Council that after having lived in her home for 48 years and never having a problem, she's been flooded twice in the last two years. The flooding is deteriorating her brick patio and garage walls. Several of the residents stated they also had sewage in their basements and flood damage. David Zwicky explained to Council that as a result of a brief site survey, he has recommended the removal of debris along the unnamed tributary running parallel to Lincoln Avenue. He has offered to bring in rollbacks to allow the residents to do this at their convenience if the Borough will agree to pay the transportation costs for the rollbacks (\$90/box). Mr. Becker made the motion to accept Mr. Zwicky's offer and to pay the transportation costs. Mr. Kocher seconded the motion and Council unanimously agreed. Mr. Zwicky has also suggested the Borough contact DEP to get their determination on the possible removal of the bamboo grove growing along, over and through the tributary. Secretary will contact DEP to discuss the matter.

Pastor Tim McBratney and Matt Fuhrman, of Illuminate Church, asked if it would be possible to rent the Borough Council room one day a week, for approximately 10 weeks starting in January. Council explained they would be more than welcome to rent the room. Fees will be discussed at a future date.

Former Police Chief, Scott Wagner, thanked Council for their support during the last four years of his career. Their cooperation and support were greatly appreciated while getting the Regional Department up and operating. Council thanked Chief Wagner for his service.

Pastor Bill Weiser of Trinity Lutheran Church advised Council that the circus scheduled for September 12th may also extend to September 11th. Secretary advised Council that she had received a request from Trinity Church to extend the use to include September 11th. Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve the September 11th request. Mr. Becker seconded and Council unanimously approved the request. Pastor Bill also advised Council that the plans for the Halloween Parade were coming along well. They have a Mummer's band, the High School band, and other community organizations involved in the parade. He asked that the Borough provide trash receptacles along the parade route that day. He also informed Council that the Water Authority and Fire Police have already been contacted regarding their involvement in the parade and everything seems to be under control. He asked if vendors wanting to sell items along the parade route would require a permit. Council advised him a Peddler's Permit (annual cost of \$10) would be required for each vendor participating. Pastor Bill offered the volunteer help of members of his congregation the second weekend of September in the streambank clean-up along Lincoln Avenue.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner asked Chief Schlichter if they've had any luck in finding those responsible for the vandalism at the Furnace property. Chief Schlichter advised Council they are still seeking the perpetrators.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George presented Council with the Agreement with the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority to piggyback on their water main replacement contract to have some street work done on South Church Street at a cost of \$5,000. Mr. Pierce made the motion to sign and approve the agreement. Mr. Becker seconded the motion and Council unanimously agreed.

ENGINEER – The engineer’s report was included in the agenda packet and included submission of the MS4 permit and application to renew the MS4 Discharge Permit, the repair of the stormwater culvert under West Penn Avenue and the South Church Street water main replacement. Mayor Gartner informed Council that he spoke with Representative Jim Cox about the expenses involved in the MS4 permitting process.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for August 21st, 2013, if needed.

SECRETARY – Secretary submitted request from CW Youth Soccer to use fields for practices, Monday-Friday, starting ASAP thru late October or early November. Secretary advised organization of those dates already booked and that they would need to remove/move their soccer goals to allow for the use of the baseball fields on weekends. Mr. Schnee made the motion to permit the use and waive the fees. Mr. Kocher seconded the motion and Council unanimously passed.

Secretary presented two requests for Fire Police assistance: Heidelberg Township, 8/25/13-Freedom Ride; Womelsdorf Borough, 10/17/13- Halloween Parade. Mr. Schnee made the motion to agree to requests. Mr. Becker seconded and Council unanimously approved.

Secretary presented invitations to participate in parades: 9/21/13, Sinking Spring Borough’s 100th Anniversary; October 27th, Trinity Lutheran Church’s Halloween Parade in Borough. Council will consider some type of entry in the Borough’s Halloween Parade. Mr. Becker made the motion to donate the \$300 budgeted for Trick or Treat Night to Trinity Lutheran Church for the Halloween Parade. Mr. Pierce seconded and Council unanimously approved.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter advised Council that WBRPD will have a car leading the Halloween Parade and that he has been in discussions with the Water Authority and they plan to have South Church Street project completed in time for the Halloween Parade.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration – Preliminary budget work was started in July.

Fire Protection/Safety – Next meeting, August 6, at the Fire Company. Mr. Becker will inform them of the Fire Police Assistance requests.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – July meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. The driveway washout issue along South Freeman Street was addressed. Secretary advised Council she sent a letter to the owner (Amy Fisher) but it was returned. Council directed Secretary to check the Berks County Assessment website to determine if another address could be found. Mr. Marshall reported that he had received a call from John Schittler of 450 West Oak Avenue reporting he had flooding issues again. Mr. Marshall reported that at one time, Jack Keener had a pile of stone on his property to help slow down the flow of water from his property behind Oak Avenue. That pile has since washed away. He asked Council if contact should be made with Mr. Keener to arrange a meeting with Mr. Schittler to see if a resolution can be found to rectify the flooding problems experienced by the Schittlers. Council agreed contact should be made.

Parks & Recreation – Playground season will end on August 9 and the kids will be taking a trip to the South Mountain YMCA camp on that day. Overall, the program was a disappointment. The kids did not get to enjoy any of the activities promised by the YMCA.

Personnel: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Schnee – No report.

Becker- Mr. Becker suggested that residents be reminded that sump pump discharge should not be going into sanitary sewers either through letters or an article in the Borough newsletter. Council agreed. Mr. Becker asked if any response has been received from John Ravert regarding the tree work the Borough requested to be done to provide 7 ft. clearances over sidewalks and 14’ clearances over roadways. The Borough has received nothing in writing to date from Mr. Ravert regarding that request.

Pierce- No report.

Rohrbach – Mr. Rohrbach asked the status of the schoolhouse apartments. The vegetation has been cleaned up. Mr. Rohrbach advised the Secretary to have the Street Supervisor check the stairwell for standing water and trash.

Kocher- Mr. Kocher advised Council that the trash collectors are only dumping half the trash when collecting. Secretary advised Council that she is getting similar complaints from residents regarding their recycling collections as well.

Wertz - Ms. Wertz advised Council that the Artisans at the Firehouse show will be held on August 17 & 18th. Come out and support the event.

Mayor Gartner: No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Council is still awaiting a response from the Robesonia Municipal Authority regarding the renewal of the agreement.

Tenant parking at 17/19 West Penn Avenue was again discussed. Property owner, Randy Criss, has not yet submitted a copy of his tenant lease as requested. Lori Brown informed Council that 19 W. Penn Avenue has been rented again and the tenants are parking in front of her candy shop. Mr. Schnee feels the Zoning Officer should send a letter to Mr. Criss advising him of his violation of the conditions of his variance.

NEW BUSINESS –Mr. Marshall made the motion to put the West Penn Avenue Storm Sewer repair project bid advertising on hold till January since the Highway Occupancy Permit has been obtained. Mr. Pierce seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved.

Mr. Randler asked who is handling property maintenance in town since there are several unkempt properties. He feels this needs to be addressed.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- Monthly Police Report.
- WRJA June Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's report.
- July Monthly Property Maintenance Report.
- Thank you from Berks County Conservancy for annual donation.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Rohrbach and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Secretary