

President Abby Wertz called the August 6, 2012 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Ron Becker, Jr., Harvey Marshall, Bob Pierce, Frank Schnee and Dave Rohrbach. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Andrew George, Police Chief Scott Wagner and Secretary Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Vernon Bright, Bill Langjahr, Ray Bealer and Chris Reber of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Schnee, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the July 2, 2012 meeting were approved.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – Ray Bealer issued a complaint about the rental property inspections and the change in the electrical requirements. He has six units, five of which need repair, and has asked Council if he could have more time to make the repairs as his wife is currently in the hospital and will remain there until sometime in September. Council agreed to give him to year's end to make repairs. Secretary to contact Kraft Codes Service and notify them of the situation. Bill Langjahr, the new assistant zoning officer, was introduced to Council, who thanked him for volunteering for the position.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner advised Council that he has spoken with Congressman Jim Gerlach regarding the NPDES MS4 permitting process and he has agreed to look into it. Also, he reminded Council that the Friends of the Robesonia Furnace will be holding a Craft Show on August 18/19, from 8AM to 4PM. Robesonia Redware, Furnace Creek Forge, Handwerk Tinware, Barbara Strasser and other artisans will be displaying their wares, the museum will be open for tours, food will be served. Please come out and support this event.

**SOLICITOR** – Solicitor George advised Council that in order to participate in the MS4 Cooperative Education efforts with the county, an ordinance would need to be passed. Mr. Rohrbach made the motion to advertise the ordinance for adoption at the September 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Mr. Becker seconded and Council unanimously approved. Solicitor George advised Council that the Dollar General was approached about the placement of the bus shelter in the front of their property. They were agreeable to the idea. Mr. Schnee told Council he had contacted Capitol Trailways (which is now part of Bieber) and the intersection at Penn & Robeson is listed as a stop on their schedule. He feels the Borough should potentially consider the eminent domain process as a means of obtaining the small plot of property needed to place the bus shelter at that intersection. Mr. George will look into whether that would be a possibility, although he did advise Council the eminent domain process can be costly to pursue.

**ENGINEER** – The engineer's report was included in the packet, including updates on the repair of flood damages (GP-3 & GP-11 permitting) and MS4 renewal permit submission.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, if needed.

**SECRETARY** – Secretary notified Council that Marshall Reynolds contacted her and asked Council to approve Ann Marshall as his Deputy Tax Collector as recommended by his auditor. The issue of bonding came up (must she be bonded, too?). Secretary will contact Mr. Reynolds and have him look into the matter. Subject to the findings of that issue, Mr. Schnee made a motion to appoint Ann Reynolds as the Deputy Tax Collector. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES** – Motion by Mr. Becker seconded 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** – Preliminary budget work will begin in August.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – No report.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – Meeting minutes from the July meeting were included in agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that Heidelberg Township was not happy with the street sweeping work done by the Borough in Fry Manor and Brossman Heights. Several piles of dirt were left at the intersections (which were subsequently cleaned up by Heidelberg Township's street department). Mr. Marshall explained that he determined the street worker who performed the work had not been properly trained on the street sweeper. Council directed the Secretary to send the full invoice to Heidelberg Township and any reduction would be negotiated at that time. Mr. Marshall asked the Secretary to provide a monthly schedule for the pavilion rental to Mr. Becker, Garry Degler, Richard Dissinger and him. Secretary agreed. Mr. Pierce asked what the cost of new tires (6) for the 2007 Ford would cost. Mr. Marshall suggested \$200/each was the approximate cost. Mr.

Marshall advised Council that the overhead door at the tot lot pavilion would need to be replaced since it has been damaged to the point where it can no longer be opened and closed properly. He recommended upgrading to a 20 ga. commercial grade door at a cost of \$1,304.00. Mr. Becker made the motion to approve the upgrade and purchase of the recommended door. Mr. Schnee seconded and Council unanimously agreed. Ms. Wertz directed the Secretary to try to get the names of the children involved in damaging the original door at playground. Mr. Marshall also suggested it is time to consider getting a surveillance camera installed at the tot lot pavilion to try to catch the vandals involved in defacing and destroying the property at the pavilion and tot lot. Mayor Gartner also suggested the police should consider more patrols in that area. Chief Wagner agreed to have his department patrol the area more frequently.

**Parks & Recreation** – The playground program is ending on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Personnel:** Proposed changes to the non-uniform personnel policy were presented by Mr. Schnee. Proposed changes include eliminating all benefits for permanent part-time employees except paid holidays and 2 personal days (at 4 hours each day, based on a regularly scheduled 20 hour work week). Mr. Schnee made the motion, Mr. Rohrbach seconded and Council approved on a 5-1 vote, with Mr. Pierce voting against the proposed change.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – No report.

**Schnee** – Mr. Schnee addressed Council with a proposal to contribute \$1,000 to the Western Berks Ambulance Assn. since no contributions were made to them in 2012. After much discussion, Mr. Schnee made the motion to contribute \$1,000 to the Ambulance Assn. Mr. Rohrbach seconded. Mr. Marshall also voted yes. Mr. Pierce, Mr. Becker and Ms. Wertz voted no. Mayor Gartner then voted no to break the tie. Motion failed.

**Becker**- No report.

**Rohrbach** – No report.

**Pierce**- Mr. Pierce asked how we were planning to enforce the removal of the basketball nets along the streets. There is no ordinance in place addressing them specifically. Secretary suggested potentially amending the ordinance regarding tree branches being required to be trimmed to a height of 14' over streets to allow for the free passage of truck traffic. Solicitor suggested Council consider changing the verbiage to include ANY objects over the street must be at least 14' above the roadway.

**Kocher**- Absent.

**Wertz** - No report.

**Mayor Gartner:** Mayor asked the street department have all the brush cleaned up behind the Furnace Firehouse prior to the sale scheduled for August 18/19. He also advised Council that the water authority is revisiting the idea of increasing the hydrant rentals. They may decide to increase water rates for everyone.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – Mr. Rohrbach made a motion to increase the rental fees for the Pavilion and Borough Hall be increased to \$75.00 for residents and \$100.00 for non-residents. Mr. Pierce seconded and Council unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mr. Marshall advised Council that one of our police officers suggested we consider putting a lock on the door between the foyer and the Council room. Council feels it is unnecessary since all offices are locked.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Secretary