

President Abby Wertz called the August 7, 2017 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, Rod Soliday and Bill Langjahr. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Andrew George, Streets Supervisor Garry Degler and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Vernon Bright, Lori Brown, David Randler, David Rohrbach, Mike Moore, Tom Kellenberger, June Brossman, Matt Yoh II, Joseph Hoffa, Dennis Redcay (Field of Dreams baseball team), Marianne McCloy, Joseph Eckenroth, Erica Ziegler, Scott Wenrich, Grayson Ziegler, Craig Lutz (Senator Argall's office), Chris Nelson & Tom Kinsman (JD Eckman), Larry Leisey (PennDOT) and Steve Delucas of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Wirebach and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the July 3, 2017 council meeting were approved.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS-** Dennis Redcay sought permission to close West Ruth Avenue from 9AM to 1PM for the Field of Dreams team fundraiser on August 12. This year's recipient is Heroes Heroes, who provides dogs for veterans. Council approved and Garry will provide barricades for their use.

Marianne McCloy discussed the dangerous situations being caused by the road work on Penn Avenue. People are speeding and parking on Oak Avenue and there is little to no police presence. June Brossman agreed and stated it has taken her 15-20 minutes to pull out from her residence at Randler Apartments on both Penn Avenue and Bernville Road. She expressed her concern of the ability of emergency vehicles to access her apartment complex in an emergency. Mike Moore discussed the drains backing up on Landis Avenue (there are none) and that the street needs the debris to be swept up. He's been in contact with John Ravert about the trees needing to be trimmed and neighbor, Joe Hoffa claims he has gotten a lot of attitude from Mr. Ravert when he contacted him about the trees. He also confirmed the flooding problem on Landis Avenue and stated the street is in very bad condition. Mr. Moore also asked if there's anything that can be done about people feeding stray cats. He has several neighbors feeding the many strays in the area. Borough Manager will contact Bernville Borough to get a copy of their ordinance. Matt Yoh spoke to Council in his position of Deputy Fire Chief on the road project and a recent incident. Tom Kinsman and Larry Leisey addressed Council and the audience on the road project. Mayor Gartner sought clarification on the completion timeline. Both apologized for giving erroneous completion dates earlier. They explained that several factors have impacted this project from the start: UGI's work took much longer than anticipated last summer; arsenic and cobalt contamination in the soil being dug up for the reclamation work; damage to and replacement of the water main and services, etc. They were asked why they are not doing any work at night. Mr. Leisey explained that they had just received approval from PennDOT for additional overtime and staff to complete the job. Mr. Kinsman explained that they expect to have the westbound lane completed and the south side (eastbound lane) started by August 25, at which time there will be a lane/traffic shift. He suggested at the outside, the project (including finish coat) is anticipated to be completed in 12 weeks (end of October). They stated that Penn Avenue from Church Street east would be milled and paved by the end of September. David Randler asked Mr. Kinsman and Mr. Leisey if they had current overrun costs for this project. Mr. Leisey stated that the additional cost for the disposal of the contaminated soil was approximately \$200,000 and the water main replacement was approximately \$500,000 and that there were other smaller overrun costs but he did not have a definite number. The original cost of the project was projected to be approximately \$13,000,000.00. Mr. Randler asked how traffic will be handled when school is back in session. Currently, the traffic back-up is terrible during certain times of day. Mr. Leisey said he would look into potential signaling help for those times and let us know what, if anything, could be done for this issue. All other visitors were observing.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner observed that the Borough used to spray for weeds but that the weeds are out of control along the streets. He asked if we had an ordinance addressing this. Solicitor George stated we do have a grass/weeds ordinance but he was unsure that it addressed the weeds in the streets

since the streets, technically, belong to the Borough. Mayor Gartner then advised everyone that the County is holding a meeting regarding the financial burdens being imposed on municipalities by forcing compliance with the next round of MS4 requirements. Greyson Ziegler asked Mayor Gartner about his comments on the subject of MS4 compliance and the high numbers he's mentioned for possible tax increases to comply with the new round of requirements and whether the Borough has any idea yet what these new requirements will cost. Mayor Gartner stated we do not yet know what these new requirements will cost but he feels that the federal and state governments should provide some sort of funding assistance for these mandates. . Mr. Ziegler asked if the Borough has any idea yet where it is non-compliant. Mayor Gartner stated that we will not know those answers until our PRP (Pollutant Reduction Plan) is completed....which will probably be closer to year end.

**SOLICITOR.** Solicitor George advised Council that the grass/weeds ordinance has been amended to allow for penalties for blowing grass clippings in the street. Mr. Schnee made the motion and Mr. Soliday seconded, to advertise the amendment for adoption at the September 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Council approved unanimously. Keener Heights project is moving forward and is considering a HOA to manage stormwater in the new development.

**ENGINEER-** There was no engineer's report for the month.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Mr. Schnee advised Council the next PC meeting is scheduled for August 16th, if necessary. He advised Council that OTM (Jack Keener's engineers) have requested a September meeting, allowing them time to address many of the issues in the Technicon review letter.

**MANAGER** – Presented a request for a handicapped parking space for Dena Brewer at 147 Pennbrooke Avenue. On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Soliday and unanimous approval by Council, request granted.

Presented the 2018 non-uniform pension MMO in the amount of \$7,663.00 for Council's approval. On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Langjahr and unanimous approval by Council, motion passed.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Chief Schlichter did not attend the meeting.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Schnee 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 work has begin on the budget.

**Personnel:** Mr. Marshall requested an executive session at 8:36 to discuss personnel matters and ongoing police contract negotiation matters. Regular session reconvened at 9:06

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Mr. Martin presented a request received for Fire Police assistance at the Hay Creek Festival on September 8, 9 & 10. Ms. Wertz made the motion, Mr. Langjahr seconded and Council approved unanimously. Matt Yoh, Deputy Fire Chief, asked Council for clarification on who to call in the event of a situation where the Fire Department feels a structure is unsafe after an incident but needs verification. Council, with Solicitor George's advice, suggested contacting the Building Inspector first. If unavailable, contact the Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officer. Lastly, the Borough Engineer would be contacted if neither of the others were available. Mr. Randler asked who would be responsible for payment of any of these inspectors. Council President Abby Wertz and Mayor Gartner said the Borough would pay for them.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – No report.

**Parks & Recreation** –Playground season has ended and they had a good year. Mr. Wirebach advised Council that a meeting will be held at the Robesonia Swimming Pool on Wednesday, August 9 at 7PM to discuss the fate of the pool.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** Mr. Marshall advised Council that the stormwater drains in Furnace Knoll received much needed repairs and we are working on getting the 24 remaining ones in CW Village repaired as well.

**Langjahr** – No report.

**Soliday**- Thanked the fire company for doing their due diligence

**Wirebach**- No report.

**Martin**- No report.

**Schnee**- Mr. Schnee advised Council we should look into updating our Emergency Management ID tags. He asked the status of the bricks in the park. Mr. Randler answered that he has not poured the concrete pad yet since he has not done any concrete work at all recently.

**Wertz** – No report..

**Mayor Gartner**- Mayor Gartner reminded everyone that the Furnace Artisan's Show is scheduled for August 18/19, 8AM-3PM both days. Mayor Gartner asked Mr. Martin the status of the Labor Day Car Show scheduled for August 4. Mr. Martin stated that only 150 cars were registered so far

**NEW BUSINESS** – No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** –

Mayor Gartner emailed with Carl Engleman regarding the Breininger Property Acquisition and is waiting to hear back.

**COMMUNICATIONS-**

- WRJA meeting minutes and treasurer's report
- Western Berks Regional Police monthly meeting minutes, payroll report and monthly report.
- Thank you letter for contribution from Western Berks Ambulance
- RWW Trash COG meeting minutes from July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On a motion by Mr Langjahr., seconded by Mr. Martin, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary  
Borough of Robesonia