

President Abby Wertz called the September 5, 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 and Bill Langjahr. Rod Soliday was absent. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor John Muir, Streets Supervisor Garry Degler and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Vernon Bright, David Randler, David Rohrbach, David Bright, Kevin Snyder and Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Langjahr, second by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the August 7, 2017 council meeting were approved.

VISITORS & CITIZENS- Kevin Snyder, representing the Robesonia Pool Board, thanked Council for their ongoing support of the pool and updated Council on some plans being carried out to keep the pool open in 2018. He explained they have a 501c3 status and operate on a budget of approximately \$65,000/annually. Two thirds of that is covered by memberships while the rest is covered by transient visits (non-members) and fundraising efforts. Due to the \$6,000 annual property tax and growing expenses including maintenance costs, insurances, personnel, etc., the board is in the process of having Heidelberg Township take ownership of the pool and property and lease it back to the Pool Association. The pool will be rebranded as the Conrad Weiser Community Pool in an effort to get more support from the outlying townships whose residents frequent the pool. There is a new 12 member board including four seats being occupied from officials from four local municipalities. A new manager will be sought for 2018 as well. Mr. Snyder thanked Council for their past support and noted that any increase in funding for 2018 is greatly appreciated. Mayor Gartner stated that the Friends of the Furnace obtained tax exempt status for their property but that it took them ten years to obtain it. Mr. Snyder stated that the pool, too, was trying to obtain tax exempt status. Mr. Schnee stated that he has contributed to the pool in the past but has never received a thank you. He suggested a little expression of thanks would go a long way to making donors feel good about their contributions. All other visitors were observing.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner noted that the Labor Day Car Show was a great success and had a great turn-out. It was not without glitches, but suggested a wrap-up meeting be held between the Fire Company and Shawn Kelchner to iron out the areas that need improvement for next year.

SOLICITOR. Solicitor Muir presented Ordinance 2017-3 for adoption:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER X ENTITLED "HEALTH AND SAFETY", PART 1 ENTITLED "GRASS, WEEDS AND OTHER VEGETATION", BY AMENDING: (1) SECTION 4 ENTITLED PENALTY FOR VIOLATION TO MODIFY PENALTIES AND RENUMBER SUCH SECTION; AND (2) TO ADD A NEW SECTION 4 ENTITLED "REGULATION OF DISPOSAL OF GRASS CLIPPINGS AND YARD WASTE ON BOROUGH STREETS."

On a motion by Mr. Schnee, second by Mr. Martin and unanimously approved by Council, motion passed.

Solicitor Muir stated that Chief Schlichter's comments were received on the proposed feral cat ordinance and asked Council to forward any further comments on the proposed ordinance to Solicitor George so they may be incorporated into the ordinance prior to advertising and adoption.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – Mr. Schnee advised Council the next PC meeting is scheduled for September 20th, if needed. He advised Council that OTM (Jack Keener's engineers) has requested a September meeting, allowing them time to address many of the issues in the Technicon review letter. At this time, Mr. Schnee is still awaiting a response from OTM to the Technicon review letter. He will follow up on Dean Baim and see where he is at with his subdivision.

MANAGER – Advised Council that anyone interested in attending the County Commissioners’ Breakfast on September 22 must let her know no later than September 14th to be registered. Presented a request for a handicapped parking space for Tammy Yorty at 143 Pennbrooke Avenue. She explained that this is next door to the one granted at 147 Pennbrooke Avenue and that there are also two others in the one block of Pennbrooke Avenue. In addition, Ms. Yorty had to provide for one off-street parking space when she was granted permission to install a one-chair beauty shop in her home. Solicitor George provided guidance on a municipality’s responsibilities when approving or denying handicapped parking spaces.... Solicitor Muir explained them to Council. Discussion entailed reviewing the Borough’s policy/procedure before granting or denying this particular request. Manager stated she did not believe the Borough currently has a policy or procedure in place for making such determinations. Mr. Schnee agreed to do a survey on the number/placement of handicapped parking signs currently in place and the ongoing need for those signs. Solicitor agreed to gather information from other current municipal clients to use as a template to create a policy for the Borough.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter did not attend the meeting.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- On a motion by Mr. Langjahr, second 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 –Work is ongoing on the 2018 budget.

Personnel: Ms. Wertz announced that a Personnel Meeting is to be held on September 19th at 6:30PM.

Fire Protection/Safety –Mr. Martin thanked Borough for their assistance with the Labor Day Car Show. He will update Council on the success of the show after the final numbers are received. Asked for approval to provide Fire Police assistance for Lower Heidelberg’s 75th Anniversary Fireworks on Saturday, September 9th. Ms. Wertz made the motion to approve and Mr. Marshall seconded. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Martin then asked Council to consider passing an ordinance or resolution allowing the Fire Company to recoup certain expenses when responding to certain calls. They are specifically seeking reimbursement for materials such as oil dry, etc. Solicitor Muir recommended including a fee schedule in whatever is adopted stating “cost of replacement”, which would not need to be constantly updated.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – The roadwork scheduled for South Church Street and West Oak Avenue has been pushed back to late September/early October since the contractor is behind on other jobs due to ongoing weather issues. He advised Council that flyers would be given to affected homeowners along West Oak and West Penn Avenue to give them advanced notice that they will need to park their cars on other streets if they need to get in/out during the projected 2-3 day time period of work being performed on West Oak Avenue.

Parks & Recreation – Tony Wirebach has agreed to sit on the CW Community Pool Board as the Borough liaison.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall Mr. Marshall advised Council that two bids have been received for the installation of a new gas furnace and A/C unit. Jeff’s Heating & Cooling bid \$10,900 for a 5 ton, 16 SEER unit. Heath Nell bid \$8,100 (for a 13 SEER). Mr. Marshall suggested an upgrade to a 16 SEER would add on approximately \$700, however, Mr. Nell also quoted time/material at \$45/hour whereas Jeff’s Heating & Cooling was an all-inclusive price. He explained that UGI is running the gas line to the Borough Hall at no charge. Mr. Nell agreed earlier to resubmit an all-inclusive bid no later than noon on Wednesday, 9/6. Since colder weather is just around the corner, Mr. Marshall would like approval to award the work for a cost not to exceed \$10,900 in order to have the new furnace in place. Mr. Schnee made the motion to go with the lowest bid and Mr. Langjahr seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Langjahr – No report.

Soliday- Absent.

Wirebach- No report.

Martin- No report.

Schnee- Mr. Schnee explained that he is still following up on the house numbering system. He noted that the Borough News September issue explains that the USPS has the statutory authority over this. Will get together with Borough Manager to investigate further.

Wertz – No report..

Mayor Gartner-No report.

NEW BUSINESS – Ms. Wertz called for an Executive Session at 8:16 PM to discuss ongoing police contract negotiations and personnel issues. Regular Session resumed at 8:32 PM

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Mayor Gartner met with Lisa Breininger, Carl Engleman and David Beane on behalf of the water authority's acquisition of the Breininger property. Carl Engleman recommends using Jim Cinelli of Liberty Environmental to write the grant application for the clean-up of the contaminated property. Mr. Cinelli is lobbying the DEP to agree to a cap of 1' vs. 2' over the property. We will seek a quote for the writing of the grant. Also, another on-site meeting is recommended.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA meeting minutes and treasurer's report

On a motion by Mr Langjahr, seconded by Mr. Wirebach, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary
Borough of Robesonia