

President Abby Wertz called the September 8, 2015 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Tony Wirebach, Bob Pierce, Rod Soliday, Frank Schnee, and Jr. Council Member Grayson Ziegler. Bill Langjahr was absent. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Mayor Randall Gartner, Police Chief Bill Schlichter and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Streets Supervisor Garry Degler, David Bright, Todd Sauber, Logan Mace, Damian Albrecht, Steven Vitez and David Vitez. On a motion by Mr. Soliday, seconded by Mr. Wirebach and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the August 3, 2015 Council meeting were approved as presented.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – All citizens and visitors were observing.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner recommended Council consider the idea of putting a No Left Turn sign on South Church Street at West Penn Avenue. He stated there has been many near-misses at this spot and he feels it would be safer to direct traffic to the traffic lights (or, at least an intersection with better visibility). Council asked Engineer David Bright to check if a traffic study would need to be done before placing such a sign. Mr. Bright agreed to look into the matter. Mayor Gartner also asked Council to consider the possibility of passing a Vacant Property Ordinance, which would allow the Borough to stay on top of the repair/maintenance of those vacant properties in the Borough. Solicitor George stated that Fleetwood Borough, one of those municipalities he represents, has adopted such an ordinance. He will check with them to see if the ordinance is being utilized and if the desired results are being seen.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George presented Council with the final amended Charter Agreement for approval. Several questions arose, particularly, about some of the verbiage and the legality of the statement in Article XV that states the “Charter Municipality proposing withdrawal shall not participate in such decision-making process, and may be excluded from open meetings”, etc. Attorney George stated there is no way anyone can be excluded from open meetings. That being said, the issue of disallowing the withdrawing municipality’s Commission Members from participating brings up the problem of having a quorum present at a meeting if the withdrawing municipality’s representatives equals four during that particular year. Nothing would be able to get done if a quorum is not present. It was suggested the verbiage should reflect, somehow, the withdrawing municipality’s participation may not be allowed when discussing this particular matter, however, for the day-to-day operations of the department would still be allowed. Since all members feel that great progress has been made toward rectifying the problems it was suggested that we, in good faith, make the motion to rescind our proposed withdrawal from the Western Berks Regional Police Commission. Mr. Marshall made the motion to rescind the withdrawal from the Western Berks Regional Police Commission. Mr. Pierce seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. Manager to notify the Police Department and Wernersville Borough, in writing, of our intent. Mr. George will take the proposed changes back to the table for the approval of Wernersville.

ENGINEER- There was no Engineer’s report for August.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting, scheduled for September 16th, if needed.

MANAGER – Manager asked for motion to accept, with regret, Bob Pierce’s resignation from the Robesonia Municipal Authority. Ms. Heilman thanked Mr. Pierce for his service to the RMA for the several years he’s served. Mr. Pierce advised Council that he felt another Council member/liaison should fill his position. Mr. Marshall suggested if no one on Council was interested in serving on the RMA, he may have another interested party. Mr. Wirebach made the motion, Mr. Soliday seconded, and Council unanimously accepted Mr. Pierce’s resignation. Manager reminded all Council Members present of the annual Municipal Official’s Breakfast sponsored by the Berks County Commissioners to be held on September 18th at 8AM. Asked anyone interested in attending to let her know by the end of the meeting. Manager provided Council with the 2016 Non Uniform Employees’ MMO in the amount of \$6,587.00. Mr. Pierce made the motion to accept the MMO. Mr. Wirebach seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter advised Council that 89 calls for the month. He advised Council that due to a generous donation from the Fritztown Fire Company, they would be replacing their obsolete tasers for Phazers. Chief Schlichter also advised Council that he has been working with the Jack Frost Parade Committee and Fire Police Chief, Mike Martin to work out some bugs in last year’s parade route/road closures. There will be a meeting on September 24 at 9:30AM for anyone wishing to attend. He will report back in October on the final determination of parade route/road closures. Frank Schnee advised Council that the Commission has begun work on the police budget and they are very hopeful to have their final budget to the Borough’s Finance Committee no later than October 1.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- On a motion by Mr. Schnee, second by Mr. Pierce 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 has begun on the 2016 budget.

Fire Protection/Safety – No report

Streets/Highways/Sewer – The August meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that he's been spending a lot of time answering calls on curbs since the 2nd notices and new letters were sent out. He told Council that he will get quotes on the curb replacement for the HPR park after specs are obtained. He and Randy Gartner will measure and determine specs.

Parks & Recreation –Mr. Wirebach reported that he's working on obtaining estimates for the replacement of the diamond tex on the baseball field for 2016. Mr. Marshall advised Council that he has obtained a wish list from the playground leaders for next year's program. Ms. Heilman advised Council that the feedback for the 2015 playground program was very positive.

Personnel: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – Mr. Marshall reported that there are now vehicles for sale in front of the Robesonia Marketplace. A letter will be sent from the Borough first. If there is no response, Zoning Officer will be contacted for follow up.

Wirebach – Mr. Wirebach noted an increase of young people out after curfew, and an increase in vandalism, and just wanted to bring the matter to the attention of the police

Langjahr – Absent.

Soliday- No report.

Schnee- Mr. Schnee asked the status of the availability of space for bricks on the Veteran's Memorial Wall at the HPR Park. Mayor Gartner stated there was still some room but he had not heard back yet from Sonny Weaver. He asked for the status on 100 East Penn Avenue. We are still awaiting a response from Mr. Mulberry on the letter advising him that a \$5,000 tapping fee would be required to convert the existing garage into an in-laws quarters. Mr. Schnee reported that the planters along Penn Avenue look great and we have Mr. Marshall to thank for that since he has been watering the planters all summer. Council thanked Mr. Marshall for his contribution to the town. He also thanked Mr. Randler for the nice job done on the placement and installation of the bus shelter.

Pierce- Mr. Pierce reported that the grass has still not been cut at 102 South Church Street. He was advised that a letter was sent out only a few days previously and the owners were probably given a few days to get it done. He asked if cars parked facing in the wrong direction are cited. Chief Schlichter reported they are.

Wertz – No report.

Ziegler- No report.

Mayor Gartner: Mayor Gartner read part of a recommendation letter he has written for Grayson Ziegler in his quest to enter the Naval Academy at Annapolis. Everyone wished Greyson well in his endeavor to be accepted to the Academy.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Randler was asked when the new Dunkin' Donuts will be opening. He advised that an October opening was discussed but he feels November will be more likely.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –No report.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA Treasurer's Report minutes for July
- Kraft Codes monthly report.
- Police report and meeting minutes
- Jack Frost Parade Committee meeting minutes
- 2014 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Wirebach and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer
Borough of Robesonia