

President Abby Wertz called the October 1, 2012 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Ron Becker, Jr., Michael Kocher, 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. Harvey Marshall was absent. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Vernon Bright and Lori Brown.

On a motion by Mr. Schnee, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the September 4, 2012 meeting were approved. On a motion by Mr. Schnee, second by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes were approved for the September 18<sup>th</sup> workshop meeting with the following addition: Under Mr. Becker add Council's approval to purchase a video surveillance system at a cost of \$1,922 with a 2-yr warranty on a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – All visitors were observing.

**MAYOR** – No report.

**SOLICITOR** – Solicitor George advised Council that he had just received the revised Promissory Notes for the public safety radio project and had not had a chance to review them. He also advised Council that should they choose to participate in the seven-year financing option for the radios, Local Government Unit Debt Act paperwork would need to be completed and submitted to DCED for approval before signing Promissory Note. The cost of completing and filing the LGUDA paperwork can be thousands of dollars. He suggested Council consider changing to a five-year repayment plan which would enable the Borough to circumvent the LGUDA requirement. Mr. Marshall and Mr. Becker will discuss that possibility with the Fire Company at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Mr. George advised Council that Rob Wertz's attorney has asked for Council's approval to place a cover sheet listing the parcel numbers, deed number, etc. on the front of the Stormwater Maintenance & Monitoring Agreement signed last month by Council to ensure it is in a recordable format and to approve e-filing the agreement. Council agreed unanimously on a motion by Mr. Kocher and second by Mr. Pierce. Mr. George will advise Mr. Wertz's counsel of approval.

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

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, if needed.

**SECRETARY** – Secretary advised all Council members of upcoming Municipal Official's breakfast on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Strausstown Fire Company. Anyone interested in attending must be registered no later than October 17<sup>th</sup>. Secretary advised Council that the Municipal Pension State Aid for the Western Berks Regional Police Department was erroneously deposited into the Borough's general fund. Secretary discussed with Auditor General's office and was advised to write the check to the WBRPD so they could then deposit into their plan (for a cleaner paper trail). Secretary asked Council's opinion on closing the office for the Presidential election. The office was closed during the last two presidential elections at the request of the Judge of Elections. Council suggested reporting to work that day but conducting no public business.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Chief Wagner thanked Mayor Gartner for his sound system work, and David Randler for his donation of the Kyle D. Pagerly memorial in front of the WBRPD office, as well as everyone who attended the dedication ceremony. The dedication went extremely well and he was very pleased with the turnout. He also advised Council of the ongoing vandalism at the ball field pavilion.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** Motion by Mr. Schnee seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

**Finance/Administration** – 2013 budget work is nearly complete. The 2013 budget should be ready for advertising at the November meeting and adoption in December.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Mr. Becker made a motion to contribute half of the remaining balance for the new fire radios. The Fire Company will be asked to pay the remaining half. An agreement will need to be written and

signed between the Borough and the Fire Company. Mr. Schnee seconded the motion and Council unanimously agreed. Motion passed. Mr. Rohrbach asked to see the total breakdown of the cost sharing amounts.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – John T. Ravert sent a letter to the Borough Council regarding the marking of the trees along Penn Avenue. He is very upset over the “defacement” of the trees. A letter is to be sent to Mr. Ravert advising him that a bid is needed by November 15 for all the tree work to be done.

**Parks & Recreation** – Mr. Becker advised Council the video surveillance system will be installed at the tot lot pavilion on October 10<sup>th</sup>. He recommended we consider the installation of a similar system at the ball field pavilion in light of the recent vandalism/break-in there. Council concurred and directed Mr. Becker to obtain pricing on a second system for the ball field pavilion. Mr. Pierce advised Council that he discussed the parking lot situation with Dan Clouser of the Berkshire Red Sox (several players/spectators had been ticketed for parking on the lot during Borough business hours the previous weekend). Mr. Clouser asked that the No Parking signs at both ends of the parking lot include day/time limitations. Mr. Bright expressed his dissatisfaction with the Police coverage, stating that in the four hours he was watching the ballgame, he did not see one police vehicle go by. The playground program was discussed. Mr. Bright expressed his opinion of the article included in the Borough’s newsletter that stated the playground program was a big success. He asked how Council would explain ending the playground program if it was so successful. Lori Brown suggested that since many of the children that participated in the playground program were left on their own daily they would have nowhere to go and nothing to do. She feels they will be hanging out in the library, the borough hall, etc. instead of having something to keep them occupied. Ms. Wertz will address the issue in the winter edition of the Borough newsletter.

**Personnel:** Performance evaluations are complete.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – Absent.

**Schnee** – Mr. Schnee sought Council’s permission to forward a complaint received by the owner of 376 West Penn Avenue against his neighbor for running a hose from his downspout to within 6” of his property line, causing him to get water in his basement, to the Codes Enforcement Official. Council approved. Next, Mr. Schnee handed out an amendment to Ordinance 2006-2 regulating the operation and parking of motor vehicles during a snow emergency. He advised Council that this amendment is being recommended to coordinate with Wernersville Borough and simplify the enforcement process for the Western Berks Regional Police Department.

**Becker**- No report.

**Rohrbach** – No report.

**Pierce**- No report.

**Kocher**- No report.

**Wertz** - No report.

**Mayor Gartner:** No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Schnee and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Secretary