

President Abby Wertz called the October 2, 2017 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag followed by a moment of silence for the victims of the Las Vegas shootings. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Frank Schnee, Mike Martin, Tony Wirebach and Bill Langjahr and Rod Soliday. 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, David Bright, David Randler, David Rohrbach, and Steve DeLucas of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr. Schnee, second by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the September 5, 2017 council meeting were approved.

VISITORS & CITIZENS- David Randler, on behalf of Heidelberg Township, asked Council to consider signing a letter seeking tax exoneration for the Conrad Weiser Swimming Pool Association for the period of November 1st through June 30th. Mr. Martin made the motion to sign the letter and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council agreed unanimously. He also advised Council that Marion Township is seeking to come on board with the Western Berks Joint Zoning Commission. He stated that Heidelberg and North Heidelberg have both approved this, but there are some reservations. He feels we need to consider changing the voting rules currently in place to be a majority vote. Also, Marion is aware that they would have to pay all costs involved in them joining the Western Berks Joint Zoning Plan. We would all have to make the map changes. Manager brought up the possibility of conflicts of interest since Mr. George serves as the solicitor for Robesonia, Womelsdorf and Marion Township. Mr. George stated this would only be a problem if there was dissention among the three parties. Dave Randler, tax payer, asked where he could send the bill for the replacement of his curbing since so many other property owners along the PennDOT project route on West Penn Avenue got their curbs replaced for free. He finds it disgusting and unfair that the responsible people will do what they should while the irresponsible will just let them go “as is”. All other visitors were observing. The Mayor stated we will still make those people do it when the project is complete.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner reminded everyone that the Jack Frost Parade will be held on November 5th at 3PM. A robocall will be put out reminding everyone of the road shut-down for the parade.

SOLICITOR. Solicitor George presented a resolution for approval to allow the Fire Company to charge for certain consumables/services when responding to a call outside the Borough. Since there were initially some questions regarding the type of charges being billed, and Mr. Marshall had questions regarding the impact of these charges on homeowners’ insurance policies, it was decided to table for further review and reconsideration at the November 6th meeting. It was also discussed changing the “person” to “insurance company” in the resolution.

Solicitor George also presented the following ordinance regarding feral cats for approval to advertise:
AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA REGARDING ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL AND RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO STRAY AND FERAL CATS, INCLUDING DEFINITIONS, DISTURBING OR LOUD NOISE, UNSANITARY NUISANCE AND EXEMPTIONS, ANIMALS RUNNING AT-LARGE, IMPOUNDING, TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS, UNATTENDED ANIMALS, RESPONSIBILITIES OF CAT OWNERS REGARDING STRAY CATS, FEEDING OF STRAY OR FERAL CATS, RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRAP, NEUTER AND RETURN PROGRAM SPONSORS, AND VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

Mr. Wirebach made the motion to advertise the ordinance as presented, Mr. Martin seconded and Council passed unanimously.

ENGINEER- The Engineer’s Report included site plan updating for the proposed compost transfer facility at the Breininger property and a reminder of some serious streambank erosion noted across from 79 Furnace Street, with a reminder that a DEP permit will be required for the work.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Mr. Schnee advised Council the next PC meeting is scheduled for October 18th, if needed. He is awaiting a review letter from Technicon to determine whether the meeting will be held or not. A letter was received from Heidelberg Township waiving their review of the Keener Heights subdivision to Robesonia. It was noted, however, that should any substantial changes occur, they would like the opportunity to review at that time. Mr. Schnee noted that there have been no changes in the Baim subdivision to date.

MANAGER – No report.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter did not attend the meeting.

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

Personnel: Personnel Committee met with Street Supervisor to discuss ongoing issues. A 90-day Performance Improvement Plan was provided and regular, 30-day reviews will be held to discuss ongoing progress and areas that may still need improvement.

Fire Protection/Safety –Mr. Martin advised Council that the Fire Company would be conducting door-to-door fundraising during the week as part of Fire Prevention Month. Also, he advised Council that the 47 Lafrance Fire Truck is being loaned to the Schuylkill County Fire Museum and that the first payment is being made this week on the new truck.

Streets/Highways/Sewer –The September Streets meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet.

Parks & Recreation – No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall Mr. Marshall advised Council that one bid was received for the 1984 Ford F-600 Dump Truck from Snyder Landscaping for \$5,250. Mr. Schnee made the motion to accept the bid and Mr. Wirebach seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Langjahr – No report.

Soliday- No report.

Wirebach- Mr. Wirebach reported that he and Mr. Martin attended the County Commissioners' Municipal Breakfast and the subjects of the expansion of the Spotted Lanternfly in Berks County and the Berks County Prison (what to do with it? Renovate/Rebuild?) were discussed.

Martin- No report.

Schnee- Mr. Schnee advised Council that he looked into the handicapped parking policy/situation in the Borough. Approximately 20 spaces have been approved in the last 18 years. He feels our current policy is adequate with, perhaps, a few tweaks. He also suggested that there are currently three handicapped parking spaces on Pennbrooke Avenue and feels that it could support another one at 143 Pennbrooke Avenue and made the motion to approve it. Mr. Wirebach seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Schnee also reported that he attended the LOGAC meeting and the topic of drones was discussed. It was suggested that drones could potentially be added to the Borough's current Nuisance Ordinance. He also suggested since September was National Preparedness Month we should look at where we stand with that.

Wertz – No report..

Mayor Gartner-No report.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Mayor Gartner advised Council that Attorney Engleman is attempting to set up a meeting with Liberty Environmental and Pennsylvania DEP to discuss the proposed compost transfer facility. Attorney

George will look at getting an Ordinance together for the tax relief of emergency responders that live in the borough and meet the criteria as put forth for adoption before year-end.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA treasurer's report
- Western Berks PD monthly report.

On a motion by Mr Langjahr, seconded by Mr. Wirebach, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary
Borough of Robesonia