

President Abby Wertz called the October 7, 2013 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Ron Becker, Jr., Bob Pierce, Frank Schnee, David Rohrbach and Mike Kocher. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Police Chief Bill Schlichter, Mayor Randall Gartner and Secretary Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Vernon Bright, David Bright, Lori Brown, Cindy Murdough, Tom Auchenbach, Rodney Soliday, Tony Wirebach, Pastor Bill Weiser and Carol Duran of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr. Schnee, seconded by Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the September 3, 2013 meeting were approved.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – Lori Brown, representing the Robesonia Community Library, read a letter from Library Director, Stephanie Williams, to Council regarding the upcoming programs and the value of libraries to a community.

Lori Brown, property owner, addressed Council, again, on the problem of the tenants at the next property (19 W. Penn Ave.) parking in front of her business all the time. Mr. Criss has been notified that, based on the conditions set forth at his zoning hearing, he must require the residents of 19 W. Penn to park at the rear of the property. The Borough is still awaiting a copy of his new lease agreement that includes that verbiage. Solicitor George will investigate whether the Borough can require him to comply with the current tenant. If so, the matter will be handed over to the Zoning Officer to pursue.

Tom Auchenbach addressed Council on the matter of the bamboo growing at the rear of his property. He advised Council that much of the bamboo growing there is on the property of Robin Adelman. He does not feel that removing the bamboo will make much of a difference to the flooding issues the residents along Lincoln Ave and South Church Street. He implied he would be willing to remove the bulk of the bamboo when he had time, but has a very busy schedule. Pastor Bill Weiser addressed Council on the Halloween Parade scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup>. He asked for three Borough Council judges. Abby Wertz, Harvey Marshall and Bob Pierce volunteered to be judges. Randy Gartner volunteered the use of a sound system although he will not be able to be there. Mrs. Wertz's husband, Tom, was volunteered for the job. The Borough will need to find an elevated platform to use for the reviewing stand. Borough Secretary was directed to provide the \$300 to Trinity Lutheran Church to be used for the parade.

Mrs. Wertz called for an executive session at 8:15 to discuss a personnel issue. Regular meeting reconvened at 8:35 pm.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner advised Council that former Streets Supervisor, Tom Brunner, passed away on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**SOLICITOR** – Solicitor George advised Council that the Robesonia Municipal Authority will be meeting on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, at which time the 10 year agreement extension will be passed.

**ENGINEER** – The engineer's report was included in the agenda packet and included application renewal of the MS4 permit the repair of the inlet under the railroad as part of the South Church Street water main replacement.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting, scheduled for October 16th, 2013, is cancelled.

**SECRETARY** – Secretary submitted request from EMCs, Mike Palm and Jeff Weidner, to cover the cost of the purchase of new mobile equipment and software for the use of the EOC. Cost will be between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Mr. Pierce made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Kocher seconded and Council approved unanimously.

A request was submitted by Heidelberg Township for Fire Police assistance for the Cavalcade of Bands at the CW High School on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve and Mr. Schnee seconded. Council approved unanimously.

The Robesonia Fire Police were seeking approval to request additional Fire Police assistance for the October 27<sup>th</sup> Halloween Parade. Mr. Schnee made the motion to approve the request and Mr. Becker seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Pastor Matt Fuhrman of Illuminate Church sought a fee waiver for the use of the Council room to hold a 10 week course, which will be free and open to the public, starting January 2, 2014. Council asked Secretary to gather more information on the content of the course being offered.

Last, Secretary advised Council to let her know as soon as possible if they plan to attend the Municipal Officials' Breakfast being hosted by the County Commissioners and the Berks Municipal Partnership. This year's event will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Ontelaunee Grange. Mr. Schnee, Mr. Pierce and Mr. Rohrbach all indicated they are planning to attend.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Chief Schlichter advised Council that he has been in contact with the Fire Police and the parade committee to coordinate traffic/crowd control efforts for the Halloween Parade. Also, he advised Council that Trick or Treating will be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second 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** – Budget work continues on the 2014 budget.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – No report.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – September meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that he was approached by a Rec Board member regarding the grass being ruined under the circus tent. Re-seeding will be done in spring. He also advised Council that a large sinkhole opened up in the outfield of the baseball field. Measures are being taken to open and refill the hole. Dan Clouser has been contacted to take a look and determine if the field is still playable for the balance of the Berkshire Red Sox's season.

**Parks & Recreation** – September meeting minutes from the Trinity Halloween Parade Committee were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Bright reminded Council that the next Rec board meeting is scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Personnel:** No report.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – No report.

**Schnee** – No report.

**Becker-** No report.

**Pierce-** Mr. Pierce advised Council that the fall newsletter was not readable on the Borough's website. Secretary will check it out and determine the problem.

**Rohrbach** – Mr. Rohrbach notified Council that the WRW COG is working with their community libraries and with the EAC on the Recycling Program.

**Kocher-** Mr. Kocher presented the preliminary budget for the Western Berks Regional Police Department. It currently includes a 9.62% increase in costs for 2014. Some of the reasons for the increase are a new full-time assistant, the new radios, a new Cody system and the loss of the grant money paid toward the chief's salary the first few years of the regionalization process. Mr. Schnee stated he felt there were small cuts that could be made in several of the cost centers that could help decrease the budget as a whole.

**Wertz** - No report.

**Mayor Gartner:** Mayor Gartner reported that the basketball pole damaged during the street fair has been repaired.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – No report.

**NEW BUSINESS** –Mr. Schnee made the motion to propose an ordinance be written to create a borough manager position. Mr. Becker seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved. Solicitor George will prepare the ordinance for Council's review at the November meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS-**

- September Monthly Property Maintenance Report
- WRJA Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Secretary