

President Abby Wertz called the November 5, 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, Lori Brown, Cindy Murdough, Rodney Soliday, Bob Davidson, Pastor Bill Weiser and Steve DeLuca of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr. Schnee, seconded by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the October 7, 2013 meeting were approved.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Auditor, Bob Davidson, provided Council with copies of the 2012 Municipal Annual Audit and Financial Report. He advised Council he was willing to answer any questions they may have about the report. He assured Council that the Borough was on good financial footing and everything was in good shape. He offered his continued services should Council have any further questions regarding the report once they had a chance to go over it more thoroughly. Rick Roth, a senior at CW High School, sought Council's permission to video some of the activity on Election Day, as part of a senior project. Council had no issue with him doing it but advised him to speak to the Election Board in the morning before filming. Lori Brown advised Council that the problem of the tenants at the next property (19 W. Penn Ave.) parking in front of her business all the time has gotten much better. Solicitor George advised Council that he has had contact with Mr. Criss regarding the conditions set forth at his zoning hearing and that he must require his tenants of 19 W. Penn to park at the rear of the property. Mr. Criss will provide the Borough with a copy of his new lease agreement that includes that verbiage when he has it rewritten for any future tenants. Pastor Bill asked Council if any feedback had been received regarding the Halloween Parade. Several issues were discussed regarding potential changes for next year's parade which will be held on November 2 and re-named the Jack Frost Parade. He explained that fundraising will take place throughout the year as this year's parade cost approximately \$10,000.00.

All other visitors were observing.

MAYOR – No report.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George presented Council with the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-3

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, CREATING AND GOVERNING THE OFFICE OF BOROUGH MANAGER TO OVERSEE THE DAILY ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, advertisement of the above-noted ordinance was approved.

Mr. Pierce asked if we could include in the advertisement of this ordinance, the amendment to the parking ordinance for restricted parking in front of the Wells Fargo Bank in the center of town. Solicitor explained you could not do it *as part of* the ordinance, but could run the advertised amendment in the same advertisement separately if Council wished to do so. Council declined. Mr. George advised Council that the RMA met with Heidelberg Township representatives regarding the renegotiation of transmission charges, etc. He stated the meeting went well and the agreement should be ready to sign by the next scheduled meeting. Solicitor George advised Council that he attended a tax exemption hearing at the Borough Secretary's request and that the Henry P. Robeson Memorial Park is now entirely tax exempt.

ENGINEER – The engineer's report was included in the agenda packet and included application renewal of the MS4 permit.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting, scheduled for November 20th, 2013, if needed.

SECRETARY – Secretary submitted request from Brian Fitzpatrick of the CWCA Baseball organization for the use of the Borough Council room on December 7, from 8AM to 2PM, for baseball registrations. They are also seeking a fee waiver for this specific use. Mr. Pierce made the motion to waive the fee and allow the use of the Council Room for CWCA Baseball on 12/7/13 from 8AM to 2PM. Mr. Becker seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved. The issue of the fee waiver for the use of the Council room for Illuminate Church's educational 10-week program was discussed. Mayor Gartner suggested they be charged the resident rate (\$75) for each week they hold their program here. Mr. Marshall made the motion to charge Illuminate Church \$75 for each week they rent here. Mr. Pierce recommended they be told that they may not park on the playground or in the library parking spots when holding their classes. Mr. Becker seconded the motion. Motion passed on a 5-2 vote, with Mr. Pierce and Mr. Rohrbach voting no.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter advised Council the Halloween Parade and Trick-or-Treat night went very well with no problems. He advised Council that the Police Department will be running a "Buckle up Program" starting the week before Thanksgiving through much of December, thanks to a grant they received.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- On a motion by Mr. Pierce, 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 – The Finance Committee presented a balanced budget for 2014 for Council’s consideration to advertise for adoption. Mr. Schnee made the motion to advertise as presented. Mr. Becker seconded the motion. Mr. Kocher noted that only \$300,000 was budgeted for the WBRPD, where the budget presented to the Borough was for \$311,000. The motion to advertise the 2014 budget was tabled to allow the WBRPD Commission to look at their budget again on Tuesday, November 5th at their regularly scheduled meeting. Abby Wertz agreed to attend the meeting on behalf of the Borough Council.

Fire Protection/Safety – No report.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – September meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that the West Penn Avenue storm sewer has been repaired. Also, the South Church Street underpass is scheduled to be cemented on Wednesday, November 6.

Parks & Recreation –Mr. Bright reported to Council that the Rec board decided at their 10/17 meeting that they have decided to decrease the number of annual meetings to two, one in March and one in September. If needed, special meetings will be called in between those two dates. Mr. Becker asked that a notice be put in the winter newsletter seeking interested applicants for the position of playground leaders.

Personnel: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Schnee – No report.

Becker- Mr. Becker advised Council that there is an abandoned minivan located at the corner of North Brooke St and Chestnut Avenue. He will report to police department and have them check it out.

Pierce- Mr. Pierce advised Council that new tenants have moved into 21 South Church Street. The moving van had the alley blocked over the weekend.

Rohrbach – No report.

Kocher- No report.

Wertz - Ms. Wertz reported the Environmental Advisory Council will be holding educational stormwater programs the 1st Saturday of January, February and March at the Borough Hall.

Mayor Gartner: Mayor Gartner reminded everyone that there will be a Veterans Walk held on Monday, November 11th, starting in Wernersville at 9AM and ending in Womelsdorf. Everyone is welcome to walk along. He reminded everyone that several business establishments offer discounts/free meals to Veterans. Also, the Robesonian Fair Committee will be holding a Burger & Maryoke night on November 22 at the Robesonian Fire Company. Don’t forget to vote on November 5! Rodney Soliday is running a write-in campaign for one of the two vacant council seats.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No report.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA Meeting Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
- Monthly police report.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Becker and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Secretary