

President Abby Wertz called the November 6, 2017 meeting to order at 7:31 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Frank Schnee, Mike Martin, Tony Wirebach, 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, Jack Keener, Brynn Schaffer, Deb Dreisbach, Julie Brommer, John Minacapelli, Evan Minacapelli, Joseph Hoffa, Mike Moore, Bob Garmer, Adam Chadwick, Nancy Schaeffer, Attorney Carl Engleman, Jr., and Allison Huyett of the Reading Eagle.

On a motion by Mr. Schnee, second by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the October 2, 2017 council meeting were approved.

At 7:32 PM an Executive Session was called with Attorney Carl Engleman to discuss property acquisition and personnel issues. Regular session reconvened at 8:05 PM.

VISITORS & CITIZENS- Deb Dreisbach of No Nonsense Neutering and Julie Brommer, on behalf of Alley Cat Allies, discussed the value of a Trap/Neuter/Return program for the control of feral/stray cat populations. They explained that by participating in such a program the overall population will decrease over the course of several years. Established cat colonies will keep other strays from moving in and ensuring these colonies are neutered/spayed will also ensure they will not increase in size. Ms. Brommer explained humane ways of deterring cats from coming onto peoples' properties and they provided some pamphlets to use for handouts and public education. Ms. Dreisbach will provide an article for the borough newsletter. Council has not yet decided on how to fund the program (whether they will fund 100%, cost-share or provide a set amount in the budget to be used). Ms. Dreisbach and Ms. Brommer answered several questions presented by Mike Moore, who has a problem feeder in his neighborhood and it is drawing wildlife to the area. Ms. Brommer and Ms. Dreisbach plan to reach out to the problem feeder and try to halt the problem. David Randler expressed his concern over the ability of the newer lower-reveal curbing profile to hold back the stormwater run-off from peoples' properties. He asked if the Borough would be willing to set up a meeting with PennDOT to discuss the issues people seem to be having with the end-result of the project. Borough Manager will set up meeting and include Senator Argall's office in the meeting invite. It was also noted that the traffic light timing seems to be off since PennDOT reset it. Jack Keener/Brynn Schaffer provided Council with a request for Conditional Approval of the Keener Heights Subdivision/Land Development plan as well as approval for several waiver requests as presented to the Planning Commission. Frank Schnee, on behalf of the Planning Commission advised Council that the PC recommends the approvals based on meeting the requirements as laid out in the Technicon review letter dated October 19, 2017 . The waiver requests were as follows: 1) Preliminary Plan Process; 2) Cul-de-sac length and other requirements (they are proposing a 1,300' length to provide emergency access. Mayor asked if this will be gated, Mr. Shaffer advised it could be; 3) The railroad track right-of-way setback; 4) Lot width to depth ratio; 5) Curb/sidewalk requirements- ended at cul-de-sac bulb. Mayor reminded them box curb is required; 6) Stormwater management-24" vs. the 40" as originally proposed (this is DEP approved). Mr. Schnee made the motion to grant the conditional approval and requested grant waivers. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Keener asked if Council was still in agreement with the \$500/lot in-lieu-of fee for recreation. Mr. Marshall made the motion to accept the in-lieu-of fee of \$500/lot. Mr. Langjahr seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. All other visitors were observing

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner reminded everyone that the annual Veterans Walk will be held Saturday, November 11th, starting at the Stitzer Avenue memorial in Wernersville at 9AM. Also, the Robesonia Fair Committee will be holding a fundraiser at the Smokehaus on Sunday, November 19th from 1 to 4 PM, featuring Midnight Run. Mayor Gartner stated he feels we need to continue the curb replacement project started before the PennDOT project commenced. He offered to take the spreadsheet with the

ongoing list and recheck and add/delete as needed. He feels we should give the property owners till the end of summer to complete the work.

SOLICITOR. Solicitor George presented a conflict letter regarding Marion Township's interest in joining the member municipalities in the Western Berks Joint Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Wirebach made the motion to approve signing the letter. Mr. Langjahr seconded and Council approved unanimously. Ms. Wertz signed the letter and returned to Solicitor George.

Solicitor George also presented the Ordinance 2017-4 for adoption:

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. Schnee made the motion to adopt the ordinance as presented, Mr. Langjahr seconded and Council passed unanimously.

Mr. George then presented the following proposed ordinance regarding tax credits for Emergency Services volunteers:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA ENTITLED "INCENTIVES FOR MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEERS OF FIRE COMPANIES AND NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCIES", ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS REGARDING TAX CREDITS FOR VOLUNTEER MEMEBERS OF VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES AND NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AGENCIES, INCLUDING (1) DEFINITIONS, (2) VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM INCLUDING, ESTABLISHMENT, PROGRAM CRITERIA, ELIGIBLE ENTITIES, ELIGIBILITY PERIOD, RECORDKEEPING, APPLICATION, MUNICIPAL REVIEW, OFFICIAL TAX CREDIT REGISTER, AND INJURED VOLUNTEERS; (3) EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT INCLUDING, TAX CREDIT, CLAIM AND REJECTION OF TAX CREDIT CLAIM; (4) REAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT INCLUDING, TAX CREDIT, CLAIM, AND REJECTION OF TAX CREDIT CLAIM; (5) APPEALS INCLUDING, EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT APPEALS AND REAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT APPEALS; AND (6) PENALTIES FOR FALSE REPORTING

Mr. Marshall made the motion to advertise, Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously. Attorney George advised Council that a public hearing would need to be held prior to the adoption. It can be held immediately prior to an already-scheduled meeting. He also presented the following resolution which will be adopted along with the ordinance:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM

Mike Moore asked if his name had to be on the deed in order to receive the credit for his household. He was advised that he must be listed on the tax records as owner/co-owner in order to receive the credit.

ENGINEER- The meeting minutes from the MS4/PRP public meeting were included in the agenda packet.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Mr. Schnee advised Council the next PC meeting is scheduled for November 15th, if needed. The meeting minutes from the October 23rd meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Schnee made the motion to accept the 90-day review extension granted by Jack Keener for the Keener Heights Subdivision. Mr. Martin seconded. Council approved unanimously.

MANAGER – No report.

POLICE CHIEF: Chief Schlichter did not attend the meeting.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- On a motion by Mr. Schnee, second by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration –Finance Committee has determined a .25 mill property tax increase will be necessary in order to meet ongoing demands for roadwork, health care increases, etc.

Personnel: Personnel Committee met with Street Supervisor for 30 day review and will meet on November 21st at 6:30 for 60 day review.

Fire Protection/Safety –Mr. Martin advised Council that the annual collections are still ongoing. They are mostly waiting for local business contributions. To date they've collected a little over \$27,000. He advised Council that the Jack Frost parade went very well. Mr. Martin then presented two requests for fire police assistance from Heidelberg Township for February 3, 2018 and for April 14, 2018. Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve the requests. Mr. Langjahr seconded and council approved unanimously.

Streets/Highways/Sewer –The October Streets meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall asked Council for their approval to put diagonal parking on the east side of North Robeson Street as it seemed to work very well for South Robeson Street and the width of the road allows for it. Mr. Schnee made the motion to approve the diagonal parking and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Parks & Recreation – No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall No report.

Langjahr – No report.

Soliday- No report.

Wirebach- No report.

Martin- No report.

Schnee- Mr. Schnee advised Council that we have received another request for a handicapped parking space at 41 North Robeson Street. He looked into the situation and found that 41 N. Robeson probably has five or six off-street parking spaces behind their house. He feels we should hold off approving this space until the diagonal parking lines are put in place and we see how many additional spaces we create by doing so. Council concurred.

Wertz – No report.

Mayor Gartner-Reminded everyone to get out and vote on November 7th and to write in Rod Soliday for Council.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA treasurer's report and August and September meeting minutes.
- Western Berks PD monthly report, September and October meeting minutes and timesheets
- Kraft Codes Monthly report.
- Western Berks Ambulance monthly report.

On a motion by Mr Langjahr, seconded by Mr. Schnee, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary
Borough of Robesonia