

President Abby Wertz called the December 4, 2017 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Frank Schnee, Mike Martin, Tony Wirebach, and Rod Soliday. Bill Langjahr was absent. 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 Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle.

The first order of business was to hold an advertised hearing on the adoption of Ordinance 2017-5, regarding Incentives for Municipal Volunteers of Fire Companies and Nonprofit Emergency Medical Services Agencies, Establishing Regulations Regarding Tax Credits for Volunteer Members of Volunteer Fire Companies and Nonprofit Emergency Medical Service Agencies, Including (1) Definitions for Active Volunteer, Borough, Earned Income Tax, Eligibility Period, Emergency Responder, Emergency Response Call, State Fire Commissioner, Qualified Real Property, and Volunteer; (2) Volunteer Service Credit Program Including, Establishment, Program Criteria, Eligible Entities, Eligibility Period, Recordkeeping, Application, Municipal Reviews, 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; (6) Penalties for False Reporting; and (7) Notice to State Fire Commissioner. The only question presented was by the Borough Manager regarding how the taxing authorities will be notified and how collections/refunds would be handled.

Mr. Schnee made the motion to pass Ordinance 2017-5. Mr. Soliday seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

Mr. George then presented Resolution 2017-2 for consideration:

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

Mr. Schnee made the motion to approve, Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Upon completion of the hearing, regular session of Council resumed.

On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, meeting minutes of the November 6, 2017 council meeting were approved. Mr. Schnee handed out copies of Technicon's letter dated October 19th spelling out the waivers requested by Mr. Keener, recommended by the Planning Commission and granted by Borough Council to better inform Council.

VISITORS & CITIZENS- Mr. Randler advised Council of the meeting and discussion with PennDOT and J.D. Eckman regarding the issues with the newly built Penn Avenue (SR422). He stated they are "full of it" regarding the amount of depth the road crown was reduced and that the newly limited curb reveals will have no impact on stormwater run-off on his property. He wants to see the "as-builts" when complete. Manager reminded him that PennDOT Project Manager, Larry Leisey, offered to come down to his business to observe if he finds a run-off issue created by their job. Mr. Randler suggested the only options, if a run-off problem exists, is to raise the curb or lower the road. Raising the curb would not work b/c then the sidewalk would have to be raised as well. He advised Council that PennDOT painted a "parking lane" (parallel to the curb) in Palmyra and it seems to work well. He asked if the Borough Council has any concerns regarding the job done on South Church Street. Borough Manager advised Council that the PennDOT Municipal Services Rep, Charlie Paris, checked the job done and said that it looks fine as is. A microseal or tar & chipping is recommended in the next year or two to seal it. The 19mm formulation being used is a bit coarser than people are used to seeing, but it holds up very well. Mr. Randler asked Council if they would be willing to write to PennDOT and get the name of J.D. Eckman's bonding company.

Mr. Rohrbach told Council that the Christmas pots on Penn Avenue look very nice and Harvey and Lisa are to be commended for their hard work on the pots.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner reminded everyone that the Robesonia Fair Committee would be holding a Steak and Cheeseburger Night on Friday, December 8, from 5-8pm, followed by Maryoke.

SOLICITOR- Solicitor George presented the following (routine) resolutions for adoption:

RESOLUTION 2017-3

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING STATEWIDE TAX RECOVERY OF 100 NORTH THIRD STREET, SUNBURY, PENNSYLVANIA, AS DELINQUENT PER CAPITA TAX COLLECTOR FOR

THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA FOR THE YEAR 2018.

Mr. Marshall made the motion to approved, Mr. Martin second and Council approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2017-4

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING A DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR FOR THE YEAR 2018 FOR THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA.

Mr. Martin made the motion, Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2017-5

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, SETTING THE SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018.

Mr. Schnee recommended the Secretary/Treasurer salary be changed to Manager/Secretary/Treasurer.

Mr. Wirebach made the motion to approve, as amended. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2017-6

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY SERVICES FEES REIMBURSEMENT FOR INCIDENTS OCCURRING WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA OR OUTSIDE THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA IF SUCH EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY AN EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDER TO ASSIST ANY OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDER OR MUNICIPALITY AND PROVIDING REGULATIONS FOR COLLECTION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FEES.

Mr. Martin made the motion to approve, Mr. Wirebach seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Mr. George advised Council a motion is needed to advertise the necessary stormwater ordinance amendments to comply with the MS4 requirements. Mr. Marshall made the motion and Mr. Martin seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Solicitor George advised Council the 2018 Tax Ordinance would need to be advertised for adoption at the January meeting. He was reminded to include the .25 mill increase in the new ordinance. Mr. Wirebach made the motion, Mr. Marshall seconded and Council approved unanimously. David Randler thanked Council for the tax increase.

ENGINEER- The Engineer's Report was included in the agenda packet, including review of the Keener Heights development

PLANNING COMMISSION – Mr. Schnee advised Council the next PC meeting is scheduled for December 20th, if needed. Jack Keener has submitted revised plans

MANAGER – Requested authorization for Technicon to submit the PRP plan to support the NPDES renewal permit application submitted in September. Mr. Martin made the motion, Mr. Marshall seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Presented a letter of resignation from Vernon Bright from the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Wirebach made the motion to accept, with regret and Mr. Soliday seconded, with regret. Mr. Schnee asked Mr. Bright if he would consider staying on 6 more months. Mr. Bright replied he would not. Council approved, with regret on a vote of 6-1, with Mr. Schnee voting nay. His reasons were his hope that Mr. Bright would stay on until the Degler Zoning Variance issue was completed.

Presented an offer from the CW Lions Club to re-do the mulch in the tot lot playground area. Mr. Martin made the motion to accept the offer, with gratitude; Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

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 –The 2018 Budget, including a .25 mill tax increase, for a total of \$1,318,931.50 needs to be advertised for adoption at the December 19th Workshop Meeting. Mr. Martin made the motion to advertise and Mr. Schnee seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Personnel: Personnel Committee met with Street Supervisor for 60 day review and will meet on December 19th at 6:30 for 90 day review.

Fire Protection/Safety –Mr. Martin advised Council that the annual Childrens’ Christmas Party will be held on 12/10 at 1PM. The 125th Anniversary Parade has tentatively been scheduled for July 14, 2018 at 1PM.

Streets/Highways/Sewer –No report.

Parks & Recreation – No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – Mr. Marshall thanked Vernon Bright for cleaning up the leaves on the ballfield.

Langjahr – Absent.

Soliday- Mr. Soliday suggested Council consider changing the cut-off date for rental inspections in the future to allow for outdoor repairs that may need to be done prior to inspection to avoid re-inspection fees. Kraft Codes has been very accommodating in the past in such matters, but it may be simpler to just move the dates back.

Wirebach- No report.

Martin- No report.

Schnee- Mr. Schnee advised Council that we have received another request for a handicapped parking space at 133 Pennbrooke Avenue. He suggests Council consider some type of restrictions or criteria on providing handicapped parking spaces, i.e. inability to walk 50 yds. or have available off-street parking, etc . This should be included in the handicapped parking policy. Council concurred.

Wertz – No report.

Mayor Gartner-Mayor Gartner advised Council that walking furnace tours are available and now is a good time to see them since the vegetation is less dense. Also, books area available for sale and would make great Christmas gifts. See him if interested in either.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Mr. Marshall asked Council if they would be willing to write the letter to PennDOT as requested by Mr. Randler at the beginning of the meeting. No answer had been given. Council directed the Borough Manager to email Larry Leisey at PennDOT to seek the name of the bonding company for J.D. Eckman for the SR422 road project.

COMMUNICATIONS-

- WRJA treasurer’s report
- Western Berks PD reports

On a motion by Mr Marshall, seconded by Mr. Martin, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Treasurer/Secretary
Borough of Robesonia