

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

January 20, 2015

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President Abby Wertz called the January 20, 2015 workshop meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Mike Kocher, Rod Soliday, Tony Wirebach and Bill Langjahr. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Randy Gartner and Manager Lisa Heilman. Bob Pierce was absent. Visitors included Jim and Vera Dotzenroth and Pastor Bill Weiser of Trinity Lutheran Church and Frank Schnee.

VISITORS & CITIZENS - The Dotzenroths and Pastor Weiser addressed Council on their desire to hold a circus on June 19, 20 and (possibly) 21 on the outfield of the baseball field. Council expressed their concerns with holding the circus in that location during the height of the baseball season. Their concern is the damage done to the ballfield, particularly if there is rainy weather during the circus. The equipment used to bring in the circus could do considerable damage in three days and that would affect the use of the ball field for quite awhile should that occur. The Dotzenroths explained that they will be going with a different circus this year and it would require a smaller area. Tickets prices will be cheaper and the church will receive a greater percentage of the ticket sales from this circus vs. the one used the past two years. Pastor Weiser suggested they may be able to fit this circus on the smaller field located next to the tot lot pavilion. If that doesn't work, he suggested the possibility of holding it in the outfield of the softball field. They will take measurements of both areas and let the Borough know which area will be utilized. There is some concern on Council's part of the circus' ability to gain access to the softball field, if needed, via South Church Street. Mayor Gartner also expressed some concern over the ability of people being able to afford both the circus and the Street Fair which is scheduled for the following weekend. Pastor Bill explained that the majority of their ticket sales are pre-sells...and most of those are sold well in advance, so people that wish to attend both should not really have to choose between one or the other. It was decided to try it this way this year and see how it affects attendance at the Street Fair, if at all. Pastor Weiser also advised Council that the church hopes to hold a Christkindlmarkt in conjunction with the Jack Frost Parade (November 1st). Their intent is to invite other local churches and community organizations to host stands (perhaps at a cost of \$20/ea) so they can participate and earn money for their organizations as well. Council suggested the Reviewing Stand for the parade should be moved to Penn Avenue for this year's parade. Pastor Weiser advised Council that the reason the reviewing stand should be kept where it is currently at (behind the Borough Hall along West Ruth Avenue) is to keep the parade flowing on Penn Avenue. Typically, the parade slows down at the Reviewing Stand and it's better to do that off the main street. Frank Schnee was in attendance to follow the police charter agreement discussions.

MANAGER – Ms. Heilman advised Council that the library has asked for approval of its newest board member, Mary Jane Witman. On a motion by Mr. Langjahr, second by Mr. Wirebach and unanimously approved by Council, motion to approve Ms. Witman as the new library board member passed. Ms. Heilman sought Council's approval to charge a nominal fee for the use of the concession stand at the ball field pavilion since we invested money last year to upgrade the stand. The fee would help offset the electric, water and sewer charges for the use of the concession stand. It was suggested that a \$15/use fee be charged. Ms. Heilman will incorporate this fee into the field use agreement form before sending out to the teams interested in the use of the ball fields this year.

NEW BUSINESS – Ms. Heilman advised Council that a delinquent trash payment list was recently populated and showed that approximately 25 accounts are carrying a past due balance of over \$19,000. This only included accounts that had a past due balance of at least \$300. If you added in those accounts that had \$240 or more past due, it added another approximately \$3,500. Ms. Heilman would like to pursue these accounts at the District Justice level through the solicitor. Council advised Ms. Heilman she should pursue anyone with a minimum \$180 balance (3 quarters).

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OLD BUSINESS – The proposed changes to the Intermunicipal Police Charter Agreement were again discussed. A list, addressing five points Council would like to discuss with Wernersville, was provided to Council for their consideration. After much discussion, it was decided to eliminate two of the points (one due to its potential illegality and the other due to wording). Three additional points were added. 1. To change the make-up of the police commission to three members from each member municipality. 2. To require a supermajority vote on issues such as full-time hiring, budgetary and contractual issues. 3. To require any new contract being proposed for approval be put before both Councils for consideration prior to approval.

The letter addressing the Borough's Notice of Intent to withdraw from the police commission was also addressed. The manager will revise both documents and send to Council for consideration and approval prior to submission to Wernersville for their consideration.

Mr. Wirebach offered to take the revised documents before the Wernersville Borough Council at their next scheduled meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Wirebach, seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Heilman
Borough Manager