

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

February 18, 2014

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President Abby Wertz called the February 18, 2014 workshop meeting to order at 7:32 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Ron Becker, Rod Soliday, Bill Langjahr, and Bob Pierce. Mike Kocher was absent. Also attending the meeting were Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Citizens and Visitors included Fire Chief Gerry Ochs, Lori Brown, David Randler, Frank Schnee, David Bright, Garry & Karen Degler and Mike Wagner of the Reading Eagle.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from January 6, 2014 Council Meeting. Motion by Mr. Becker, second by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes from the January 6, 2014 meeting were passed.

VISITORS & CITIZENS - Fire Chief, Gerry Ochs, presented Council with the 2014 Fire Police Roster for approval. Mr. Marshall made the motion, and Mr. Pierce seconded, to approve the 2014 Fire Police Roster as presented. Council unanimously approved. Mr. Ochs then gave the 2013 Fire Report and thanked Council for their continued support. Mayor Gartner, on behalf of Council, thanked the Fire Company for all they do for the community. PC Chairman, Frank Schnee, advised Council that the February meeting was cancelled. He suggested that anyone that was interested in going to the Municipal Official's Dinner on March 27 should contact him to carpool. He reminded Council that the CCL was looking for nominations for the Dick Trostle awards. Mr. Schnee asked the status of the police contract. He was told the new contract had not yet been signed. He suggested his 10-hour shift idea should still be considered as it could, potentially, save approximately 80 work hours per month. He also advised Council that he welcomed the new postmistress, Melinda Hilton, on behalf of the Borough.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner advised Council that based on research done by the Borough Manager and Solicitor, he is proposing a change to when flags should be raised and lowered in the Borough. His recommendation was to raise and lower flags as follows:

Upon the deaths of a current or former president, current vice president, current governor, any service member from the Conrad Weiser Area, any firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty while serving the borough or upon any major national incident such as Pearl Harbor or 9/11. At any other time it would have to be approved by both the Mayor and the Council President. Mr. Becker made the motion to approve the Mayor's flag raising/lowering recommendations. Mr. Langjahr seconded the motion and Council unanimously approved. Mayor Gartner issued his thanks to the street crew for doing a good job on our streets during this trying winter. He asked if citation letters/tickets were being issued as needed since many people seemed to be ignoring the Borough's rules regarding moving vehicles to allow for plowing and sidewalk clearing. Nearly twenty letters have been sent to date regarding sidewalk clearing and almost thirty-five parking tickets have been written. Mayor Gartner asked Council to consider going back to the odd/even system for plowing. He feels it worked well in the past and could be helpful to the street crew to return to that system.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George presented the following ordinance for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 2014 – 2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1977-23 REGARDING MOTOR VEHICLE PARKING RESTRICTIONS

He explained the above ordinance provides for 20 minute parking in front of the Wells Fargo Bank at 1 West Penn Avenue. On a motion by Mr. Becker, second by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, ordinance 2014-2 was passed.

ENGINEER – There was no engineering activity to report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – The February 19th Planning Commission is cancelled due to lack of activity.

MANAGER – No report.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- Motion by Mr. Pierce seconded by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration – Next meeting is scheduled for February 26th.

Fire Protection/Safety – No report..

Streets/Highways/Sewer – The January and February meeting minutes were included in the agenda.

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Parks & Recreation -Mr. Becker advised Council the Rec Board will be meeting with all organizations interested in using the ballfields this year on March 20th.

Library – No report.

Personnel: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – Mr. Marshall asked Council to reconsider the purchase of an Automated Phone System. Ms. Wertz will follow up with Swift Reach, the company used by the water authority. He asked that the Dollar General be cited for not clearing their sidewalks. Borough Manager advised that the police have already started the process.

Langjahr – Thanked the street crew for the great job plowing during the recent series of snowfalls/storms.

Becker- Mr. Becker expressed his appreciation for the job the street crew did plowing.

Soliday – Great job to the street crew.

Pierce- Mr. Pierce also acknowledged the good job the street crew did with plowing.

Kocher- Absent

Wertz - Kudos to the street crew and all their hard work. She also advised Council that she has a volunteer to anonymously walks around town and get addresses of all properties with uncleared sidewalks.

Mayor Gartner - Mayor Gartner requested an executive session at 8:11PM to discuss police contract negotiations. Regular session reconvened at 8:26PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No report.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

COMMUNICATIONS included in the packet were the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority's meeting minutes and Treasurer's report. Mayor Gartner advised Council that the new billing system for the Authority was getting all the kinks worked out and that the removal of the dam was moving forward.

A letter of thanks to Borough for their continued support and a Library program schedule from the Robesonia Community Library.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Heilman
Borough Manager