

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

December 17, 2013

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Vice-President Harvey Marshall called the December 17, 2013 workshop meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Frank Schnee, Ron Becker, Dave Rohrbach, Mike Kocher and Bob Pierce. Abby Wertz was absent. Also attending the meeting was Secretary Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner.

VISITORS & CITIZENS -. Dana Oliviero-Campbell was present. Ms. Oliviero-Campbell presented Council with a letter asking Council to consider allowing her to rescind her agreement to increase her pay and reduce her working hours. She explained in the letter that she had not considered the ramifications of her agreement when she signed her performance evaluation and that it would cause her considerable financial hardship. She is asking Council to reinstate her 20 hour work week at her current hourly rate. Council went into executive session at 7:32pm to discuss her request. Regular session reconvened at 7:45pm. At that time, Council advised Ms. Campbell they would agree with her request provided she sign a written agreement that would be provided in the near future.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. The 2014 budget was presented for approval after advertising. The 2014 budget includes an, approximately, \$80,000 increase (total budget \$1,409,954.00). No tax increase is needed. Mr. Becker asked if the Borough would be able to continue to provide the needed services into 2015 without a tax increase as well. It was suggested that if there are no major issues (major equipment breakdowns, infrastructure issues, etc), we should be able to continue operating efficiently and effectively without another increase. Mr. Pierce made the motion to approve the 2014 budget as presented. Mr. Rohrbach seconded and Council unanimously approved.
- B. The subject of engineering bills/service was discussed. SSM offered to reduce the Borough's invoice of \$3,785.21 for the West Penn Avenue storm sewer project by \$1,000 and to perform the 2013/14 MS4 report, inspections & submission to DEP for free. Mr. Rohrbach made the motion to send a letter to Spotts, Stevens and McCoy counter-offering to pay \$1,000 and requesting the free MS4 report, inspections & DEP submission for 2013/14. Response to be requested no later than January 6, 2014. Mr. Becker seconded the motion and Council unanimously agreed.
- C. Mayor Gartner expressed to Council his frustration with the constant raising and lowering of the flags. He stated that people rarely even know why it's being flown at half-staff. He feels a policy should be put in place as to when the flag should be raised and lowered. Council approved him working with the solicitor to determine if and what can be done to create such a policy.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Marshall expressed Ms. Wertz' and the entire Councils' appreciation to Frank Schnee and David Rohrbach for their years of service to the residents of the Borough. Mr. Schnee thanked Council for the kind words in the winter newsletter then read a brief statement, expressing his disappointment in the Police Commission, and in what he considers their lack of commitment to the residents of the Borough; his enjoyment in working with the Council members and employees over the last 12 years, his honor in having served the residents of the Borough of Robeson and his gratitude for the opportunity to serve. Frank will be staying on as the Chairman of the Planning Commission and will come back as the Assistant Zoning Officer if Bill Langjahr agrees to serve on Council.

Mr. Rohrbach expressed his deep sense of satisfaction at having been an integral part of the building of the Henry P. Robeson Memorial Park, expressing his desire to continue his involvement and commitment to the park, which he cherishes. He was pleased to have been a part of getting the new traffic light installed at the Bernville Road (May Street) through a traffic synchronization grant and feels that project was a terrific deal for the Borough. He was happy to have been able to control truck traffic on South Church Street and plans to continue his work with the W-R-W Trash Cog, promoting recycling and recycling education. He has enjoyed serving on Council the past twelve years but looks forward to a

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more relaxed pace in retirement.

We wish both Frank and Dave happy retirements and our deepest gratitude for their service to their community.

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Schnee and unanimously carried, meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Heilman
Borough Secretary