

Borough of Robesonia Council

Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2024

The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Monday, June 3, 2024 at the Robesonia Borough Hall located at 75 S. Brooke Street Robesonia, PA. The following Council members attended:

Harvey W. Marshall, President
Mark Spotts, Vice President
Matthew Miller, President Pro-Tem
Jame Burrus
Dean Johnson
Michael Martin
Mayor Rodney Soliday

Staff: Solicitor Andrew George and Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Harvey Marshall with the pledge of allegiance.

President Harvey Marshall stated that if any audience members were recording the meeting, they must announce it.

Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Dean Johnson to approve the May 20, 2024 Council Workshop meeting minutes. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried

Bills:

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to pay and ratify the bills from May 7, 2024 to June 3, 2024. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried

Police Report

- Police Chief Matthew Hook summarized the May Police Report for Council.

Scheduled Guests:

Anthony Tucci (Western Berks Ambulance): Anthony Tucci made a presentation to Council regarding the state of Western Berks Ambulance Association.

Randy Gartner: Randy Gartner read a statement regarding the Friends of the Furnace, the Borough and the Robesonia Community Library.

Solicitor's Report

- Comcast Franchise Agreement: After a discussion, a motion was made by Mark Spotts to enter into an agreement with Cohen Law Group to perform cable franchise renewal services for Robesonia Borough. Robesonia Borough will also now be apart of the Berks County Cable Consortium. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.
- Tracy Rice's Resignation from Borough Council: A motion was made by Dean Johnson to accept Tracy Rice's resignation from Borough Council, effective May 29th, 2024. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried. Borough Council has 30 days to fill the vacant Council seat.

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Engineer's Report

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.
- Freeman Street Bridge Repair: A motion was made by Mark Spotts to approve the HNT quote for the repair of the Freeman Street bridge and to obtain a GP-11 permit. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on June 19, 2024 if necessary.

Manager

- No new business at this time.

Committee Reports

Finance Administration:

- Meeting minutes for review.

Personnel:

- No new business at this time.

Public Safety:

- No new business at this time.

Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- No new business at this time.

Parks and Recreation:

- Meeting minutes for review.

Library Board Liaison:

- No new business at this time.

Council Member Reports

- Mayor:
 - Mayor Soliday gave a shoutout and thank you to Captain Taylor Heister who is in the Air Force and flies a F-16 fighter jet.
- Marshall:
 - Trash Levy Being Added to Tax Bill: Council had a discussion regarding adding the trash bill as a line item on the tax bill for 2025 instead of working with Diversified. This would save the Borough around \$11,000.00 per year. Council will continue to gather information and discuss this possibility.
- Spotts:
 - Council of Governments Update: Mark Spotts reported that this is the last year of the Boroughs contract with Waste Management. The COG is looking to get bids for the new contract out in August.
 - Library Funding: Mark Spotts made a motion to reinstate the library's monthly check for \$1,125.00 from the Borough for 60 days as a show of good faith, since the Borough received an encouraging letter from the library to negotiate a new agreement. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

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- Miller
 - Facebook Posts: Matthew Miller made a statement regarding the Facebook posts of resident's properties that have been posted on social media. Matthew Miller suggested working together as a community instead of embarrassing residents' homes online.

Authorities: The following Reports/Minutes were received.

- Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority Meeting Minutes & Treasurer's Report
- Western Berks Ambulance Report
- Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

- Nikki Ferrell: Nikki Ferrell thanked the Borough for their support and assistance with local events.
- Peg Houck: Peg Houck had a discussion with Council regarding parking at her residence on South Freeman Street during the construction of the Grande project. Harvey Marshall will speak with the contractor on site regarding parking accommodations.
- Leslie Pirl-Roth: Leslie Pirl-Roth suggested the possibility to Council of using a microphone during meetings. Leslie hoped that the library and the Borough can continue discussing the new agreement.
- Elsa Wertz: Elsa Wertz had a discussion with Council regarding how residents will be notified of emergencies.
- Donna Kuhn: Donna Kuhn thanked the library and the Friends of the Furnace.
- Beth Sattizahn: Beth Sattizahn stated that it was refreshing to see many residents attending the meeting. Beth suggested more communication between the residents and Borough Council.
- Joel Costenbader: Joel Costenbader had a discussion with Mark Spotts regarding the Friends of the Furnace. Joel stated that he is a member of the Friends of the Furnace and has worked with them to hold multiple different events including their working with 39 With Honor to raise money for Wreaths Across America in the past.
- Madison Riehl: Madison Riehl thanked the Borough for their continued support. Madison stated that she has sent financial statements and library meeting minutes to Council and will continue to do so.
- Cindy Murdough: Cindy Murdough thanked Tracy Rice for our service on Borough Council.
- Mike Manno: Mike Manno had a discussion with Council regarding the perception of the Borough. Mike stated that Borough Council should reach out to the community and residents more.
- Kevin Snyder: Kevin Snyder thanked Borough Council for their time and effort. Kevin stated that residents should continue coming to meetings going forward and to stay involved.
- Lori Brown: Lori Brown had a discussion with Council regarding the original Ordinance establishing the library. Mark Spotts stated that the library and the Borough need to be on the same page.

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- Michelle Shaulis: Michelle Shaulis asked for an update on the abandoned South Wayne Street property. Harvey Marshall stated that the appropriate paperwork has been filed and the property will be cleaned up shortly.

Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:44 PM by Dean Johnson. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Borough Manager
Robesonia Borough