

Borough of Robesonia Council

Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2024

The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Monday, December 2, 2024 at the Robesonia Borough Hall located at 75 S. Brooke Street Robesonia, PA. The following Council members attended:

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

Staff: Solicitor Andrew George and Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Vice President, Mark Spotts with the pledge of allegiance.

Beth Sattizahn and Terri Groff stated that they were recording the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve the November 4, 2024 Council meeting minutes. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Bills:

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to pay and ratify the bills from November 5, 2024 to December 2, 2024. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

Scheduled Guests:

- Steve Bright: Steve Bright introduced himself to Council as the Chairman of the Womelsdorf Robesonia Joint Authority and expressed his support in Mark Spotts being reappointed to the Board.

Appointments for 2025

A motion was made by Dean Johnson to confirm the following appointments. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

- Bank Depositories: PLIGIT, Fulton Bank and Tompkins Community Bank
- Appointment of Kozloff Stoudt as Borough Solicitor
- Appointment of Technicon Enterprises II, Inc. as Borough Engineer, Code Enforcement Officer, Sewage Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector and Sidewalk Inspector
- Appointment of Cory Peiffer PC, CPA for Payroll Services
- Appointment of Stanilla, Siegel and Maser as Auditor
- Appointment of Elizabeth Miller as Borough Manager
- Appointment of Harvey Marshall to a 5 Year Term on the Robesonia Wernersville Municipal Authority
- Appointment of Rodney Soliday to a 5 Year Term on the Robesonia Municipal Authority
- Appointment of Mark Spotts to a 5 Year Term on the Womelsdorf Robesonia Joint Authority
- Appointment of Tom Auchenbach to a 5 Year Term on the Planning Commission

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- Appointment of Joel Costenbader to a 3 Year Term on the Zoning Hearing Board

Appointments to Robesonia Community Library Board

Borough Council was presented with names of candidates who submitted a letter of interest to the Borough to be appointed. Mark Spotts opened the floor for nominations.

- A motion was made by Matthew Miller to nominate Christine Burrus. Seconded by Dean Johnson.
- A motion was made by Michael Martin to nominate Tyler March. Seconded by Mark Spotts.
- A motion was made by Mark Spotts to nominate Simone Egipciano. Seconded by Dean Johnson.
- A motion was made by David Bright to nominate Shawn Pauley. No second was made.
- A motion was made by David Bright to nominate Leslie Pirl-Roth.

After a discussion, Leslie Pirl-Roth withdrew her letter of interest.

Tyler March was appointed to a 1 Year Term.

Simone Egipciano was appointed to a 2 Year Term.

Christine Burrus was appointed to a 3 Year Term.

Solicitor

- Resolution 2024-16: A motion was made by David Bright to approve Resolution 2024-16 which sets salaries and wages for 2025. Seconded by Michael Martin. Mark Spotts voted nay. Motion carried. Matthew Miller abstained due to a conflict of interest.

Engineer's Report

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.
- Wawa Financial Security Release Recommendation in the Amount of \$726,964.98: A motion was made by Jame Burrus to authorize Elizabeth Miller to write a financial security release letter to the appropriate bank due to all improvements and inspections being met for Wawa. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.
- Furnace Hill Security Release Recommendation in the Amount of \$999,531.49: A motion was made by David Bright to authorize Elizabeth Miller to write a financial security release recommendation letter to reduce the letter of credit for Furnace Hill for improvements and work that has been completed so far. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.
- Possible Parking Reduction and Tree Removal at Church Street/422 Intersection: The Borough Engineer stated that she reached out to PennDOT to conduct a study and measure for sight distances. After receiving their report, they recommended eliminating four parking spaces and eliminating a sycamore tree to increase sight distance. After a discussion, a motion was made by Michael Martin to authorize Solicitor George to draft an ordinance to reflect the recommended reduction for Council to consider. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on December 18, 2024 if necessary.

Manager

- Approval of 2025 Budget: After a discussion, a motion was made by Michael Martin to approve the budget for 2025. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

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The Mayor of Wernersville had a discussion with Council and citizens regarding EMS funding.

- Meeting Room Speaker and Microphone Quote: A quote from Good Sound Co. was presented to Council in the amount of \$9,298.32. No action was taken at this time.
- Center for Excellence in Local Government Municipal Sponsorship: A motion was made by Michael Martin to donate \$300.00 to the Center for Excellence in Local Government. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Finance Administration:

- Meeting minutes for review.

Personnel:

- Employee Bonuses: After a discussion, a motion was made by Michael Martin to give \$300 bonuses to employees who worked at least 6 months of the calendar year. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Public Safety:

- No new business at this time.

Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- Meeting minutes for review.

Parks and Recreation:

- Letter of Resignation from Jennifer McCollum: A motion was made by David Bright to accept the letter of resignation from Jennifer McCollum. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.
The Borough will advertise for anyone interested in being appointed to the Board.

Shade Tree Commission:

- Meeting summary for review.

Council Member Reports

- Burrus:
 - Email Addresses for Councilmembers: Jame Burrus suggested the Borough look into creating new email addresses for all Councilmembers going forward.
 - 31 Chestnut Avenue Gate Repair: Jame Burrus suggested the Borough reach out to Ms. Ruth and ask her to forward an invoice to the Borough for repair work performed. The Borough will wait until they receive the invoice to decide on remitting any payment.
- Spotts:
 - Acceptance and Discussion of New Robesonia, Wernersville and Womelsdorf Trash and Recycling Contract: Mark Spotts stated that there were errors in the bid forms that were received. The COG has decided to rebid the contract process and extend the deadline for bidders to submit bids. Mark Spotts is unavailable to attend the bid-opening meeting and would like another Council representative to attend in his place.
 - A motion was made by Jame Burrus to amend the agenda. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by Michael Martin to appoint David Bright to replace Mark Spotts at the bid opening meeting on December 4th. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Authorities: The following Reports/Minutes were received.

- Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority Meeting Minutes & Treasurer's Report

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- Robesonía Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes
- Robesonía-Wernersville Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes
- Western Berks Ambulance Report

Public Comment

- Leslie Pirl-Roth: Leslie Pirl-Roth stated that the Robesonía Community Library Craft Show will be held on December 7th from 10 AM – 2 PM.
- Geneva Burger: Geneva Burger stated that the new Christmas lights are lovely.
- Beth Sattizahn: Beth Sattizahn stated that the Christmas lights are nice. Beth also suggested adding an old business section to the agenda going forward and suggested that the Borough update their website to be more resident friendly.
- David Randler: David Randler stated that the Borough should assure that Harvey Marshall has help going forward on the Road Crew.
- Cindy Murdough: Cindy Murdough stated that the Life Begins at 75 banquet will be held on January 4th at 12 PM at St. Daniels Church. Cindy also stated that she supports Mark Spotts being on the Water Authority and that the Board is ran well.
- Simone Egipcíaco: Simone Egipcíaco thanked Council for her appointment to the library board.

A motion was made by David Bright for the Council meeting to go into recess at 8:43 PM and will reconvene on Wednesday, December 4th at 7 PM. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

The regularly scheduled Borough Council meeting reconvened on December 4, 2024 at 7 PM.

Vice-President Mark Spotts presided over the meeting.

Terri Groff stated that she is recording the meeting.

Acceptance and Discussion of New Robesonía, Wernersville and Womelsdorf Trash and Recycling Contract

A motion was made by Harvey Marshall to accept AJ Blosenski's bid to become the Boroughs new trash hauler. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried. AJ Blosenski was the lowest bidder due to Casella being deficient in their bid.

Executive Session

Mark Spotts stated that an Executive Session was held today, December 4th to discuss potential settlement of pending litigation but no formal action was taken.

Elimination of Highway III Position

Borough Council had a discussion regarding the Highway II and Highway III position and pay rate. Jame Burrus expressed concern over eliminating the Highway III position in the event that the Borough would need to bring on an as needed employee. After a discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Miller to change snow plow drivers to Highway II. There will be two categories for Highway II going forward. Highway II who is part time with no benefits and Highway II who received benefits and works over 20 hours consistently. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Council Member Reports

- Johnson:

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- Dean Johnson stated that he believes Council should considering raising their pay raise to be more in line with other municipalities going forward.

Adjourn of Meeting

A motion was made by Dean Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Borough Manager
Robesonia Borough