

Borough of Robesonia Council

Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2024

The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Monday, February 5, 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
Jame Burrus
Dean Johnson
Michael Martin
Matthew Miller
Tracy Rice
Mayor Rodney Soliday

Staff: Solicitor Andrew George and Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Harvey Marshall with the pledge of allegiance.

Appointment of President Pro-Tem

- A motion was made by Mark Spotts to appoint Matthew Miller as President Pro-Tem. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2024 Council meeting. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Bills:

- A motion was made by Mark Spotts to pay and ratify the bills from January 3, 2024 to February 5, 2024. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

Citizens and Visitors: Sign in sheet is available upon request.

John Christian: John Christian represented the Pioneer Hose Company #1 and presented a fundraising event to Council. Pioneer Hose Company #1 would like to hold a sportsman's raffle event at the Robesonia ballfield. President Harvey Marshall explained that the Fire Company would need to sign a lease agreement with the Borough and also provide a certificate of insurance. A motion was made by Dean Johnson to approve the event. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried. The Borough Manager will prepare the document and send it to Mr. Christian.

Charlia Koch: Charlia asked Council if there is currently any section eight housing in the Borough. President Harvey Marshall informed her that there is not.

Cindy Murdough: Cindy thanked Council for renewing their contract with No Nonsense Neutering for 2024. She also suggested that the Borough put all ordinances online.

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Madison Mayhew: Madison introduced herself to Council as the new Robesonia Library Director. Madison stated that Council can expect the library's end of the year report soon and also provided a calendar of February events.

Mark Spotts: Mark Spotts representing the Patriotic Order Sons of America (POS of A) Camp 113 presented an event to Council. The event is called Patriots Day and is a free event open to the public. The event will be held on May 4, 2024 and will include a civil war reenactment, kids activities, flag presentation/retirement service and firing of their canon. The POS of A is asking for an event permit from the Borough. A motion was made by Matthew Miller to approve the event. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried. The Borough Manager will prepare the document.

Gwen Weiser and Pastor Jen: Gwen Weiser and Pastor Jen had a discussion with Council regarding the past Jack Frost Parade route. After a discussion, all decided to hold a meeting on February 19th at 4:30 PM. Harvey Marshall and Mike Martin will attend from the Borough. Pastor Jen thanked the Borough for their continued support.

Dave Rohrbach: Dave Rohrbach submitted two brick applications to the Borough. Harvey Marshall stated that he will make sure the bricks get put into the memorial.

Solicitor's Report

- Resolution 2024-4: A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve Resolution 2024-4 and Addendum Agreement to permit Statewide Tax Recovery to contract with H.A. Berkheimer, Inc. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-5: A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve Resolution 2024-5 which appoints Keegan Worley as Primary Delegate and Elizabeth Miller as Alternate Delegate to the TCC Executive Committee. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-6: The Council had a discussion regarding Resolution 2024-6 which establishes a policy for complaints submitted to the Borough. Tracy Rice suggested adding language in the resolution in the event that the complaint would be against the Borough Manager. Solicitor George will edit the resolution and it is tabled at this time.
- Resolution 2024-7: A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve Resolution 2024-7 which approves the disposition of specific records. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.
- Ordinance 2024-1: A motion was made by Michael Martin to advertise Ordinance 2024-1 which states the policy for the Organic Yard Waste Facility at the Borough Garage. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.
- Maple Avenue Apartments: After a discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Miller to not require the Maple Avenue apartments to install a driveway apron. The Borough will allow paving an eight-inch-thick asphalt driveway from the road to the parking lot. There will also be handicap ramps on the sidewalk. Seconded by James Burrus. Tracy Rice voted nay. Motion carried.

Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on February 21, 2024 if necessary.

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Manager

- No matters to report at this time.

Committee Reports

Finance Administration:

- Meeting Minutes for review.

Personnel:

- Employee Bonuses: A motion was made by Dean Johnson to give Harvey Marshall, Elizabeth Miller, John Schittler and Nicholas Hancock a \$300 bonus. Seconded by Tracy Rice. Motion carried. Harvey Marshall and Matthew Miller abstained from the vote.

Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- Meeting Minutes for review.

Parks and Recreation:

- Parks & Recreation Board will meet in February.

Library Board Liaison:

- The Borough will provide David Randler who is the newly appointed Library Board Liaison with information for his first library board meeting.

Council Member Reports

- Marshall
 - Library Heat Pump: The Borough had previously received a quote from Abram Beery Mechanical to replace the library's heat pump with a gas furnace. Council will consider the quote at their March meeting.
- Rice
 - Conrad Weiser Cheer: Tracy Rice congratulated the Conrad Weiser Cheer Team on their recent victory.
 - Comcast Franchise Agreement: Tracy Rice asked Solicitor George to provide an update on the Comcast Franchise Agreement.
 - Committee Meeting Minutes: Tracy Rice suggested uploading committee meeting minutes to the Borough website.
- Martin
 - Municipal Officials Dinner: Michael Martin reminded Council that Albright College will be hosting their annual Municipal Officials Dinner on March 14th. Anyone that would like to attend should let the Borough Manager know.

Executive Session:

- Council entered into an executive session at 7:54 PM.
- The regularly scheduled meeting reconvened at 8:28 PM.

A motion was made by Mark Spotts to amend the agenda. Seconded by Dean Johnson.

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Friends of the Furnace: A motion was made by James Burrus to grant the Friends of the Furnace a 90-day extension on a zoning matter. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

Communications: 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

Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:43 PM by Dean Johnson. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Borough Manager
Robesonia Borough