

President Tony Wirebach called the June 3, 2019 meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Abby Wertz., Harvey Marshall, Mike Martin, Erica Ziegler, Rod Soliday and Frank Schnee. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Chris Yatron, Gary Heck, Edwin Guldin, Vernon Bright, David Rohrbach, David Bright, Carol Werkheiser, Mark Spotts and Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle. A motion was made by Mr. Schnee to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2019 Council Meeting. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – Dave Rohrbach noted that he and his wife walk the town quite often and mentioned the fact that both the Sonoco water tower and the water tower at 317 East Penn Avenue could use some maintenance. Manager was directed to send letters to both properties. Mayor Gartner asked Mr. Rohrbach the status of the new veterans' bricks for the park. Mr. Rohrbach stated they are here. Mr. Marshall told the Mayor he has them stacked in the garage and is hoping to have them in place in the park in the next two weeks. Mayor directed Manager to put notice on Facebook page that bricks are still available for purchase. Edwin Guldin, Chairman of the Wernersville-Robesonia Joint Sewer Authority, asked Council if there was some concern about the authority being run inefficiently since we've asked for financials, meeting minutes and by-laws from the authority. Council assured him we have no issues with the service provided. It was noted that Council regularly receives these items from both the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority and the Robesonia Municipal Authority. Mr. Martin noted Council is just interested in keeping some type of tabs on what all three authorities are doing fiscally. Mr. Guldin asked if Council directed Mr. Randler to seek a proposal from Jonestown Bank to present to their board. Council advised them they had not but Mr. Schnee noted there was a much better interest rate being offered by Jonestown Bank than what they were currently getting at their financial institution. Mr. Guldin advised they are searching other financial institutions and looking at all their options. Mr. Marshall asked if they had renewed their Articles of Incorporation recently since he noted the ones he received had expired in 2013. Both Mr. Guldin felt that they were renewed. Mayor thanked Mr. Yatron, Mr. Heck and Mr. Guldin for serving on the board.

David Bright, on behalf of Camp 113 POSofA thanked all who came out to help and support them during the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner reported that the Labor Day Car Show is coming along and that we've got a few sponsors and entrants. He directed Manager to put a notice on the Facebook page about the car show. Manager noted the entire back page of the summer newsletter was dedicated to the car show. Mayor Gartner reminded everyone that the annual Street Fair is scheduled for June 21/22.

**SOLICITOR** - Solicitor George advised Council that he is working with Mr. Marshall on providing Easement Agreements to approximately six properties in Conrad Weiser Village to allow for the Borough to go onto their properties in order to maintain and repair the stormwater issues (pipes and detention pond/swale) that have recently occurred. He also congratulated the Borough as the new owners of the property on which the Furnace Office (Camp POSA office) is located. All the paperwork has been signed.

**ENGINEER** – The Engineer report was included in the agenda packet.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting is scheduled for June 19th, if needed.

**MANAGER** – Manager presented proposal from Diversified Technology for the billing of the quarterly trash bills. Their proposal was for \$810/month for their service (\$9,720 annually) for the three year contract. This amount does not include the fees charged by the bank to which the collections are sent. Mr. Schnee made the motion to hire Diversified Technology to bill and collect for the quarterly trash billing. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

**Finance/Administration** - No report.

**Personnel:** On a motion by Ms. Wertz and second by Ms. Ziegler, Council went into Executive Session at 7:37 to discuss personnel matters. Regular session reconvened at 8:12.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Mr. Martin discussed the still-needed inspections for the fire suppression system at the old Gloray building at 317 East Penn Avenue. Mr. Martin advised Council that the Fire Company got to participate in a NASCAR weekend at Pocono and it was a fantastic experience and, he feels, a great recruitment opportunity. Chief Babura got NASCAR fire-fighting certified.

**Police Committee-** Mr. Marshall and Mayor Gartner presented to Council the proposal received from South Heidelberg Township for police services for 80 hours/week wheels-on-the-ground and 24/7 Emergency Service response. The budget will be \$282,880 in 2020, \$291,366 in 2021 and \$300,107 in 2022. This includes the current communications costs for which we currently pay separately (approximately \$14,500 annually). Mr. Martin made the motion to go with South Heidelberg Township for police protective services and Ms. Ziegler seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Soliday asked about the sale of assets of the existing department and what will be done with that money and/or assets. Mayor Gartner suggested the possibility of providing one of the cars to Mr. Martin as the Fire Police Captain so he does not need to keep using his personal car for responding to calls. It will be discussed and determined in the next few months.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – The meeting minutes from the May meeting were included in the agenda packet. The tar and chipping project on South Church Street was advertised and the bids received were opened. Two bids were received:

Martin Paving - \$42,104.04

Asphalt Maintenance Solutions - \$46,516.14

Mr. Marshall made the motion to award the bid to Martin Paving. Mr. Schnee seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Marshall discussed the possibility of borrowing another \$500,000 for street work since the bridge loan has been paid off. Patching Mountain Avenue is not a good option and there are several streets that are beyond saving with crack sealing, cold patch or tar & chipping. We will look at different options for financing to see which would be the best way to go. Mr. Marshall advised Council that he heard back from CNS Wholesale's legal department and they do not own the driveway leading to the Derr property along South Freeman Street. Mr. Marshall asked Council to approve having the solicitor send a certified letter to the property owner giving her 90 days to repair the driveway run-off issue or the borough will perform the work and file a lien against the property. Mr. Marshall made the motion, Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously. Ms. Wertz asked about the possibility of finding grant money to pay to extend the public sewer lines up Mountain Avenue. She was told that would be a matter for the Robesonian Municipal Authority to look into.

**Parks & Recreation-** The Playground Program will once again be held at the CW Community Pool this summer and will be starting on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Marshall asked that we obtain a certification from the Lions Club, for insurance purposes, for the playground mulch placed in the tot lot.

**Sewer Authority:** No report.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – No report.

**Martin-** No report.

**Ziegler-** No report.

**Schnee-**Mr. Schnee congratulated Mr. Wirebach on the terrific article in the Reading Eagle on the accomplishments of his son, Van, and noted that he is a “bright star of the future”. Mr. Schnee thanked

Mr. Marshall for getting the turn lane lines painted on North and South Robeson Street and noted that he had received a thank you note from Kelly Grabey about same. Mr. Schnee advised Council that Moses Charles contacted him again about the possibility of allowing Teen Challenge to open a drug and alcohol counseling center at 317 East Penn Avenue. We will need to have Mr. Charles fill out a Change of Use form plus he will need to allow Borough Officials (Zoning, Building, Fire Marshall) entry into the building to perform inspections before being allowed to move any other businesses into the building.

**Soliday** – No report.

**Wertz**- No report.

**Wirebach**- No report.

**Mayor Gartner** – No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** –Breninger Property Acquisition: Meeting was held with Ken Pick of the Berks Redevelopment Authority and the preliminary information was started for the ISRP grant. We cannot go further in submission of the ISRP grant until matching fund sources are identified. Manager advised Maree Forbes to focus on finding clean-up fund sources rather than historic preservation/recreation sources. Mr. Marshall made the motion to establish a committee to ensure work continues in a timely manner on this project. Mr. Marshall, Mayor Gartner and Ms. Wertz will serve on the committee. Mr. Martin seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- April Treasurer's report and April meeting minutes from the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority meeting
- Western Berks Regional PD monthly meeting minutes (5/14), monthly report, payroll report and QB reports.
- Robesonia Municipal Authority's Treasurer's report (April)
- Kraft Codes monthly report (May)

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Ms. Wertz and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager