

Borough of Robesonia Council

Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2024

The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Tuesday, September 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
David Bright
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.

Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by David Bright to approve the August 5, 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 August 6, 2024 to September 3, 2024. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Police Report

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

Scheduled Guests:

Harvey Marshall stated that going forward, Council will be enforcing that citizens must limit their comments to three minutes for a non-agenda item, and five minutes for an agenda item.

- Rodney Soliday: Mayor Rodney Soliday announced that he asked Donnie Swope from Berks County Department of Emergency Services, John Christian from Pioneer Hose Company #1 and Police Chief Matthew Hook to make a presentation to residents to inform them of proper procedure in the event of an emergency.
- Leslie Pirl-Roth: Leslie Pirl-Roth presented Council with a financial report from the Robesonia Community Library and asked for continued municipal support.

Solicitor's Report

- Library Lease Agreement: Solicitor George stated that the Library Lease Agreement will be discussed in executive session.

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- Authorization to Draft a Public Meeting Resolution: After a discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Miller to authorize Solicitor George to draft a public meeting resolution for the Borough with the purpose of making Council meetings the most efficient. Seconded by Jame Burrus. David Bright voted nay. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.

Planning Commission

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

Manager

- No new business at this time.

Committee Reports

Finance Administration:

- Meeting minutes for review.
- 2025 Budget: Harvey Marshall stated that the 2025 budget will be prepared and ready for review at the October Council meeting.

Personnel:

- Personnel Committee will begin reviewing applicants who submitted resumes for the part-time Streets Department position.

Public Safety:

- No new business at this time.

Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- No new business at this time.

Parks and Recreation:

- No new business at this time.

Library Board Liaison:

- Leslie Pirl Roth volunteered to be the Borough Liaison.

Council Member Reports

- Marshall
 - 2025 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for Pension Plan: A motion was made by Jame Burrus to approve the 2025 MMO at 0%. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.
 - Trash Levy Addition to Tax Bill: After a discussion, a motion was made by Mark Spotts to add trash as a levy to the tax bill beginning in Spring of 2025. Seconded by Matthew

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Miller. Motion carried. The Borough will notify residents of this change and will be working with the Tax Collector for billing.

- Spotts
 - Mark Spotts expressed concern regarding the status of the new Borough garage being completed in Phase 1 of the Furnace Hill development. Harvey Marshall stated that he would have a conversation with the Borough Engineer.

Authorities: The following Reports/Minutes were received.

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

Public Comment

- Beth Sattizahn: Beth Sattizahn presented Council with questions such as if the Borough had received a quote for microphones to use during meetings, if the Borough would be interested in updating crosswalk signs of the possibility of scanning all Borough ordinances onto the website. Harvey Marshall stated that Council would take these comments under consideration.
- Tracy Rice: Tracy Rice had concerns regarding if the Borough had mowed grass on her private property. Tracy Rice also asked if the Borough Engineer had presented stormwater BMP's yet which Harvey Marshall stated there was no update provided at this time.
- Terri Groff: Terri Groff expressed concern over bicyclists and asked for the status of the Mountain Road repair. Harvey Marshall stated that the plan for repair was being prepared.
- David Randler: David Randler reported that the Borough car show was a success.
- Susie Zerbe: Susie Zerbe asked Council to consider allocating funds for No Nonsense Neutering in the 2025 budget. Susie Zerbe had a discussion with Mark Spotts regarding the status of the COG trash contracts.
- Cindy Murdough: Cindy Murdough expressed her support for trap and release programs being made available in the Borough.

Adjourn Meeting

A motion was made by Dean Johnson to adjourn the meeting and enter into an executive session to discuss personnel matters at 8:21 PM. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Borough Manager
Robesonia Borough