

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

July 20, 2021

Page 1 of 2

Vice President, Mark Spotts, called the July 20, 2021 workshop meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Michael Martin, Matt Miller, Dean Johnson and Rod Soliday. Also attending the meeting was Manager Lisa Heilman. Visitors included Randy Yarnall, George Gadebush, Tracy Rice, Cindy Murdough and David Randler.

VISITORS & CITIZENS - Randy Yarnall and George Gadebush, representing the POSofA, sought Council's blessing to hold a Civil War Living History event at the POSofA building/borough property on August 28th. The event will include live demonstrations, food trucks, etc. They asked that they be able to close Freeman Street during the event (10AM-4PM...possibly a bit later to lead up to the Friends of the Furnace event being held that evening.) Manager asked that a copy of their liability insurance naming Borough as additional insured be provided to the Borough prior to the event. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve the use of the borough property for the event and Mr. Miller seconded. Council approved unanimously. Tracy Rice, representing the library board, asked Council if they would have a problem with a sign being placed on the Borough property at the intersection of Mountain Ave/Freeman St./Furnace St. to promote the summer reading program. Manager suggested there was no problem with it as long as it was understood the Borough held no liability if the sign was hit or stolen. It was also suggested to Ms. Rice to see if they could advertise on the Fire Company's marquis. Mr. Martin told her they advertise for free for non-profits and to see him with the exact wording she would like shown. Ms. Rice also thanked the Borough for painting the planter/barrier on Furnace Street to cover the graffiti. She stated the residents in the area were all happy to see that done. She asked whether Borough would consider painting the other two so they all matched. Will pass this request on to the Streets Department.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

NEW BUSINESS: - Due to a procedural error at the July Council meeting, Solicitor George presented Resolution 2021-2 as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, REGARDING THE RECISSION OF PRIOR VOTES TO FILL VACANT COUNCIL POSITION AND TO FILL COUNCIL POSITION.

Mr. Soliday made the motion to pass and Mr. Johnson seconded. Council approved unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Spotts made the motion to appoint Tracy Race to the vacant Council position and asked Ms. Rice to tell the Council why she would like to serve on the Borough Council. Ms. Rice noted her family has lived in the Borough in one of the historic homes for seventeen years, she has children in the middle and high schools, she is an "amateur" historian and loves the history of the borough, is on the library board and a member of the Friends of the Furnace. She spelled out her impressive background in environmental studies (she is a geologist and a Tulpehocken Creek Watershed steward), has helped government entities write grants and deal with environmental issues (in her capacity as a consultant with her own business) and suggested that knowledge could be useful in some upcoming projects within the Borough. Mr. Spotts then read a letter of support for Ms. Rice from the Mayor who could not be in attendance.

Mr. Soliday then nominated Jamie Burrus, a member of the Borough's Planning Commission, but noted that Mr. Burrus could not be at the meeting to address Council due to the passing of his sister in NY.

A roll call vote was then taken as follows:

Johnson- Rice; Soliday- Burrus; Miller- Burrus; Martin- Burrus; Spotts- Rice

Mr. Burrus was appointed on a 3-2 vote.

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

July 20, 2021

Page 2 of 2

Mr. Martin made the motion to appoint Harvey Marshall as the temporary COG representative to attend the July 21st meeting at which some administrative actions need to be taken. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Martin made the motion to appoint Mark Spotts to the COG position going forward. Mr. Johnson seconded and Council approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMUNICATIONS-

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Heilman
Borough Manager