

President Harvey Marshall called the May 4, 2020 meeting (held via Zoom) to order at 7:00 PM. Council Members present were Mark Spotts, Erica Ziegler, David Rohrbach, Rod Soliday, Dean Johnson and Mike Martin. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andy George, Chief Leon Grim, Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were John Schittler, David Bright and JC Hoffa. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2020 Council Meeting. Mr. Spotts seconded and Council approved unanimously.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS:** David Bright, on behalf of the POSofA asked Council's opinion of going forward with the annual Memorial Remembrance ceremony on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Council approved going forward with the ceremony should they choose to do so. All other visitors were observing.

**MAYOR** – No report.

**SOLICITOR** - Solicitor George presented Resolution 2020-5. This resolution is effective for tax collections only in 2020 and is being passed by most municipalities at the request of the County because of the implausibility of being able to divide the tax bill for County and Municipal taxes.

#### RESOLUTION 2020-5

#### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, EXTENDING THE TIME PERIOD FOR TAXPAYERS TO PAY THEIR BOROUGH REAL ESTATE TAXES WITHOUT A PENALTY UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

On a motion by Mr. Rohrbach and second by Mr. Spotts, Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Spotts advised Council that he had attended a Zoom conference held by the CELG in which the participants were told of this and were really not given much notice or choice. Also, we were warned of a big hit coming to our budgets, particularly in the third and fourth quarters, because of limited EIT being collected while people are not working during the pandemic.

**ENGINEER** – Engineer's Report and Building Permit report were included in the agenda packet.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting is scheduled for May 20th, if needed.

**MANAGER** – Manager advised Council that the first request for reimbursement for the 902 grant has been submitted for approximately \$30,000.00

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** Motion by Mr. Spotts, 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:** No report.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Mr. Martin reported that the Fire Station was professionally decontaminated at no cost to the company.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – No meeting was held in April. Mr. Marshall met with Mike Fisher (Freeman Street), Dave Rohrbach, Jeff Kerlin (Technicon), Sloan Paving and the new buyers of the property in two separate meetings to ensure the correction of the water run-off problem. There are two parts of the problem. The first will be corrected by the paving of the first 250 feet of driveway at a 2% grade to direct the runoff from the driveway to the swale owned by CNS. The second issue is that a pipe is needed under the driveway to direct runoff into the swale. CNS will be providing a letter to the Borough to allow us access to install the pipe (for an approximate cost of \$1,000 since Jack Keener donated 40' of 15" pipe to use in the project. The new owner has indicated an interest in paving the remainder of the driveway and to do some stormwater management at the top of the property near the house.

**Sewer Authorities:** No report.

**Parks & Recreation-** The 2020 Playground Program was discussed. Most municipalities have cancelled their summer playground programs due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 lockdowns being imposed by the Governor. Cancelling our program would protect us from liability and save us \$7,000 in

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

May 4, 2020

Page 2 of 3

our budget...which may be needed in the third and fourth quarters due to the lack of EIT revenue. Ms. Ziegler made the motion to cancel the program for 2020 and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously. Should the economy open up for the summer, the Borough may consider buying pool passes to provide to the children of the borough for a couple of pool days. We will revisit this in the future when we see where we are with the lockdowns being lifted.

**Western Berks Joint Planning Commission:** No report.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – No report.

**Martin**- No report.

**Ziegler**- No report.

**Johnson**- Mr. Johnson asked the status of the spring yard sale. Manager advised that the woman who runs it in town notified her that the one scheduled to take place in June has been cancelled. She is hoping to hold it in the fall instead.

**Soliday**- No report.

**Spotts**- Mr. Spotts will discuss his issue with the South Church Street underpass with Mr. Marshall before bringing it back to Council.

**Rohrbach**- Mr. Rohrbach asked if the Spring Clean-up was cancelled. Manager advised him that we are hoping to reschedule for sometime in fall. Mr. Rohrbach advised Council that St. Paul's parsonage has a tenant who raises bees. A new neighbor moved in next door that is allergic to bee stings. Does the Borough have any type of ordinances on beekeeping? Manager advised him that the rules surrounding beekeeping are spelled out in the zoning ordinance. Manager will provide a copy of the section on beekeeping to him so he can talk to the person keeping the bees. He asked the status on the property at 317 East Penn Avenue...was a letter sent (yes), has he brought the property into compliance? Mr. Soliday offered to check the property out and determine if the stones were cleaned up and let the Manager know. If not, a follow-up letter will be sent.

**Mayor Gartner** – No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – The status of the additional clean-up funding for the Breininger property is potentially in danger of being lost this year due to the hit the County's budget will be taking this year due to the pandemic shut-downs. We will continue to follow up on this.

The handicapped parking request for 133 Pennbrooke Avenue was discussed. There are already six handicapped parking spaces on that street as well as one on the corner of Pennbrooke and South Wayne. Mr. Spotts reported that most of the properties with handicapped parking spaces also have parking at the rear of their properties. He suggested we send out letters to all current handicapped space holders asking them to update their forms and provide current copies of their placards. We should also include on the form the question "Does your property have off-street parking?". This may help us find spaces that are no longer valid/needed. The issue of whether a fee can be changed for providing handicapped spaces was discussed. The Fatzinger Automotive property was discussed. A letter was sent on March 6<sup>th</sup> advising him of the need to clean up the cars and tires on the property. The only thing that has been done to date is a few tires were moved/removed. Council directed Manager to write another letter including the section from the Zoning Ordinance (402.H) addressing junk yards.

Mr. Spotts also asked if there has been any resolution to the Baer billing matter discussed in March. Manager advised him that a letter was sent from the solicitor to Tom Tobin at Diversified Technologies that the Borough has no culpability in this matter and it is between Diversified and Mr. Baer. Diversified has not, to date, credited Mr. Baer's account for the missing \$200. Mayor Gartner advised Council that he, in his capacity as Chairman of the Water Authority, wrote a letter to Mr. Tobin expressing his dissatisfaction with their handling of this matter and is still awaiting a response from him.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No report.

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA  
May 4, 2020  
Page 3 of 3

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Kraft Codes monthly Property Maintenance Report.
- Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority February meeting minutes and January Treasurer's Report.

On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Spotts and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer