

President Harvey Marshall called the June 7, 2021 Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag. Council members present were V.P. Mark Spotts, David Rohrbach, Mike Martin, Matt Miller, Dean Johnson and Rod Soliday. Also attending the meeting were SHPD Chief Leon Grim, Mayor Randy Gartner, Part-time secretary Victoria Wawrzyniak and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Carol Werkheiser, David Bright, Geneva Berger and Tracy Rice. A motion was made by Mr. Soliday to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2021 Council Meeting minutes. Mr. Johnson seconded and Council approved unanimously.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS:** David Randler asked the status of the Administrative Search Warrant for the Gloray building at 217 East Penn Avenue. Mr. Marshall advised him that he would contact Technicon to see where they are in the process. Manager advised Council that Carol Werkheiser has volunteered to be the new liaison to the Library Board. Council thanked her for volunteering. Ms. Werkheiser advised Council that the library's wi-fi will be available from 8AM to 9PM daily going forward. Tracy Rice advised Council that the new route approved for the CW Food Pantry is working out really well and allows them to be much more efficient. She also noted that the volunteers really appreciate the shade afforded them along Railroad Avenue. Geneva Berger asked if anything is being done to address the odd comments of the woman from the Gloray building (Gennie Chiang). This matter should, hopefully, be resolved when an administrative search warrant is obtained and carried out. David Bright thanked the Mayor, Police Department and Fire Police for their assistance with the Memorial Remembrance ceremony held at the HPR Park by the POSofA. He asked whether the first block of North Robeson Street might be blocked off for next year's service. Council felt that request could be accommodated.

**MAYOR –** Mayor Gartner advised Council that his neighbor, Jay Ibach, of 35 Chestnut Avenue, has still not removed the truck chassis and should be cited. He also advised Council that 39 With Honor would be holding a fundraising event on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from noon to 7PM featuring four bands, food trucks and a beer garden (run by the Fire Company). Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the gate. Mayor Gartner asked Council's permission to hold a Veterans Before Illegals Rally. Council advised him they supported the rally if he dropped the "Before Illegals" part of the name. Date to be determined. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve and Mr. Miller seconded. Council approved unanimously.

**SOLICITOR** - Solicitor George presented **Resolution 2021-1** as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES CORP., FOR ELECTRIC STREET LIGHTING DELIVERY SERVICE.**

On a motion by Mr. Soliday, second by Mr. Martin, Council approved unanimously to enter into an agreement for the conversion of 159 street lights to LED.

**ENGINEER –** The Engineer's Report was included in the agenda packet.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – There will be no Planning Commission meeting in June.

**MANAGER –** Manager advised Council that we are currently in the process of applying for the American Rescue Plan funding (\$108,175.63 in 2021 and \$108,175.63 in 2022). Also advised Council that approval has finally been received for the \$300,000 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank loan that was applied for in November. Advised Council that the reimbursement for the loader (applied for in January) was finally received. Lastly, advised Council that the July meeting was erroneously scheduled

for a holiday (July 5). Asked if Council would prefer to keep it as is or re-advertise and reschedule for July 6<sup>th</sup>. Council's consensus was to reschedule and advertise the meeting for July 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

**Finance/Administration** –Tori Wawrzyniak reported on the quotes she received on several cleaning services and the difficulty in finding them. She provided Council with the cost breakdowns on the few that responded. Mr. Marshall expressed his wish to find a local individual who would be willing to do it and suggested we put something on our FB page or website and see if we could find someone that way. Carol Werkheiser then suggested she would be interested in doing it. She will meet with the manager on Tuesday to discuss.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – No report.

**Streets & Highways-** Mr. Marshall reported that there is an issue that needs to be addressed at the drain/box culvert on Meadow Avenue in front of 41 East Meadow Avenue. He met with Sheldon from A.H. Moyer to obtain a cost estimate for the repair of the drain and the depression in the road. He has asked for separate estimates for each repair since the box culvert repair is urgent and the repair of the depression in the road could wait, if necessary.

**Parks & Recreation-** Manager reported she has been talking with the pool committee to get an idea on what it might cost to host a splash party or two (Family Night/Teen Night?) over the summer since we are not having a playground program this year. Mr. Randler advised Council they are considering hosting a couple of Community Events at the pool but have not worked out the details yet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that the Tennis Courts and Pickleball Court are done and ready for public use. Mr. Rohrbach asked if we got the top of the line nets/poles. Mr. Marshall advised he does not feel we got our money's worth and will be asking Tom Breneman for an accounting of the money we paid him early in the process.

**Library-** Addressed under visitors.

**Police-** Chief Grim reported that following complaints of speeding on South Church Street, the PD ran several speed details. The fastest time clocked was 49mph (in a 25 mph zone) and, unfortunately, many of those stopped were Robesonia residents. Chief Grim announced two new part-timers have been added to their roster. Lastly, he reported on the unfortunate murder/suicide outcome of a domestic situation the PD had been dealing with since early May.

**Water/Sewer Municipal Authorities-**Mr. Soliday reported the next RMA meeting will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Western Berks Joint Planning Commission:** The Western Berks Joint Planning Commission will be meeting in July to discuss a change to the definition of Convenience Store to allow for the sale of fuel as a customary accessory without being considered a Service Station. Manager to send out notices to all Joint PC members of needed meeting.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Marshall-** Mr. Marshall advised Council that an exploratory meeting was held to discuss the possibility of the Borough sponsoring the Jack Frost Parade this year since Trinity Lutheran Church opted not to do it this year. He is seeking Council's permission to send an official letter to Trinity seeking the possibility of them providing volunteers (Mr. Dotzenroth noted that they have used 100 volunteers in the past) and

perhaps donating some of the money they raised during the 2019 parade toward the cost of putting on the parade. Also, an Event Permit will need to be submitted to PennDOT for the road closure ASAP. Council was okay with sending the letter to get an idea what, if anything, Trinity would be willing to contribute.

**Martin-** No report

**Soliday-** No report

**Johnson-** No report.

**Spotts-** Mr. Spotts reported that the Rental Inspection Committee has determined the Rental Inspection Program, due to inconsistencies in inspection protocol among the inspectors, is not working and is, therefore, recommending the elimination of the program. They suggest we continue property maintenance enforcement on the exterior of properties through our International Property Maintenance Code Ordinance and that we continue to require the annual registration of tenants. Mr. Johnson made the motion to abandon the Rental Inspection Program and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Soliday suggested Council consider increasing the registration cost to help offset the costs of responding to possible complaints as they come in.

**Rohrbach-** Mr. Rohrbach advised Council that this would be his last official Council meeting as he is scheduled to make settlement on his new home in Wyomissing on June 30<sup>th</sup>. He noted that he's learned a lot while serving as a Council member and is particularly proud of being a part of getting new traffic lights installed in the borough (at no cost to the borough), his involvement in the building of the Henry P. Robeson Memorial Park and his involvement in the W-R-W Trash COG and the many contracts he was involved with and their drive to increase recycling efforts. He noted he does feel that Council dropped the ball with the Keener Heights development and the parking issues he sees coming in the future. He asked Council to please consider that and handle Phase II accordingly, if/when it is submitted.

**Miller:.** No report.

**Mayor Gartner-** Mayor thanked Amy Highley for her efforts in cleaning up the butterfly garden along South Church Street. It looks great!

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – Fatzinger Automotive Clean-up: Manager advised Council that our Zoning Officer will be following up this week to complete final follow up. Council seems happy with the clean up efforts.

**NEW BUSINESS** – The complaint letter received from Lori Brown regarding Randy Criss' tenant at 19W. Penn Avenue not parking in their designated parking spot behind the property was briefly discussed. The fact that Randy Criss has submitted a change of use for that property was brought up. Mr. Criss is proposing to put a veteran's group home for transitional housing was discussed. Although it is an allowed use by zoning, Solicitor George is looking into the matter of licensing. The matter of oversight of the residents was also discussed.

Council recessed at 8:44pm for an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Regular session reconvened at 9:19pm.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Monthly Police Report. Stats section was included in agenda packet.
- Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority April meeting minutes
- Western Berks Ambulance monthly report-May
- Building Permit List

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On a motion by Mr. Soliday second by Mr. Johnson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer