

President Tony Wirebach called the April 1, 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 David Bright, Dave Randler, Vernon Bright, Lori Brown, David Rohrbach, Ryan Knarr, Kevin Snyder, Brian Keppley, Collor Yourkavitch, J.C. Hoffa, Grayson Ziegler, Betty Schmoyer, Mark & Nadia Waltz, Alexandra Pancu, Lucia Pancu, Emma Perkins, Fox Bryan, Barry Bryan, Phillip Perkins, Cindy Murdough and Mark & Pam Spotts, . A motion was made by Mr. Marshall to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2019 Council Meeting. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – Ryan Knarr, tennis coach at CW has been working with the borough on the rehabilitation of the tennis courts. Ryan has gotten the USTA and mid-states to commit \$30-45,000 toward the rehabbing of the courts. He feels that with Jack Keener's recreation in-lieu-of contribution, the grants and, potentially, a bit of additional money from the borough, now is the perfect time to bring the courts up to standard at minimal cost to the borough. Many of the visitors at the meeting were there to support Ryan in his efforts and to voice their support for the project. Tennis courts are in high demand in this area and many are excited to know that there will be a few additional options to use if this project goes through. Ms. Ziegler asked if this court would be locked down and only available to those who obtain keys? She feels if we are going to do this, our investment should be protected. It was suggested the borough consider a system where people can come into the borough hall and pay a deposit (whatever amount Council decides on) for keys for the courts. Deposits would be paid back to the key holder upon the return of their key. Mr. Knarr also advised Council that smaller (up to \$2,000) grants can be obtained yearly thereafter to promote tennis programs and to use for minor maintenance on the courts to keep them in good shape for many years to come. Frank Schnee made the motion to approve additional funding, up to \$5,900, toward the completion of the court project. Ms. Ziegler seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Kevin Snyder, on behalf of the CW Pool, introduced their new manager, Connor Yorkavitch, a Kutztown University student and Wyomissing resident. Connor brings a lot of experience to the job. He provided the 2018 financials for the pool and told Council it was a record year for pool membership last year. He told Council the pool has plans to install more playground equipment and repair their small basketball court for the 2019 season. Total costs for the playground program last year amounted to approximately \$3,500. Kevin asked Council to consider letting the pool run the playground program again this year since, although they felt it went very well last year, they understand where they need to work to improve it. Ms. Ziegler will attempt to schedule an afternoon meeting before April 11<sup>th</sup> with the pool leadership, borough manager and the two potential adult leaders to discuss which option(s) will provide the best program for the children of the borough and Heidelberg Township. A determination will be made at the April 16<sup>th</sup> Workshop Meeting so we can keep the planning for the program moving forward.

Betty Schmoyer asked Council to consider signing postcards to the County Commissioners to keep the Berks Heim in County ownership. She advised Council that 63% of county residents want to see Berks Heim remain in the county's hands and that privatizing would greatly affect the quality of care the patients receive. Please support!

J. C. Hoffa, owner of Superior Gunsmithing, advised Council he disapproves of Council's decision to disband the regional department and feels that going to State Police coverage would be a detriment to the residents of the Borough.

Lori Brown discussed seeing the street sweeper about town and asked why the streets weren't posted to warn residents to move. She noted it was not on the Borough's Facebook page. Mr. Marshall advised Ms. Brown that it takes nearly 4 hours just to post the streets before sweeping and that is not very

efficient. He noted he hopes to have the street sweeper out at least once weekly throughout the summer, depending on weather. Ms. Brown feels that a regular schedule might be helpful.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner discussed the matter of police coverage when the regional department is disbanded. He advised the audience that we do not want to rely strictly on State Police coverage. He is hoping to go back to our own department with more community policing. We will have police.....albeit slightly different than what we currently have. We hope to have more control over the costs with our own department since the regional one has gotten incredibly expensive....with costs escalating over \$100,000 in eight years. Mayor Gartner advised Council that he sent a letter to Pastor Bill Weiser regarding the Jack Frost Parade, asking him to reconsider the route and the location of the judge's stand. It was sent by him as a private citizen.

**SOLICITOR** -

**ORDINANCE 2019-5**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, TO DISSOLVE THE WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION AND THE WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT AND TO TERMINATE THE WESTERN BERKS REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT AMENDED AND RESTATED CHARTER AGREEMENT. Mr. Schnee made the motion and Mr. Martin seconded, to adopt Ordinance 2019-5. Council approved unanimously.

**RESOLUTION 2019-2**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE CONDEMNATION OF THE PROPERTY OWNED BY BARBARA J. BREININGER KNOWS AS 26 WEST FREEMAN STREET, IN THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA 19551, PROPERTY I.D. NO. 74434704810789, AS MORE FULLING DESCRIBED IN A DEED DATED AUGUST 10, 1979 AND RECORDED AUGUST 10, 1979 IN DEED BOOK 1765, PAGE 1271, IN THE BERKS COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS OFFICE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOROUGH CODE, 8 PA.C.S.A. §§ 1501, ET SEQ., AND AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A DEED IN LIEU OF CONDEMNATION FOR THE PROPERTY.

Ms. Wertz made the motion to accept the Deed in Lieu of Condemnation and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Martin made the motion to sign the Agreement of Sale of the Breininger Property (Property I.D. No. 74434704810789). Mr. Marshall seconded and Council approved unanimously.

David Bright asked the question of when an agreement might be made with POSofA Camp 113. All agreed we would like to have it in place as quickly as possible.

Mr. Schnee made the motion to re-affirm The Keener Heights Plans. Mr. Marshall seconded and Council approved unanimously.

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

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting is scheduled for April 17th, if needed. Mr. Soliday noted that when Mr. Schnee decides to leave the PC, there will be a huge loss of knowledge going with him and suggested we should try to find some younger people to join these committees to learn from the older, long-timers before they leave. Manager advised there is a vacancy on the Zoning Board and on the Vacancy Committee. Mayor suggested putting something on the Borough's FB page to see if any volunteers could be found that way.

**MANAGER** – Ms. Heilman advised Council that Lower Heidelberg will, once again, be hosting a community shredding event at Tompkins VIST Bank on June 22 and asked if Council wanted to participate again this year (our cost last year was \$81.40). Council agreed.

Presented a Noise Permit Exemption for Celebration Fireworks for the annual fireworks display at the street fair. Ms. Ziegler made the motion to approve, Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

## MINUTES

### BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

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Submitted a request from the Federal Census Bureau for the use of our council room for trainings/meetings, as needed; and the request to advertise on our social media page for census workers for the decennial census. Mr. Soliday made the motion to approve, Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Presented a request from the Lions Club to purchase an additional 25-30 yards of mulch, at an approximate cost of \$700, to be put at the Tot Lot. The Lions will provide the labor. Ms. Wertz approved the request and Ms. Ziegler seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Presented a request from Trinity Volleyball League for the use of the field at the Tot Lot for their home games only. They play Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 till dusk. They also asked to use the Borough's volleyball set. Council approved the use of the field but not the nets since they may be used at the pool for playground season again this year (to be determined) on a motion by Ms. Wertz, second by Ms. Ziegler and unanimous Council approval.

Notified Council of a complaint received by the residents of 46 East Meadow regarding the deteriorating condition of the other half of their duplex at 44 East Meadow Avenue. Manager advised Council that solicitor provided some information regarding a blighted property program run by the County for which this property may qualify but we would have to follow a process as set forth in the International Property Maintenance Code which is administered by Kraft Code Services. The borough would be responsible for the costs incurred for Kraft's services to pursue this matter. Mr. Marshall made the motion to have Kraft take a look at the property and determine the need to pursue the matter for correction, and we'll revisit the matter at the May meeting. 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:** No report.

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

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – The meeting minutes from the March meeting were included in the agenda packet. Streets Dept. will be meeting with engineer to discuss bridge inspection reports on 4/4 and with Charlie Paris of PennDOT to discuss tar & chipping South Church Street at an approximate cost of \$36,000. Microseal will also be discussed.

**Parks & Recreation-** Ms. Ziegler will be scheduling meeting with pool representatives and potential playground leaders. She also presented a request from Little Peoples Nursery School for the use of the Tot Lot Parking Lot for their annual Bike Rally for May 7<sup>th</sup> (rain date May 8<sup>th</sup>). A barricade will be provided for their rally. Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve the use and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – Mr. Marshall made the motion to obtain meeting minutes and financial reports from both the Robesonian Municipal Authority and the Robesonian-Wernersville Sewer Authority. We got both every month from the Womelsdorf-Robesonian Joint Water Authority and he feels we should be getting both from the sewer authorities as well. Mr. Schnee seconded and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Soliday will discuss with the RMA and David Randler will take the request back to the Wernersville-Robesonian Sewer Authority. He also notified Council that he would be attending ESM Training in Lehigh County on 4/2-4/3 which will allow us to apply for Low Volume Dirt & Gravel Roads grants.

**Martin-** No report.

**Ziegler-** No report.

**Schnee-**No report.

**Soliday** – No report.

**Wertz-** No report.

**Wirebach-** Mr. Wirebach asked Council to consider allowing the CW Pool to run the playground program again this year.

**Mayor Gartner** – Mayor Gartner advised Council that Burt Webber was the speaker at the Furnace dinner this year and everyone really enjoyed his presentation. Burt wrote a book “Master of the Main”, available on Amazon. Randy advised Council that he sent a letter to Pastor Bill regarding the parade route and the location of the judges’ stand and asked him to reconsider those two items. David Rohrbach advised Council that the letter he gave to Chief Schlichter was only a list of suggestions, not demands....all of which he felt were safety issues. He suggested the whole matter could have been handled better by the Chief.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** –Breininger Property Acquisition: Manager presented a proposal from Maree Forbes Gaughan for the search for, and writing of, grants to seek matching funds for the project. Her hourly rate is \$47/hour and Council needs to set a not-to-exceed limit if this proposal is accepted. Ms. Wertz made the motion to accept the proposal with a not-to-exceed limit of \$2,500. Ms. Ziegler seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

Mr. Wirebach asked the status of the white van at 112 N. Church St. Manager is unsure of the status but did notify the police to check on the matter.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- February Treasurer’s report and January meeting minutes from the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority meeting
- Notice of Violation for Randy Criss from Kraft Codes regarding the spouting at 19 W. Penn Ave.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Ms. Wertz and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager