

President Frank Schnee called the February 3, 2020 meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Mark Spotts, Erica Ziegler, David Rohrbach, Rod Soliday, Harvey Marshall and Mike Martin. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Brian Boland, Chief Leon Grim, Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting, David Randler, Vernon Bright, Lori Brown, Carol Werkheiser, Abby Wertz, Fire Chief Josh Babura, Alan Norton II, Kenneth Bright, Gerald Bashore, Earl Evans, Allen Hudson III, Utanie Green, Alfonso Knoll and Keith Dmochowski of the Reading Eagle. A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2020 Council Meeting. Mr. Marshall seconded and Council approved unanimously.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** : Moses Charles, owner of 317 East Penn Avenue presented Council with an informal sketch plan of his proposed development of the building at 317 East Penn Avenue. He asked Council for their assistance in obtaining Use & Occupancy Permits for two tenants interested in going into the building....one being Heidelberg Bible Church and the other a gym. Mayor Gartner advised Mr. Charles that he is also the Chairman of the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority. He advised Mr. Charles that Council strongly supports our local businesses and we would like to support him in his efforts, however, he must also reciprocate by working with us. He advised Mr. Charles that the borough needs to see some action on his part, particularly on the requirement of the Water Authority to install the back flow preventer prior to March 21<sup>st</sup> or risk having the water to his building shut off. Mr. Charles stated that Glenn Eberly told him he would need to have two back flow preventers installed...one for the proposed apartments and one for the fire suppression system. Mayor Gartner told him he only needs to worry about the one for the fire suppression system at this time and that he would need to obtain variances for the proposed apartments. Mr. Spotts explained the importance of this requirement, advising him that potentially contaminated water from his existing fire suppression lines could backflow into the water system during extreme low volume events. Mr. Schnee suggested it might be a good idea to meet with the Borough's Planning Commission. Mr. Moses stated he would really like to move forward to, at least, at least, allow Heidelberg Bible Church and the gym into his building while preparing the rest of his plan to move forward. Mr. Marshall suggested we set up a meeting at the Borough Hall between Mr. Charles, his architect and engineer, Technicon and Borough Council/ Water Authority and Sewer Authority officials. Mr. Charles agreed. Manager to arrange time and date for meeting.

Alan Norton II introduced himself as a metal detectionist. He and his two friends who form the Keystone History Hoarders would like permission to do some metal detecting for relics on the property recently acquired by the Borough on which the Robesonia Furnace Paymaster's office is located. He would provide waivers holding the borough harmless if Council agrees to allow them to do this. He also suggested their digging will have very little to no effect on the property. Chief Grim advised Council that the accident the night of the Frosty Balls Pub Crawl did not involve anyone from the pub crawl. In fact, the people involved were from West Virginia and had also stolen some coins. The driver is currently being held in jail on \$25,000 bail. The PD is currently dealing with an ongoing neighbor dispute in the borough. The Frosted Buns race went very well and Officer McMahon placed 7<sup>th</sup> overall and first in her age division. The new license plate scanner was installed and recovered a car in Robesonia that had been stolen from Mohnton on the scanner's very first day of use.

Fire Chief Josh Babura presented the 2019 Fire Company report. A total of 442 calls were answered, 75 of them in Robesonia.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner advised Council that he and Harvey Marshall met with Bob Gallo of PPL about our Christmas lights and that PPL worked with us on the new regulations that will allow us to

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keep our current Christmas light configuration and they will waive the costs for the new “receptacles”. The Annual Furnace Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at Ozgood’s.

**SOLICITOR** - No report.

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

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting is scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>, if needed.

**MANAGER** – Gary Heck, whose term would end at the end of 2020, has resigned his position with the Robesonia Municipal Authority. We will need to find someone to take his place. Mr. Marshall made the motion to accept, with regret, his resignation. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Gary Heck also resigned from the Wernersville-Robesonia Municipal Authority. Mr. Marshall made the motion to accept his resignation, with regret and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Schnee made the motion to appoint Mike Martin to this position through the end of his term (2020). Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

Council presented request from Field of Dreams organization for the use of the ballfield for their annual ballgame. They are seeking the use of the field for August 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Ziegler made the motion to approve the use and Mr. Marshall seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Presented a request from the Soccer Shots Youth Soccer organization for the use of the field next to the Tot Lot pavilion for their spring season from 3/31-5/19, Thursday evenings from 5:30-7:00PM. Ms. Ziegler made the motion and Mr. Martin seconded to approve the request. Council approved unanimously.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance/Administration** – Mr. Schnee noted that the Borough is in good fiscal shape going into 2020.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Fire Chief provided annual report earlier in the meeting.

**Police Committee-** Frank Schnee feels that we are in good shape fiscally for the close-out. Mr. Marshall noted the loose ends are being tied up and we are still liquidating assets. He thanked Chief Grim for the many hours of his help in cleaning things up at the old department.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – January meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet.

**Sewer Authorities:** Mr. Soliday advised Council that the next RMA meeting is scheduled for 2/12 at 6PM. The rates will be discussed and will probably have to be revised again to accommodate the last minute rate increase from the Wernersville-Robesonia Municipal Authority.

**Parks & Recreation-** We will be reaching out to the baseball and softball organizations to determine interest in using the fields and getting the schedules set up.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Schnee** – Mr. Schnee thanked everyone for their many roles and volunteer services.

**Marshall** – Mr. Marshall advised Council that he gave the “sales agreement” for the Police Chief’s former vehicle to the Fire Company. The car is meant as a donation to the Fire Police.

**Martin-** Mr. Martin advised Council that he and Mr. Marshall attended an MS4 program at the Center for Excellence at Albright College at which they were given a list of possible funding sources to help achieve MS4 compliance. They were also advised that municipalities will have five years from the date of DEP approval of their submitted compliance plans to complete their projects. Mr. Martin also reported that he attended a meeting about the 2020 Census and its importance to our county and borough receiving its fair share of federal money. Assuring everyone is counted is essential. An article will be included in the spring newsletter. Mr. Martin stated there are only nine questions that must be answered on the census. Ms. Ziegler reported doing hers online and it took her approximately 30 minutes (you are

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advised when going online to answer census questions it could take up to 40 minutes). Mr. Martin will check into the discrepancy.

**Ziegler-** No report.

**Soliday-** Mr. Soliday asked the procedure for abandoned/inoperable/unregistered vehicles on private property. Chief Grim stated that although they cannot go onto private property to check the status of vehicles if they are not visible from the street, they can, and will, knock on doors and talk to the owner of the property before just citing them.

**Spotts-** No report.

**Rohrbach-** Mr. Rohrbach noted that he feels the trash/recycling container fiasco is mostly cleaned up. Mayor Gartner noted that South Heidelberg's contracted hauler allows many more materials in their recycling than ours does. He also noted that Lower Heidelberg residents are only paying \$242/year for their trash and recycling. Mr. Rohrbach noted that they also only get 2x/month recycling pick-up vs. our weekly recycling pick-up and they get no recycling container in their contract. Mr. Rohrbach will talk to Sean McKee in South Heidelberg about their contract.

**Mayor Gartner** – Mayor Gartner requested executive session to discuss personnel matters at 7:53pm. Regular session reconvened at 8:22 pm.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – Maree Forbes has identified a strong potential source of funding (Community Development Grant) through the County. Randy has reached out to Christian Leinbach for his support to help us acquire this funding.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Manager advised Council that the Zoning Variance sought by 100 East Penn Avenue to turn the separate in-laws quarters into a rental was denied.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Treasurer's report (Nov. & Dec) and meeting minutes (Dec) from the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority meeting (Oct)
- Western Berks Ambulance monthly report
- Technicon's monthly building permit report.
- Kraft Codes monthly Property Maintenance Report.
- Thank you letter from Kozloff-Stoudt for re-appointment
- Berks Municipal Officials' Dinner Notice. March 26, Stokesay Castle

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Ms. Ziegler and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager