

# **Borough of Robesonia Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **February 3, 2025**

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The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Monday, February 3, 2025 at the Robesonia Borough Hall located at 75 S. Brooke Street Robesonia, PA. The following Council members attended:

Harvey W. Marshall, President  
Mark Spotts, Vice President  
Matthew Miller, President Pro-Tem  
Jame Burrus  
Dean Johnson - Absent  
Michael Martin  
David Bright  
Mayor Rodney Soliday

Staff: Solicitor Andrew George and Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by President, Harvey Marshall with the pledge of allegiance.

Beth Sattizahn and Terri Groff stated that they were recording the meeting.

#### Letter of Resignation from Dean Johnson

- A motion was made by Matthew Miller to accept Dean Johnsons letter of resignation with regret. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

#### Appointment To Vacant Council Seat

- A motion was made by Matthew Miller to appoint Jerry Laboranti to fulfill Dean Johnsons Council seat. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Jame Burrus abstained. Motion carried.
- Mayor Rodney Soliday swore in Jerry Laboranti. After being sworn in, Jerry Laboranti took his seat at the Council table.

#### Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by David Bright to approve the January 6, 2025 Council meeting minutes with one correction that was previously discussed with Manager. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

#### Bills:

- A motion was made by David Bright to pay and ratify the bills from January 7, 2025 to February 3, 2025. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

#### Police Report

- Police Chief Matthew Hook summarized his January police report for Council.

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#### Scheduled Guests:

- There were no scheduled guests.

#### Solicitor

- Ordinance 2025-1: Elimination of Parking on Penn Avenue: After a discussion, a motion was made by Michael Martin to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 2025-1 which will eliminate parking on Penn Avenue. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

#### Engineer's Report

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.
- Furnace Village Phase 3: A motion was made by Michael Martin to defer the plan review for Furnace Village III to Heidelberg Township. Seconded by David Bright. Motion carried.

#### Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on February 19, 2025 if necessary.

#### Manager

- Trinity Lutheran Church Jack Frost Parade Letter of Support: After confirming with Chief Hook, a motion was made by Matthew Miller to send a letter to Trinity Lutheran Church in support of the current parade route for the Jack Frost Parade. Seconded by Jame Burrus.
- Upcoming Municipal Officials Events: Council was reminded by the Manager that the annual CELG Municipal Officials dinner will be held on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> and the Crime Alert Berks thank you dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Pedestrian Crosswalk Sign Donation Check: After a discussion, a motion was made by Michael Martin to return a donation check that was received from Randy Gartner to donate towards the already approved pedestrian crosswalk signs. Seconded by Matthew Miller. David Bright voted nay. Motion carried.
- Return Check from Playground Replacement Project Sponsorship: After a discussion, a motion was made by David Bright to return a previously received donation check from Cindy Murdough to sponsor trees at the continuing playground replacement project. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

#### Committee Reports

##### Finance Administration:

- Meeting minutes for review.

##### Personnel:

- No new business at this time.

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#### Public Safety:

- No new business at this time.

#### Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- Meeting minutes for review.
- Application for Handicap Parking Space at 127 East Penn Avenue: After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Miller to approve the handicap parking space application for 127 East Penn Avenue. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.

#### Parks and Recreation:

- Letter of Resignation from Harvey Marshall: A motion was made by Michael Martin to accept Harvey Marshalls letter of resignation from the Parks & Recreation Board with regret. Seconded by David Bright. Motion carried.
- Appointments to the Parks & Recreation Board: A motion was made by Michael Martin to appoint Jame Burrus and Christine Burrus to the Parks & Recreation Board. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Jame Burrus abstained. Motion carried. The Parks & Recreation Board is now a five-member board.

#### Shade Tree Commission:

- Council reviewed the Shade Tree Commission meeting summary. John Ravert reported that the next meeting will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

#### Robesonia Community Library Report:

- A motion was made by Mark Spotts to accept the letter of resignation received from Tyler March. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Mark Spotts to accept the letter of interest to be appointed to the Library Board from Cheryl Meck. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

#### Old Business

- Borough Council Email Addresses: The Borough Manager is working with Cory from SMRTGuys on a quote to have the website redone and to create email addresses for each Councilmember.

#### Council Member Reports

- Marshall:
  - Overpayments on Diversified Trash Accounts: After a discussion, a motion was made by Mark Spotts to refund individuals who had a credit on their trash account when the Borough ceased using Diversified Technology for trash billing collection. The Borough will cut checks to these individuals. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.
  - Western Berks Ambulance Designation Letter: A motion was made by Mark Spotts to formally designate the Western Berks Ambulance Association as the primary provider of Emergency Medical Services for the Borough. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

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- Laboranti:
  - Jerry Laboranti thanked Council for their votes and stated that he looks forward to working together.

Authorities: The following Reports/Minutes were received.

- Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority Meeting Minutes & Treasurer's Report
- Robesonia Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes
- Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes
- Western Berks Ambulance Report

#### Public Comment

- Leslie Pirl-Roth: Leslie thanked Jame Burrus for attending the library's monthly board meetings.
- Valerie Diefenderfer: Valerie had questions regarding how many cans can be used for yard waste.
- Marianne McCloy: Marianne expressed concerns over speeding on Oak Avenue. Chief Hook stated that they will set up a speed enforcement detail.
- Jen Franklin: Jen reminded everyone present that the library will be holding a fundraiser at the Texas Roadhouse on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The library will also be holding a food truck event in the Borough parking lot on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Simone Egipciano: Simone inquired if residents will be receiving new trash bins and stated that there is an abundance of trash that blows onto her property.
- Abby Wertz: Abby inquired about ARP money that was allocated to the new Borough garage. Harvey Marshall stated that the money was only allocated and there have been no bills or expenditures brought before Council for approval at this time.
- Cindy Murdough: Cindy inquired about the amount of speed signs posted throughout the Borough.
- John Ravert: After a discussion with Council, a motion was made by Mark Spotts to reject all tree work bids that were received and to rebid the proposed work. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.
- Terri Groff: Terri thanked the Borough for making sure her trash was picked up when it was missed.
- Beth Sattizahn: Beth suggested a policy for both guests and Councilmembers to follow during a public meeting.
- Nick Shoener: Nick attended the meeting on behalf of the Lions Club and stated that they would like to pick a date to mulch the Boroughs playground. Nick was informed he should attend a Streets & Highways meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 4 PM.

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#### Executive Session

A motion was made by Michael Martin to enter into an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened at 8:27 PM with no action taken.

#### Adjourn of Meeting

A motion was made by David Bright to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller  
Borough Manager  
Robesonia Borough