

President Tony Wirebach called the August 5, 2019 meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Abby Wertz., Harvey Marshall, Mike Martin, Rod Soliday and Frank Schnee. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Council member Erica Ziegler was absent. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Ryan Knarr, Chris Yatron, Gary Heck, Vernon Bright, David Randler, David Rohrbach, David Bright, Carol Werkheiser, Mark Spotts, Randy Yarnall, Sean McKee (South Heidelberg Township Manager), Leon Grim and Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle. A motion was made by Mr. Marshall to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2019 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Ryan Knarr provided an update on the tennis court rehab grants, noting that one document was still being requested by USTA and thanking Council for their patience and support. He noted that, once done, these courts will be a great community asset. Frank Schnee thanked Mr. Knarr for his hard work on the project and on his success with the CW tennis program. Leon Grim introduced himself to Council as the newly hired Chief of the South Heidelberg Township Police Department and advised Council he is looking forward to working with our community and Council. Mr. McKee advised Council that while they are still working on a transition plan, should the need arise, South Heidelberg would be ready to take over police services on a limited basis until January 1 when they will be ready to provide the full services as provided in the contract. He noted they will have their police walking in the Jack Frost Parade to shake hands with the residents and pass out candy to the kids as an outreach effort. He advised they will be reaching out to obtain contact lists/numbers.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner advised Council that the Friends of the Robesonia Furnace will be holding their Craft Show on Saturday, August 25th from 9AM-3PM. The Firehouse Museum will be open at that time and tours will be given. David Bright advised the POSofA Camp Office will also be open on that day for the event. Mayor Gartner reported that the Labor Day Car Show is coming along and that we've got a few sponsors but only 12 entrants at this time. He suggested everyone encourage locals to enter their cars and, if rained out, consider their entry fee a donation to the Fire Company apparatus fund. He advised Council they are in need of more raffle items so if anyone knows anyone with a business, ask them to please consider donating something for the raffle. He advised Council they are looking at a possible rain date of September 15th for the Car Show should the weather not cooperate on September 2nd (Labor Day).

SOLICITOR - Solicitor George advised Council that several liens have been filed for two vacant properties (one that is going to Sheriff's Sale during the week). He asked Mr. Marshall whether any progress has been made on obtaining the signed easement agreements from the property owners adjoining the swale in CW Village. Mr. Marshall advised he has not heard anything from Skip Ulrich who agreed to notify the property owners of the easement agreements and get their consent. He will check again with Mr. Ulrich to see if he's made any progress.

ENGINEER – The Engineer report will be distributed to Council via email.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for August 21st, if needed.

MANAGER – Manager presented the 2020 MMO, \$4,400.00, for approval. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve the MMO and Mr. Schnee seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Presented a request from the Soccer Shots organization for the use of the field adjacent to the Tot Lot for their fall soccer program (rental fee is waived). Use will be from 9/10-10/29, 5:30-7:00 on Tuesday evenings. Motion by Mr. Marshall to approve was seconded by Mr. Solday. Council approved unanimously.

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

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COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration - No report.

Personnel: Tori Wawrzyniak started on July 29th in the part-time office position and is working out well so far.

Fire Protection/Safety – Mr. Martin announced, with regret, the passing of former Fire Chief Gerry Ochs, who served the Fire Company for over forty years. The Fire Company paid tribute to Mr. Ochs with a “Final Call” ride on the fire truck and serving the luncheon following the service. He thanked Womelsdorf Fire Company for their participation and informed all that donations could be made in Gerry’s memory to the Pioneer Hose Apparatus Fund.

Police Committee- Mr. Marshall, Mayor Gartner and Sean McKee discussed the changes needed to the contract to allow more time for review before renewal or exit. Mr. McKee agreed with the consensus that changes need to be made to that portion of the contract.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – Mr. Marshall advised Council that no streets meeting was held in July. He advised Council that we are once again having issues with our current zero-turn mower and that we are currently using a two year old loaner (Feris 61” cut, zero-turn) that has only 150 hours of use. He feels it would be very useful to have a second mower since we now have an additional five acres to mow and we would have a back up mower when one goes down for service. They are currently looking for \$7,900 for the mower we have on loan. He would like to offer \$7,000, with the option to go up to \$7,500 to buy the loaner. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve going up to \$7,500 for the purchase of the mower and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Marshall advised Council that we got the street sweeper back and it is working really well. He advised Council that Martin’s Paving did a great job on South Church Street but we had a problem with a truck that blew a transmission hose when driving on the street and blew transmission oil all over the road. We managed to get most of it cleaned up with oil dry, however, there is one spot at the intersection with Meadow Avenue that may need some repair work. If that is the case, it will be run through the insurance company of the person that created the mess. Mr. Soliday asked if UGI would be back around to repair the street cut in the alley behind South Robeson Street. Mr. Marshall advised UGI has already put in a PA OneCall to do that repair.

Sewer Authorities: Mr. Soliday advised Council that rate increases will be discussed at the Robesonia Municipal Authority’s August meeting. There is discussion about a five-phase plan to seek out and repair infiltration/leakages in the lines.

Mr. Randler reported the Wernersville-Robeson Sewer Authority has had no meetings since May. He conferred with his fellow board members, Mr. Heck and Mr. Yatron, in the audience to confirm that the money has not been moved yet to another banking institution, essentially losing \$8,500 in potential interest.

Parks & Recreation- The Playground Program went well and Mr. Snyder would provide numbers following the end of the program. The pool did very well this year. Membership is up 17%, the finances are looking good, the Community Night did very well even though the band did not get to play (they made approx.. \$500-\$600 profit) and they are still expecting more donations.

Sewer Authority: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – Mr. Marshall advised Council that he and Mr. Randler (on behalf of Heidelberg Township) met with Jeff Kerlin of Technicon to go over their fee schedule and negotiate some of the costs they felt were a bit excessive. Mr. Kerlin indicated he would be willing to reduce Technicon’s commercial permit costs as follows: First \$1,000 of project cost = \$100.00. Each additional \$1,000 or part thereof = \$6.50. If the Borough would be willing to reduce their portion of the permit to 12.5% (vs current 25%), that cost would be reduced to \$5.50. Council and manager felt this was a fair proposal. Mr. Marshall

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made the motion to approve Technicon Enterprises II as the Borough's Building Code Official and adopt the revised fee schedule. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Martin- No report.

Ziegler- Absent.

Schnee- No report

Soliday – No report.

Wertz- No report.

Wirebach- No report.

Mayor Gartner – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

COMMUNICATIONS:

- June Treasurer's report and meeting minutes from the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority meeting
- Western Berks Regional PD monthly meeting minutes (5/14), monthly report
- Kraft Codes monthly report (July)

At 7:36, Mr. Marshall made the motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council entered Executive Session. At 7:46 regular session reconvened.

On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager