

President Tony Wirebach called the January 7, 2019 meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Abby Wertz., Harvey Marshal, Mike Martin, Erica Ziegler, Rod Soliday and Frank Schnee. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andy George, Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Rohrbach, David Bright, Dave Randler, Lori Brown, Barry Kalbach and Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle. A motion was made by Mr. Schnee to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2019 Council Meeting. Mr. Marshall seconded and Council approved unanimously

VISITORS & CITIZENS – David Rohrbach asked Council’s permission for the Lions Club to use the ballfield area for the annual Labor Day Car Show. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve the use. Ms. Ziegler seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Barry Kalbach, owner of 114 North Church Street asked the status of the van in the backyard of 112 North Church Street. Manager reported that 112 N. Church St is currently in the rental inspection process since Council approved having the Weyandt properties included in the rental inspection process. Council directed manager to contact Kraft Codes to make the owners of 112 move the van or cite them. Lori Brown asked the status of the rental inspections. Manager advised that the only two landlords still on the outstanding list were Dale Weyandt’s three properties and Randy Criss’s property at 17 West Penn Avenue (next to her candy shop).

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner thanked everyone who watched his program on BCTV on the Friends of the Robesonia Furnace.

SOLICITOR - Solicitor George presented the Asset Acceptance Agreement between the Borough and the Friends of the Furnace. Mr. Schnee made the motion to approve the agreement. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously after Ms. Wertz, as President of the Friends of the Furnace, abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Presented the following ordinances for adoption:

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING AND FIXING THE TAX RATES UPON REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA AND ESTABLISHING AND FIXING DISCOUNTS AND PENALTIES FOR THE SAME FOR THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Soliday and unanimous approval by Council, motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-2

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 20 ENTITLED “SOLID WASTE”, PART 1 ENTITLED “GARBAGE AND REFUSE”, SECTION 2 ENTITLED “CHARGES”, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BY INCREASING THE CHARGES LEVIED UPON EACH RESIDENTIAL UNIT WITHIN THE BOROUGH FOR THE COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF GARBAGE, TRASH OR REFUSE AND RECYCLING.

(Increasing Costs to \$65/quarter/unit) Mayor Gartner noted Robesonia has the lowest costs of the three municipalities involved in the trash COG.

On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Ms. Ziegler and unanimous approval by Council, motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2019:

- PLGIT and BB&T Bank as the Borough’s depositories.
- Andrew George and Kozloff-Stoudt as Borough Solicitors at a rate of \$200/meeting, \$160/hour for partner, \$140/hour for associate, \$125/hr for paralegal

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- Technicon Enterprises II, Inc. as Engineers and Borough Zoning Officials at an hourly rate of, \$93.00/senior engineer, \$80.50/engineer,\$58.50/Sewage Enforcement Officer;\$51.50/zoning officer, \$42.75/clerical
- CIA (Jerry Farro/Jeff Farro) as Borough's Building, Plumbing, Electrical, Mechanical, Accessibility and Commercial Building Inspectors @ 85% of permit fees.
- Eugene Orlando of Orlando Law Services as Zoning Board Solicitor @ \$175.00/hour
- Kraft Code Services as the Borough Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officials
- Reading Tax Solutions as the Borough Auditors at a rate of \$4,400/year.
- Lisa Heilman as Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer
- Tony Wirebach, 1 year term on the WRW Trash COG (2018)
- David Hannigan, 5 year term on the Robesonia Muncipal Authority (2023)
- Terry Williams, 3 year term on the Zoning Hearing Board (2021)
- Calvin Yoh, 5 year term on the Robesonia Planning Commission (2023)
- David Hannigan, 5 year term on the Shade Tree Commission (2023)
- Western Berks Planning Commission representatives: Randy Gartner, Frank Schnee 1 year term.
Next meeting to be held on 1/17/19 at 7PM at North Heidelberg Township Building
- 1 year term on the Western Berks Regional Police Commission (members needed). Mr. Marshall, Mr. Schnee and Mr. Wirebach agreed to serve.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Mr. Soliday and unanimous approval by Council, motion passed.

ENGINEER – Engineer and SEO reports were included in agenda packet.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for January 16, if needed.

MANAGER – Ms. Heilman advised Council that six members are up for re-election (3-4 yr. terms and 3-2 yr. terms) in 2019. Advised anyone considering running for re-election should let her know and she will obtain the nominating petitions for them. Sought Council's input on joining the County UCC Board of Appeals. It was decided to table the subject until the February meeting.

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration - No report.

Personnel: Ms. Wertz asked for an executive session to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Marshall made the motion and Mr. Soliday seconded to enter executive session at 7:21 pm. Regular meeting reconvened at 7:45 pm.

Mr. Wirebach made a statement that after eight years with the Western Berks Regional Police Department, Borough Council has unanimously decided to dissolve the department in accordance with the charter agreement, effective December 31, 2019, and revert to local control of the PD. Mr. Marshall made the motion and Mr. Soliday seconded, to dissolve the department. Council approved unanimously.

Fire Protection/Safety – Mr. Martin presented a letter from Fire Chief Josh Babura regarding the potential conversion of the building at 317 East Penn Avenue (Gloray building) into residential units. There were several fire code recommendations in the letter to be followed should such a conversion be approved. Frank reported Mr. Charles contacted him asking if he felt the Borough Council would be in favor of such a conversion. Mayor Gartner suggested he would be in favor of senior housing. Manager advised Mr. Charles would have to seek a zoning variance before being allowed to make any such conversion. There are a lot of costly, major improvements that would need to be made to properly do such a project. There are still several issues Mr. Charles never addressed following the rupture of the water line/fire suppression line? In the building from the previous year. There are still one or two illegal living quarters set up in the building and he has never allowed the building inspector/water authority

back in the building to determine the required corrections have been made. The possibility of obtaining an administrative search warrant was discussed. Borough Manager will reach out to Mr. Charles (via letter) to seek permission to enter the building and to provide Borough's encouragement to convert the building into residential units provided it is done according to all current zoning/fire/building codes.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – The meeting minutes from the December meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that the Traffic Signal Permit for the new turn lanes on North and South Robeson Streets has been approved. We are awaiting receipt of the hard copy. He advised Council that once the permit has been received, he will obtain a quote from Berks Traffic to install the turn lanes as required by the permit.

Parks & Recreation- No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Martin- No report

Ziegler- No report.

Schnee-Mr. Schnee recommended approval of a handicapped parking spot requested by Gene & Gloria Davis of 135 South Wayne Street. He made the motion to approve, Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Soliday – Mr. Soliday advised Council that the creek/property at Dollar General is once again littered with debris. When he spoke with the manager, they advised him to contact the landlord who is responsible for the clean-up of the property. Borough Manager will send letter to property landlord giving them 30 days to clean-up the debris.

Wertz- No report.

Wirebach- No report.

Mayor Gartner – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Rental Inspection Program: The new checklist has been finalized and the date to complete rental inspections has been changed to May 30th of each inspection year.

Breining Property Acquisition: Manager reported having no success yet in finding additional funding for the clean-up of the Breining property. She advised Council that Jim Cinelli (Liberty Environmental) still feels we should be considering using GTRP and DEP grants as matching funds. Mr. Marshall made the motion to get a quote from a grant writer to write the grants needed to get this project done. Mr. Soliday seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Treasurer's report (Nov) and Meeting Minutes (Oct & Nov)from the Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Authority meeting
- Western Berks Police Meeting minutes, monthly report, annual report and letter from Chief.
- Kraft Codes monthly reports from November and December
- Meeting date list for 2019
- 2019 Borough Officials Contact List

On a motion by Ms. Wertz, second by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager