

President Frank Schnee called the December 2, 2019 meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Abby Wertz, Erica Ziegler, David Rohrbach, Rod Soliday, Harvey Marshall and Mike Martin. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Vernon Bright, Emily Ulrich, Chief Leon Grim (South Heidelberg PD), Lori Brown, Mark Spotts and Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle. A motion was made by Mr. Marshall to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2019 Council Meeting. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS : Lori Brown thanked Abby Wertz for her many years of service to the Library Board as the Borough Liaison. Ms. Brown noted that the large, yellow metal sign at the intersection of Linden Street and East Penn avenue blocks the sightlines of people trying to pull out onto East Penn Avenue. Mr. Marshall made note of it and advised the Street Committee will look into getting the sign moved back. Ms. Brown asked if/when the two 20 minute parking signs in front of the old Wells Fargo bank can be expected to be taken down since they are no longer needed for the bank. Mayor Gartner noted that the ATM is still located at the front of the bank. Mr. Randler stated he would like them left there for future businesses that may be put into that building. Council advised it will be considered in the future when a new business is opened at the former bank site. Chief Grim advised Council that he and Sean McKee are preparing a flyer to send out to the residents of Heidelberg Township, Robesonia and Wernersville Boroughs to introduce themselves and provide contact information for the South Heidelberg Township PD. He also advised that the SHPD will be participating in the Shop with a Cop program on 12/16 at 6PM at Target. They will be shopping with 2 children each from Heidelberg & South Heidelberg Townships and Robesonia & Wernersville Boroughs.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner thanked Abby Wertz for her 11 years of service to the Borough Council and for all her other civic and community participation (RCA, Friends of the Furnace, Council Liaison to the Library Board, etc).

SOLICITOR - Solicitor George presented the following :

RESOLUTION 2019-5

Whereas, the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act (Act 205 of 1984) requires that pension reports be prepared under the supervision and the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality and,

Whereas, ROBESONIA Borough wishes to comply with all of the requirements of said Act,

Now Therefore, it is resolved that the Borough Council of ROBESONIA Borough hereby appoints the Borough Manager as Chief Administrative Officer of its Non-Uniformed Pension Plan and the Western Berks Regional Police Force Pension Plan.

Mr. Martin made the motion to approve and Mr. Marshall seconded. Council approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2019-6

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING STATEWIDE TAX RECOVERY OF 100 NORTH THIRD STREET, SUNBURY, PENNSYLVANIA, AS DELINQUENT PER CAPITA TAX COLLECTOR FOR THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA FOR THE YEAR 2020.

Mr. Martin made the motion to approve and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2019-7

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING A DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR FOR THE YEAR 2020 FOR THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA.

Mr. Soliday asked if the Borough received the delinquent taxes. He was told the Borough does receive the collected delinquent tax monies. Mr. Soliday made the motion to approve and Mr. Martin seconded. Council approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2019-8

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, SETTING THE SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2020. BE IT RESOLVED AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Robesonia, Berks County, Pennsylvania as follows:

Council Members	\$540.00/yr	\$ 45.00/mo
Mayor	\$0.00	No salary
Manager/Sec./Treas. salary	\$53,401.00/yr	\$4450.12/mo
Tax Collector	\$2.00 per each bill collected	
Part-Time Clerical	\$16.00/hr.	
Custodian (p/t)	\$14.75/hr	
Sidewalk Inspector (p/t)	80% of fees	
Highway Manager	\$18.00/hr.	
Permanent Part-time Highway Assistant	\$17.00	
Part-Time Highway (as needed)	\$12.00/hr	
Part-Time Highway Supervisor	\$15.00/hr.	

Mr. Martin made the motion to approve and Mr. Rohrbach seconded. Council approved unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2019-9

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2020.

Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve the 4.9 mill tax rate for 2020 and Mr. Martin seconded. Council approved unanimously.

ORDINANCE 2019-7

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES PENSION PLAN BY AMENDING SECTION 3.01(A) ENTITLED "EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS" (NON-INTEGRATED)" OF SECTION III ENTITLED "CONTRIBUTIONS", TO INCREASE THE EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SIX PERCENT (6%) TO EIGHT PERCENT (8%) OF THE ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT'S COMPENSATION FOR THE YEAR 2020 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER AND TO ALLOW AMENDMENT OF THE EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION BY ANNUAL RESOLUTION.

Mr. Martin made the motion to approve and Mr. Marshall seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Mr. George advised Council that the Commission is working toward the final draft of the Dissolution Agreement for the Western Berks Regional Police Department. Mr. Marshall made the motion to allow the Council President to sign the Dissolution Agreement upon the approval of both Robesonia and Wernersville of the final draft. Ms. Ziegler seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

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ENGINEER – Engineer’s Report was included in the agenda packet. Manager advised Council that Jack Keener has requested a partial release from the financial security established for site improvements related to the Keener Heights project. Based on the recommendations of the Borough Engineer, Mr. Schnee made the motion to release \$217,672.50. Ms. Wertz seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. Borough Manager to write letter to Jack Keener and Jonestown Bank directing such action.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for December 18th, if needed.

MANAGER – As part of a new state requirement, Tax Collector, Marshall Reynolds, is in need of Council permission to destroy tax records over seven years old. Ms. Ziegler made the motion to approve destruction of records over 7 years old and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously. Council reminded everyone we are going to need to find another resident willing to serve on Council in 2020. She also reminded everyone starting a new term in January will need to provide an Affidavit of Residency at the Reorganization Meeting on January 6th. Manager also advised everyone that there will be two zoning hearings held on December 16th at 7PM. One is for 225 East Penn Ave (Castaneda’s Mexican Restaurant) and the other is for 127 East Penn Avenue (Wardhammer). All are welcome to attend and comment.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration – Ms. Wertz made the motion to adopt the 2020 budget. Total budget is \$1,418,802.00. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Personnel: No report.

Fire Protection/Safety – Mr. Martin advised that there are still gun raffle tickets available for the December 3rd drawing. The childrens’ Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 14th.

Police Committee- Frank Schnee feels that we are in good shape fiscally for the year-end close-out. Mr. Marshall noted the loose ends are being tied up and we are attempting to liquidate assets.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – November meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that leaf picking is nearly at an end. Our picker went down for awhile and DP Randler was kind enough to loan us one. Thank you, David!

Sewer Authorities: Mr. Soliday thanked the Borough Manager for the letter of support from the Borough for the grant application being submitted by the Robesonian Municipal Authority. Mr. Randler advised Council that the Robesonian-Wernersville Sewer Authority is planning to raise their rates and increase their operating budget next year to 1.2 million dollars (it is currently \$935,000). Mr. Randler advised that they’ve given their employees very generous increases but does not understand why they think they need to raise rates since, this year, they have collected nearly double their projected income due to the wet spring and excessive infiltration. Mr. Randler stated this rate increase will basically wipe out the rate increase just passed by the RMA and they will still not be able to save any money for the repairs needed to their system. Mayor Gartner suggested we need to write a letter to the Robesonian-Wernersville Sewer Authority expressing our displeasure with their rising rates (and the short notice of the increase) and their irresponsible spending. We want justification for the rising rates.

Parks & Recreation- No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Schnee – Mr. Schnee thanked Abby Wertz for her many years of service on Council.

Marshall – No report.

Martin- Mr. Martin thanked Abby Wertz for her years of service as a Council member and Harvey Marshall and the street crew for the great job with the leaf picking and Christmas light installation.

Ziegler- No report.

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Soliday- Absent.

Wertz- No report.

Rohrbach- Mr. Rohrbach advised Council that the Trash COG is trying to tie up loose ends with the new contract and the recycling container swap out. He is still waiting to get all the information together for the letter to be sent out to our residents.

Mayor Gartner – Mayor Gartner expressed his dissatisfaction of how slow the clean-up grant process is moving.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – An update from Maree Forbes was provided on her search to find grants to use as a match for the ISRP grant obtained to clean up the Breininger Property.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Schnee wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Treasurer's report and meeting minutes from the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority meeting (Oct)
- Western Berks Regional PD monthly report
- Technicon's monthly building permit report.
- Kraft Codes monthly Property Maintenance Report.

On a motion by Mr. Soliday, second by Ms. Wertz and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager