

Borough of Robesonia Council

Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2026

The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Monday, February 2, 2026 at the Robesonia Borough Hall located at 75 S. Brooke Street Robesonia, PA. The following Council members attended:

Mark Spotts
Randall Gartner
Harvey Marshall
Matthew Miller - Absent
Jame Burrus
Beth Sattizahn
John Schoener

Also in attendance; Mayor Dennis Rick, South Heidelberg Police Chief Matthew Hook, Solicitor Andrew George, Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller and Borough Engineer Jennifer McConnell

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Mark Spotts with the Pledge to the Flag

Recording of Meeting

Beth Sattizahn, Terri Groff, and Dave Fegley stated they were recording the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Randy Gartner to approve the January 5, 2026 Borough Council meeting minutes. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Beth Sattizahn to approve the January 19, 2026 Borough Council Workshop meeting minutes. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.

Bills:

- Mark Spotts stated the approval and ratification of bills will be tabled until the Workshop meeting.

Fire/EMS Report:

- Fire Chief John Christian was not present.

Police Report

- Police Chief Matthew Hook reviewed his abbreviated January Police Report for Council.

Scheduled Guests:

- Grande Land, LP Remediation Public Presentation:
 - Ms. McConnell provided a summary of the draft Soil Remediation Plan prepared by Montrose Environmental on behalf of Grande Land Development for the identified lead and cobalt contaminants in the soil in the vicinity of the proposed apartment buildings and Borough Garage. These are the same contaminants the Borough dealt with on the adjacent property and likely stem from Robesonia Furnace operations years ago.
 - Site evaluation and testing history was discussed and noted that the contaminants are limited to a distinct soil layer and no evidence of seepage through the soil horizon or into groundwater was found. Contaminated soils were excavated through the testing process and are now in a single stockpile / beneath the stockpile in the apartment building area.
 - With the consolidation of the soils, the Borough Garage area now appears to be free of contamination but they must get the go-ahead from PADEP before constructing anything in that area.
 - To remediate the contaminated soils, the intent is to excavate the area beneath the apartment parking areas to a depth of approximately 18' and place the contaminated soil in this excavation and then cover with a 2' cap of clean fill. A demarcation layer would then be placed and then approximately 4-5' of additional clean fill above the cap in order to install site improvements such as storm sewer, curb, paving, street lights and landscaping.
 - If necessary a limited amount of contaminated fill would be hauled off-site per DEP requirements.

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- Questions were raised about potential contaminants in the sediment basin soil, maintenance of the erosion & sediment controls around the contaminated soil stockpile, notification of future apartment residents, and why the remediation plan took so long to be prepared.
- The plan is under review by PADEP who will ultimately approve the plan. Borough Engineer was advised to send DEP a letter indicating that the Borough would like the sediment basin soil tested before removal/basin conversion, confirmation that an environmental covenant will be placed on the property so future buyers/residents are aware of the prior contamination/remediation and for the Borough garage area to be certified as “clean” such that construction of the garage/community room can begin in a timely manner.

Solicitor

- A motion was made by Beth Sattizahn to approve the Uniform Construction Code Agreement and Resolution 2026-3. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Randy Gartner to appoint Kevin Snyder as the primary delegate and Elizabeth Miller as the alternate to the Berks County Tax Collector Committee. Seconded by John Schoener. Mark Spotts voted nay. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Randy Gartner to open the agenda. Seconded by Beth Sattizahn. Mark Spotts stated that the Womelsdorf Robesonia Joint Authority is asking the Borough to pass an ordinance extending the life of the authority. A motion as made by Randy Gartner to approve advertisement. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.

Engineer

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector’s and Engineer’s Reports.
- Borough Council reviewed a memo from the Borough Engineer regarding the pavement and wall repair on South Church Street. All of Council agreed for the Borough Engineer to obtain two quotes for presentation.
- A motion was made by Harvey Marshall to approve the Furnace Hill financial security release in the amount of \$415,198.44. Seconded by Randy Gartner. Motion carried.
- Jennifer McConnell, Borough Engineer provided an update of the Boroughs MS4 general permit status.

Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on February 18, 2026 if necessary.

Manager

- Elizabeth Miller provided Borough Council and the Mayor with upcoming elected officials events information.
- Elizabeth Miller asked Borough Council and the Mayor to fill out and return the 2025 Statement of Financial Interest Forms to the office.
- A motion was made by Beth Sattizahn for the Borough to send a letter of support to Trinity Lutheran Church for the Jack Frost Parade this year. Seconded by Randy Gartner. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Finance Administration:

- The Finance Committee met for the first time in January and reviewed the bills to be paid.

Shade Tree Commission:

- No new business at this time.

Robesonia Community Library Report:

- President, Leslie Pirl-Roth gave an update on upcoming library fundraising events.

Old Business

- The Borough Manager, Dennis Rick, Beth Sattizahn and Randy Gartner are meeting to draft a Public Works Supervisor ad and job description.
- A motion was made by Randy Gartner to appoint Dennis Rick as the Boroughs Emergency Management Coordinator. Seconded by John Schoener. Motion carried.

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- The playground repair inspection meeting will be rescheduled due to the snow.
- The grant writer presentation will take place at the February Workshop meeting.
- Borough Council will discuss options regarding the Parks & Recreation Board and discuss at the February Workshop meeting.
- Borough Council will review a memo from Technicon regarding the possibility of proactive code enforcement and discuss at the February Workshop meeting.
- Beth Sattizahn gave an update on the possibility of the Borough hosting 250th celebration events.
- Borough Council had a discussion regarding no parking signs that were placed on North Robeson Street and Penn Avenue.
- Borough Council discussed the possibility of groups using the meeting room.

Council Member Reports

- Mayor:
 - Mayor Rick thanked residents for their cooperation during the recent snow storm and snow emergency.
- Marshall:
 - Roadmaster Harvey Marshall presented Council with a quote from New Castle Lawn & Landscaping. John Schoener suggested searching for a local company instead. John will look into the issue and report back to Council.
 - Harvey Marshall stated that there is a large tree limb that needs to be removed at the Borough tennis courts as it is an emergency. The Borough Manager will call a company for removal.
- Gartner:
 - Randy Gartner thanked the plow drivers for their work during the recent snow storm.
- Sattizahn:
 - Beth Sattizahn stated that she has been attending training classes and asked that the feral cat ordinance and shade tree ordinance be sent out to Council.
- Burrus:
 - Jame Burrus addressed Dennis Rick and stated that a derogatory Facebook post is still posted online. Dennis stated that he will take care of the issue.

Authorities: The following Reports/Minutes were received.

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

Public Comment

- Tracey Rice inquired about the 2026 Playground Program.
- Dave Fegley inquired about the Boroughs noise ordinance.
- Charlia Koch discussed the possibility of a welcome packet to new residents.
- Cindy Murdough inquired if a culvert in town is plowed by the Borough.
- Terri Groff inquired about responsibility of crosswalks not being shoveled.

Adjourn of Meeting

A motion was made by Harvey Marshall to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 PM. Seconded by Randy Gartner. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Borough Manager
Robesonia Borough