

Vice President Harvey Marshall called the September 3, 2019 meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Abby Wertz, Erica Ziegler, Rod Soliday and Frank Schnee. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Council members Mike Martin and Tony Wirebach were absent. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, David Rohrbach, Carol Werkheiser and J.C. Hoffa. A motion was made by Mr. Schnee to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2019 Workshop Meeting. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – All visitors were observing.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner advised Council the amended agreement with South Heidelberg for police services needs to be approved and an Intergovernmental Agreement Ordinance needs to be advertised for adoption. Mr. Soliday made the motion to approve the amended agreement and advertise the ordinance for adoption at the October meeting. Ms. Ziegler seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. Mayor Gartner advised Council that the Labor Day Car Show had to be postponed till September 15<sup>th</sup> due to inclement weather. Pre-registrations will be accepted until September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**SOLICITOR** – Mr. Marshall advised Council that Tony Wirebach has submitted his resignation from Borough Council. Ms. Ziegler made the motion to accept, with regret, Mr. Wirebach's resignation. Mr. Soliday seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Marshall made the motion to appoint Mr. Schnee as the interim president to the Council. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Marshall made the motion to appoint David Rohrbach to the vacant seat left on Council. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Marshall made the motion to appoint Mr. Rohrbach to the Trash COG to replace Mr. Wirebach. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Marshall made the motion to appoint Mr. Gartner to the Western Berks Police Commission to replace Mr. Wirebach. Ms. Ziegler seconded and Council approved unanimously. Solicitor George advised Council an Executive Session would be needed to discuss personnel issues. Council elected to wait till the end of the meeting for the Executive Session.

**ENGINEER** – The Engineer report was enclosed in the agenda packet.

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

**MANAGER** – Manager presented a request for handicapped parking in front of 18 South Elm Street. Mr. Schnee has asked Council to take a look at the property so a determination can be made at the October meeting. Reminded Council of the Berks County Commissioner's Breakfast being held on September 27<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Pleasant Fire Company. Anyone interested must let her know no later than 9/18 to be registered.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES**- Motion by Mr. Marshall 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** – Ms. Wertz advised Council that the preliminary budget work has begun and that anyone that has expenditures they would like considered for 2020 should submit them to the borough manager ASAP.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – No report.

**Police Committee-** No report.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – Mr. Marshall advised Council that he is hoping to have another street in the Borough tar & chipped this year. He advised Council that borough manager has been looking into interest rates at several institutions to determine best place to borrow money for infrastructure work. The current rate for the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank, at 2.625%, so far seems to be the best option. Mr.

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

September 3, 2019

Page 2 of 2

Randler asked if First Priority Bank was considered and what the terms would be. Borough Manager will check with First Priority Bank for their rates and terms.

**Sewer Authorities:** Mr. Soliday advised Council that Robesonia Municipal Authority will be increasing their rates in the December billing. The increase is necessary due to excessive infiltration in the system and the fact that customers are becoming a lot more efficient in their water use so revenues are down. The RMA will be dividing the service area into five different sectors and scoping one sector each year to determine where the infiltration is occurring and what repairs/upgrades may be needed to the system. Mr. Randler reported the Wernersville-Robesonia Sewer Authority has not moved their money but after reviewing their needs with the bank they are with, the bank agreed to increase their interest rates to a much more competitive rate. Mr. Randler noted that the most recent audit of the Wernersville-Robesonia Sewer Authority noted the Authority was not being fiscally responsible. He also noted that the 1.5 million dollar loan was not shown on their balance sheet.

**Parks & Recreation-** No report.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – Mr. Marshall made the motion to send our new p/t assistant, Tori Wawrzyniak, to PSAB’s Municipal Secretary’s Training at the Doubletree Hotel on November 7/8. The cost is \$200. Ms. Ziegler seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

**Martin-** Absent.

**Ziegler-** No report.

**Schnee-** No report

**Soliday** – No report.

**Wertz-** No report.

**Rohrbach-** No report.

**Mayor Gartner** – Mayor Gartner noted that only the government would punish you for becoming more efficient (in response to the RMA’s rate increase).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

Council adjourned for Executive Session at 7:31 to discuss personnel issues. Regular session resumed at 7:40. Mayor Gartner administered Oath of Office to Mr. Rohrbach.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- July Treasurer’s report and meeting minutes from the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority meeting
- Invitation to Berks County Commissioner’s Breakfast-9/27
- RMA Treasurer’s Report, Paid Bills Report and P&L
- RWMA May Meeting Minutes
- Western Berks Regional PD monthly meeting minutes, monthly report, Payroll & Financials
- Kraft Codes monthly report (August)
- Technicon’s monthly building permit report
- Western Berks Ambulance July report.

On a motion by Mr.Marshall, second by Ms. Ziegler and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager