

President Harvey Marshall called the April 5, 2021 Council meeting to order at 7:02 pm with the pledge to the flag. Council members present were V.P. Mark Spotts, David Rohrbach, Mike Martin, Matt Miller and Dean Johnson. Council member Rod Soliday was absent. Also attending the meeting were SHPD Chief Leon Grim, Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Brad Davis and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Carol Werkheiser, Lori Brown, David Bright, Tracy Rice, Joel Costenbader and Don Tatjes. A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 Council Meeting. Mr. Miller seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS: Joel Costenbader and Don Tatjes, representing 39 with Honor, a group dedicated to raising money to place wreaths on all veterans' graves at Ft. Indiantown Gap, advised Council that they are planning a family-friendly all day music festival to be held at the Friends of the Furnace property on June 12th from noon till 6 or 7 PM. There will be several bands, food trucks and porta-potties provided for the event. The event will be rain or shine. People are encouraged to bring chairs and e-z ups. Tickets will be \$10 in advance or \$15 at the gate. They asked for possible traffic control on the day of the event and the potential to have the tractor trailers currently parked on the property either moved or consolidated to allow for more parking on the grounds. Mr. Marshall advised him he would work on getting all the trucks parked in a consolidated area and rope off the area to leave the rest of the space for attendee parking for the event. All other guests were observing.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner advised Council The Friends of the Furnace will be holding an event on April 10th at the Furnace Property featuring Foreplay from 2-5PM. Tickets are \$5.00

SOLICITOR - Solicitor Doug Rauch provided Council with copies of the advertised ordinance and payment schedule financing options for the \$700,000 2 year drawdown line of credit the Borough is looking to take out in order to complete the Breinger property environmental clean-up and compost transfer facility projects. The majority of both projects will be paid back with the ISRP grant and DEP grant as well as the BC Community Development Block grant money, the Friends of the Furnace \$5,000 donation and the borough's \$35,000 commitment. The first option offered was 2.35% for 5 years, then 6.50%. The second option was 2.85% for 7 years, then 6.5% thereafter. Mr. Rauch suggested we would renegotiate with the bank at the end of the 5 or 7 year term, if necessary, for a better rate. David Randler asked if this was shopped around. Borough manager stated she did not....she went to the bank with which the Borough has a working relationship. He stated he contacted someone at Mid-Penn Bank and they said they would do the financing at 2.2%. Mr. Rauch will look into this and discuss with Borough Manager. It will be brought back to Council for the April 20th Workshop meeting since a decision must be made before the 30 days from the date of advertising has expired.

Solicitor Davis presented Ordinance #2021-2 for adoption:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PLANTING, MAINTENANCE, AND REMOVAL OF TREES IN PUBLIC PLACES, AND OTHER CONCERNS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY AND ESTABLISHING A SHADE TREE COMMISSION.

Mr. Spotts made the motion to approve the ordinance as presented and Mr. Rohrbach seconded. On a vote of 6-1, with Mr. Marshall being the lone dissenting vote, motion passed. Mr. Marshall explained his concern is what will happen to all of these trees when the Shade Tree Commission is no more? It's getting more and more difficult to find people to serve in these volunteer positions and the commission members are not young people. Council feels the ordinance can be revisited at that time and amendments made accordingly.

The Nuisance Property Ordinance currently used by South Heidelberg Township was discussed briefly. Mr. Spotts feels it is a cumbersome ordinance that would not work for us.

ENGINEER – The Engineer’s Report was included in the agenda packet.

PLANNING COMMISSION – The next meeting is scheduled for April 21st at 7PM. Jack Keener has submitted the plans for Phase II of his Keener Heights development which is currently under review by the engineer.

MANAGER – Manager presented three requests for new or additional funding. The Berks County Solid Waste Authority is seeking donations to help defray the costs of their semi-annual special clean-ups (household hazardous waste) for all county residents. The Western Berks Ambulance Association is seeking increased funding from the American Rescue Plan Act monies being received by local municipalities. The Borough has budgeted a \$2,000 donation for 2021. Third, the CELG is seeking increased funding for 2021. All donations are matched by the Berks County Commissioners. The Borough has budgeted \$300 for 2021. Mr. Martin made the motion to increase the donation to \$500 for 2021. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. The CW Middle School 5th grade class has asked to use the tot lot pavilion on June 1, 3, 7 & 8 for their year-end class party. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve and Mr. Marshall seconded. Council approved unanimously.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- Motion by Mr. Spotts, seconded by Mr. Miller 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: Mr. Martin advised Council that effective March 29, 2021, Jamie Swoyer officially retired from his position with the streets department. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Fire Protection/Safety – Mr. Martin advised Council that the Fire Company has received a grant for the purchase of upgraded air packs and custom face masks for all firefighters..

Streets/Highways/Sewer – March meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Although we have seen some action on the Infrastructure Loan application we are still awaiting official notification of its approval.

Parks & Recreation- A request from the Field of Dreams team has been received for the weekend of August 14th for their annual game and on August 10th & 12th for practices. A motion was made by Mr. Spotts to approve the use and seconded by Mr. Miller. Council approved unanimously. Volunteers are desperately needed for a Parks & Rec Committee, as well as for a library liaison. Borough will post to website and FB page seeking volunteers. Mr. Rohrbach feels a job description is needed for these positions.

Library- No Borough liaison has been found yet.

Police- Chief Grim reported that March was a very busy month with 411 calls. Chief Grim also reported that the Police Department will be hosting an Autism Awareness event on Saturday, April 10th, from 1-3PM, for the community. Several police, fire and EMS departments as well as BCIU and Tower Health will be participating in the event. Rain Date is Sunday, April 11th.

Water/Sewer Municipal Authorities-Meeting minutes for the RWMA were included in the agenda packet.

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission: No report.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Marshall- No report..

Martin- The Fire Company will be donating the hot dogs and rolls and chips to the PD for the Autism Awareness event.

Soliday- Absent

Johnson- No report.

Spotts- No report.

Rohrbach- Mr. Rohrbach asked when Council will get to comment on the proposed Keener Heights Phase II plan. He feels parking must be addressed.

Miller:. No report.

Mayor Gartner- No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Fatzinger Automotive Clean-up: Mr. Fatzinger has been sent a NOV from the Zoning Officer. He has until April 23rd to respond. Mayor asked status of other junk vehicles and noted that one of the vehicles is still on Jay Ibach's property at 35 Chestnut Avenue. Mr. Marshall noted that he and Mr. Soliday had to revisit the other violators who had not yet moved their vehicles. Solicitor is looking into the Street Light Conversion agreement.

NEW BUSINESS – No report

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Monthly Police Report. Stats section was included in agenda packet.
- Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority meeting minutes and Treasurer's reports (Feb)
- Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority meeting minutes (March)
- Western Berks Ambulance monthly report-March
- Building Permit List
- Protest letter from David Randler regarding registration and rental property inspections.

On a motion by Mr. Spotts second by Mr. Martin and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer