

Borough of Robesonia Council

Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2024

The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Monday, October 7, 2024 at the Robesonia Borough Hall located at 75 S. Brooke Street Robesonia, PA. The following Council members attended:

Harvey W. Marshall, President
Mark Spotts, Vice President
Matthew Miller, President Pro-Tem
Jame Burrus
Dean Johnson
Michael Martin
David Bright
Mayor Rodney Soliday

Staff: Solicitor Andrew George and Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Harvey Marshall with the pledge of allegiance.

Beth Sattizahn and Terri Groff stated that they were recording the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by David Bright to approve the September 3, 2024 Council meeting minutes. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Bills:

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to pay and ratify the bills from September 4, 2024 to October 7, 2024. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.

Police Report

- Police Chief Matthew Hook summarized the September Police Report for Council.

Scheduled Guests:

- None.

Solicitor's Report

- Approval of Resolution 2024-11: After a discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Miller to approve Resolution 2024-11 which adopts a policy to establish rules and regulations for public meetings. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.
- Drafting of Resolution Enacting Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit: After a discussion, a motion was made by Matthew Miller to authorize Solicitor George to draft a resolution enacting the volunteer firefighter tax credit which goes along with a previously adopted Resolution. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.
- Awarding of bid for Spruce Street paving: A motion was made by Matthew Miller to approve Carl Bales bid to pave Spruce Street from Penn Avenue to Oak Alley. Seconded by David Bright. Motion carried.

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Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on October 16, 2024 if necessary.

Manager

- Halloween Trick or Treat Night: Trick or Treating in the Borough will be October 31st from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

Committee Reports

Finance Administration:

- Meeting minutes for review.
- Presentation of Budget for 2025: Council was presented with the proposed budget for 2025. Council was asked to review and plan for discussion at the November Council meeting.

Personnel:

- Hiring of Part-Time Streets Department Employee: There will be a discussion regarding hiring in executive session as it is a personnel matter.

Public Safety:

- No new business at this time.

Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- Church Street and Penn Avenue Intersection Safety Concerns: A discussion was had between Council and citizens regarding improvements and changes that can be made at the intersection of Church Street and Penn Avenue.

Parks and Recreation:

- No new business at this time.

Library Board Liaison:

- Leslie Pirl Roth introduced herself to Council as the new President of the Library Board.

Council Member Reports

- Marshall
 - Crime Alert Berks County Donation: A motion was made by Jame Burrus to approve a \$250.00 donation to Crime Alert Berks County. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.
 - Letter to Terminate Contract with Diversified Technology: After a discussion, a motion was made by David Bright to authorize Elizabeth Miller to draft a letter terminating the Boroughs contract with Diversified Technology for trash billing. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.
 - 31 Chestnut Avenue Gate Repair: Sarah Ruth presented pictures to Council to support her claim that a Borough plow truck hit her gate in 2020 which the Borough agreed to repair. Sarah Ruth also presented a quote for \$975.00 to repair the gate. Harvey Marshall stated he would get an additional quote within the next two days.
 - Tot Lot Tree Safety Concerns: Harvey Marshall stated that the trees are heavily shedding branches near the Boroughs playground. He will look into getting a quote for trimming for Councils consideration.
- Spotts
 - COG Contract: Mark Spotts gave an update on the COG contract. Bids will be opened on November 1st.

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- Bright
 - David Bright and Harvey Marshall had a discussion regarding the Furnace Hill project and new Borough garage.

Authorities: The following Reports/Minutes were received.

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

Public Comment

- Anthony Tucci: The Chief of Western Berks Ambulance Association presented to Council a request for additional ambulance funding. Council will discuss and consider.
- Beth Sattizahn: Beth Sattizahn had several questions and comments for Council.
- Susie Zerbe: Susie Zerbe stated that the Friends of the Robesonia Library are having a Civil War and Gettysburg discussion on October 15th at 7:00 PM.
- Tracy Rice: Tracy Rice had questions regarding the Boroughs MS4 report and BMP's design.
- Leah Ruth: Leah Ruth reported on upcoming library events.
- Cindy Murdough: Cindy Murdough asked Council if there was money in the budget for 2025 for No Nonsense Neutering.
- Sean McKee: Sean McKee stated that South Heidelberg received the best place to work in Pennsylvania award.
- Nick Schoener: Nick Schoener asked if Council would consider an additional pickle ball net for the Spring.

Executive Session

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:30 PM to discuss personnel issues and current litigation.

The meeting reconvened at 9:03 PM.

Adjourn Meeting

A motion was made by Jame Burrus to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Borough Manager
Robesonia Borough