

President Harvey Marshall called the February 7th Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag. Council members present were V.P. Mark Spotts, Mike Martin, Matt Miller, Dean Johnson, and Tracy Rice. Jamie Burrus was absent. Also attending the meeting were SHPD Chief Leon Grim, Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Andrew George, Engineer Jen Van Dyke and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Dave Rohrbach, Vernon Bright, Carol Werkheiser, Geneva Berger, Tim Rowe, Cindy Murdough and Chris Kerns and Jim Cinelli of Liberty Environmental. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes of the January 3rd, 2022 Council Meeting. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously. Ms. Rice made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of the January 17th Workshop Meeting. Mr. Miller seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS: All visitors were observing.

MAYOR – No report.

SOLICITOR - Solicitor George advised Council that a formal resolution would need to be passed at the February Workshop Meeting to adopt the new police contract since it is between municipalities.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – Engineer, Jen Van Dyke, noted that the final plan for the Furnace Hill AARC has been submitted for review. This plan is to be discussed at the February 16th Planning Commission meeting. Also, the meeting minutes from the January 19th PC meeting were included in the packet.

MANAGER – No report.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- Motion by Mr. Martin, 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. Marshall reported that the Personnel Committee is requesting an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Fire Protection/Safety – No report.

Streets & Highways- Mr. Marshall advised Council the bid packet for the 2022 Roadwork project was being prepared for advertising. He asked for a motion to authorize advertising upon finalization and approval from PennDOT. The anticipated bid opening is March 21st or April 4th depending on advertising deadlines, PennDOT approval, etc). Mr. Johnson made the motion to approve and Mr. Martin seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Parks & Recreation- Ms. Rice reported that the Parks & Rec Board will be meeting with the baseball organizations that may be interested in using the ballfields during the spring/summer season. They will also be discussing possible summer programs in addition to future use of the Breininger property. Their first meeting will be held on February 17th so she will be unable to attend the Joint Planning Commission meeting that night.

Library- No report.

Police- Chief Grim noted the traffic numbers are down in January due to curtailing his departments' interactions with people during the recent omicron surge to keep his officers healthy and able to respond to necessary calls. Also, reported that the recent shooting victim from Wernersville is still not cooperating with police in their investigation of the matter.

Water/Sewer Municipal Authorities- Mr. Randler reported that the next RMA meeting is scheduled for February 9th at 6PM. He also reported that the sewer line on Furnace Street has been repaired. Mr. Martin noted that the RWMA meeting minutes and Engineer's report were in the agenda packet.

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission: The next meeting will be held on February 17th at 7PM at the Heidelberg Township building. Mr. Marshall advised Council a quorum of each municipality must be present to vote on the proposed solar farm amendment.

Environmental Remediation Committee: Meeting minutes from the January 17th meeting were included in the packet. Ms. Rice had Chris Kerns (Liberty Environmental) and Jen Van Dyke (Technicon) present the current situation with the Remediation Project and proposed timelines. Chris Kerns reported that there is a 90 day review period by DEP on the submitted RIR/CP. The NPDES permit would be reviewed by the BCCD and could take up to 120 days (at a cost of \$1,500). However, the Borough could opt for an expedited review (60 days) at a cost of \$4,500. Mr. Marshall asked, in the event all of the remediation work could not be completed by the June 30th deadline, how long the RIR and NPDES permit are good for? Mr. Cinelli noted that an RIR has no expiration and the NPDES permit is good for 5 years. Mr. Johnson made the motion to approve the expedited review at a cost of \$4,500. Mr. Spotts seconded and Council approved unanimously. Ms. Van Dyke requested Council approval to advertise the bid packet (upon completion) for the tree removal in order to keep project moving forward in a timely manner. Mr. Martin made the motion and Mr. Miller seconded. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Spotts noted that the eligible invoices paid to date need to be submitted immediately for reimbursement. Mr. Marshall questioned whether any invoices paid through the grant before the expiration would have to be reimbursed if the project is not completed in its entirety. DCED will be contacted and asked that question. Also, Ken Pick at DCED will be contacted to determine the same for the CDBG matching monies. We will have a workshop meeting in both February and March to keep this project moving forward. Mayor Gartner asked if the Clean-up Bid Package will be advertised in time to get the work done. Ms. Van Dyke noted it will be ready for approval to advertise at the March 7th Council Meeting. Ms. Rice asked the solicitor if the borough is legally able to accept clean fill/topsoil from a local developer that has offered it to the borough. Solicitor will look into the legality and advise Council as soon as possible. Mr. Kerns noted that the soil should be tested prior to using it to cap the contaminated areas.

American Rescue Plan Committee:

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Marshall- No report.

Martin- No report.

Rice-Ms. Rice noted that she has been going to the Newly Elected Officials training at the CELG and has been learning a lot. One of the things learned is the importance of the vacancy board. She asked if the Mayor can serve on that board. Solicitor noted that Borough Code states the board consist of the Council, *exclusive of the Mayor*, plus one appointed registered elector of the Borough. We need to find someone willing to serve in that position.

Johnson- No report.

Spotts- No report.

Burrus- Absent.

Miller- No report.

Mayor Gartner- Mayor offered tours of the Furnace property if anyone is interested on Saturday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Marshall asked David Randler to take a walk with him on the property being remediated to determine a possible right-of-way from his adjoining property.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 7:55PM. Regular session reconvened at 8:12 PM. Upon reconvening, Mr. Miller made the motion, and Mr. Johnson seconded, to advertise for a Part-time Borough Secretary and a Full-time Borough Secretary-Treasurer position Council approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority Treasurer’s report and Meeting Minutes (December)
- RWMA Meeting Minutes, operational report :& engineer’s reports for December
- SHTPD Police Report. Stats section & Calls of Interest were included in agenda packet.
- Building Permit List-January

On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Johnson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer