

Borough of Robesonia Council

Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2024

The regular advertised Reorganization Meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Tuesday, January 2, 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
Jamie Burrus
Dean Johnson
Michael Martin
Matthew Miller
Tracy Rice
Mayor Rodney Soliday

Staff: Solicitor Andrew George and Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller.

Mayor Soliday opened the meeting at 7:02 PM with the pledge of allegiance.

Elected Council Members

The following Council Members were sworn in prior to the meeting and will serve 4-year terms.

- Harvey Marshall
- Mark Spotts
- Matthew Miller
- Jamie Burrus

Mayor

Mayor Rodney Soliday was sworn in prior to the meeting and will service a 2-year term.

Election of Officers

- President
 - A motion was made by Mark Spotts to nominate Harvey Marshall as Borough Council President. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.
- Vice-President
 - A motion was made by Matthew Miller to nominate Mark Spotts as Borough Council Vice-President. Seconded by Jamie Burrus. Motion carried.

At this time, President Harvey Marshall took over the meeting.

Committees:

- A motion was made by Tracy Rice to approve the following Committees for 2024. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.:
 - Personnel
 - Harvey Marshall
 - Mark Spotts
 - Mike Martin
 - Streets/Highways/Building Maintenance

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- Harvey Marshall
- Mark Spotts
- Matthew Miller

- Finance
 - Harvey Marshall
 - Mark Spotts
 - Mike Martin
 - Jamie Burrus (Alternate as needed)

- Fire/Safety Committee
 - Harvey Marshall
 - Mark Spotts
 - Mike Martin

Appointments for 2024

A motion was made by Matthew Miller to approve the following appointments for 2024. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.:

- Bank Depositories: Fulton Bank and PLIGIT.
- Kozloff Stoudt as Borough Solicitor.
- Technicon Enterprises II, Inc. as Borough Engineer, Sewage Enforcement Officer, Building Inspector and Sidewalk Inspector. Tracy Rice voiced concern regarding if Technicon can provide the Borough with adequate staffing to cover all Borough matters.
- Cory Peiffer PC, CPA as Borough payroll service.
- Elizabeth Miller as Borough Manager.
- Mark Spotts and Michael Martin as Berks County Boroughs Association Representatives.
- Maxine Maser, Stanilla, Siegel and Maser, LLC as Borough Auditor.
- Appointment of David Randler to the Robesonia Wernersville Municipal Authority for a 5-year term.
- Appointment of Dave Hannigan to the Robesonia Municipal Authority for a 5-year term.
- Appointment of Dave Hannigan to the Shade Tree Commission for a 5-year term.
- Appointment of Jennifer McCollum to the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term.
 - Zoning Hearing Board Alternate seat remains vacant.
- Appointment of David Randler to the Library Board as Borough Liaison.

Appointment to Planning Commission

Council received a letter from Tabby Wolfe and a letter from Dennis Rick expressing interest in being appointed to the Planning Commission. A motion was made by Matthew Miller to appoint Tabby Wolfe. Seconded by Michael Martin. A motion was made by Tracy Rice to appoint Dennis Rick. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Council took a roll call vote as follows: Jamie Burrus voted Tabby Wolfe, Michael Martin voted Tabby Wolfe, Matthew Miller voted Tabby Wolfe, Harvey Marshall voted Tabby Wolfe. Mark Spotts voted

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Tabby Wolfe, Dean Johnson voted Tabby Wolfe, Tracy Rice voted Tabby Wolfe. Tabby Wolfe will serve on the Planning Commission for a 5-year term.

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- A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2023 Council meeting. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Bills:

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to pay and ratify the bills from December 5, 2023 to January 2, 2024. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

Police Report

- Officer Patton, in place of Police Chief Matthew Hook summarized the December Police Report for Council.

Citizens and Visitors: Sign in sheet is available upon request.

David Randler: David Randler had a discussion with Council regarding a large sycamore tree on his property that is pushing up the side street alley on East Ruth Avenue. Mr. Randler received a quote of \$3,000.00 to take the tree down and would like the Borough to consider splitting the cost with him. Jamie Burrus voiced concerns to not set a precedent for all other residents in the Borough and that owners should be responsible for what is on their own property. A motion was made by Michael Martin to take no action. Seconded by Tracy Rice. Motion carried.

David Bright: David Bright thanked the Parks and Recreation Board for the prize he received as a winner in the Holiday House Decorating contest.

Solicitor's Report

- Intergovernmental Agreement for the Berks County Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals: A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve the Boroughs participation in the Berks County Uniform Construction Code Board of Appeals. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.
- Resolution 2024-1: A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve Resolution 2024-1 which amends rates of compensation for the Building and Zoning Enforcement Officer and application fees. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-2: A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve Resolution 2024-2 which amends rates of compensation for the Sewage Enforcement Officer and application fees. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on January 17, 2024 if necessary.

Manager

- No matters to report at this time.

Committee Reports

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Finance Administration:

- No report.

Personnel:

- No report.

Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- Borough Weed Ordinance: Council had a lengthy discussion regarding the weed ordinance in the Borough. The Council referred the issue to Solicitor Andrew George for his review of the existing ordinance and the possibility of amending the current ordinance with a better suiting one.
- Christmas Tree Pick-Up: The Borough will be collecting Christmas trees that are put out on the curb for the next two months.

Parks and Recreation:

- Meeting Minutes for review.
- There will be no January Parks & Recreation Board meeting.

Library Board Liaison:

- Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller will inform the library that the position has been filled by David Randler and to inform him of all upcoming 2024 meeting dates.

Council Member Reports

- Marshall
 - Statewide Tax Recovery Exoneration Request: A motion was made by Mark Spotts to accept an exoneration request from Statewide Tax Recovery. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried. Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller will contact Tax Collector, Marshall Reynolds to inform him of Council's decision.
 - Borough Garage Recycling Card System: The Council had a discussion regarding pricing of the access cards to the Borough garage recycling fence. A motion was made by Michael Martin to charge \$20 for the first year and \$10 for the card to be issued. To renew the access card each year the fee will be \$20. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

Communications: The following Reports/Minutes were received.

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

Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:50 PM by Dean Johnson. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Manager
Robesonia Borough