

President Harvey Marshall called the rescheduled February 16, 2021 Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag. Council members present were V.P. Mark Spotts, David Rohrbach, Rod Soliday, Mike Martin and Matt Miller. Dean Johnson was absent. Also attending the meeting were SHPD Chief Leon Grim, Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Colin MacFarlane and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Brian Focht of C2C and Lori Brown. A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2020 Council Meeting. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS:** All guests were observing.

**MAYOR –** Mayor Gartner advised Council that a meeting will be held at the borough hall on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6PM by the Street Fair Committee. Anyone interested in helping is welcome. Notice to be put on Borough's Facebook page.

**SOLICITOR –** Solicitor MacFarlane advised Council that a motion was needed to advertise the Conditional Use Hearing for the proposed project, Settlement at Furnace Hill, for 6:30 on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Soliday made that motion and Mr. Miller seconded. Council approved unanimously. The amended Shade Tree Ordinance was discussed briefly. Mr. Spotts had a question about the definition of DBH mentioned in the amended ordinance. Solicitor MacFarlane advised Council that Solicitor George asked that we consider postponing advertising the ordinance for adoption until the April Council meeting. Council agreed.

**ENGINEER –** January Building Permit and Engineer's reports were included in the agenda packet. A review letter for the Conditional Use Application for the dated 2/10/21 from Engineer Jennifer Van Dyke was also distributed to Council for them to familiarize themselves with the issues to be voted on at the Conditional Use Hearing on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30.

**PLANNING COMMISSION –** The next meeting is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM to discuss the Settlement at Furnace Hill.

**MANAGER –** Manager handed out nominating petition packets to Mayor and those Council members that are up for re-election. Manager reported that Cal Yoh has resigned from the Planning Commission and ask everyone to search for a replacement. Manager reported that she has been talking to Doug Rauch about the possibility of taking out a two year drawdown line of credit to complete the environmental clean-up work at the newly acquired Breininger Property. The intent is to contact DCED to determine if we can revise our grant application to include the additional \$38,400 quoted by Liberty for additional work not included in the original application. Either way, the borough could have the work performed within the timeframe required by the conditions of the grant and could be paid on as we receive reimbursements from DCED as expenses are submitted. At the end of the project, we could refinance, if necessary, the remaining balance. Mayor asked for everything to be spelled out for Council (cost of everything, grant money, borough's commitment, etc) at next meeting.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Spotts 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 reported that Personnel is dealing with an issue...more details to be forthcoming.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Mr. Martin reported the Chief will be at the March meeting to give the year-end report.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – January meeting minutes were included in the agenda. Mr. Marshall advised Council that he has priced out a new truck to replace the 2001 Ford F550. We are looking at doing a five-year term as we did with the 2007. Our expectation is to make one of the payments from the sale of the 01 and an additional payment or two from the equipment allocation of the Liquid Fuels account. The best quote received (through COSTARS) was from Manderbach Ford for the 2022 truck chassis at \$39,994 and the upfitting through Levan at \$31,700, for a total cost of \$71,694. Mr. Martin made the motion to purchase the 2022 Ford F550 and Mr. Spotts seconded. Council approved unanimously.

**Parks & Recreation**- Mr. Spotts suggested Borough needs to start discussing summer playground, ie....will there be one, will it be hosted by borough or pool, etc..

**Library**- We are still seeking a library board liaison. Mr. Spotts will post to the borough's website.

**Police**- Chief Grim reported on the reported child abduction that ended when, after many hours of police work amid great cooperation with the local businesses, it was determined (and the child admitted) it never occurred. Mr. Marshall asked Chief Grim to have one of his officers check out a black Chevy Avalanche parked along South Robeson Street that never moved after the two snowstorms.

**Water/Sewer Municipal Authorities**-Mr. Soliday reported the Robeson Municipal Authority is getting bids to move the pipe on the Wooltown Road line. The work will include erosion control measures to prevent this situation from happening in the future. He noted that the RMA is working on the Jackie Avenue issues. He advised Council that the RMA sent out a friendly letter to the residents of Pennbrooke Avenue regarding infiltration. Part of the letter will also be printed in the spring newsletter as a reminder to residents to not be discharging downspouts, basement floor drains or sump pumps into the sanitary sewer system.

**Western Berks Joint Planning Commission:** No report.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Marshall** – Mr. Marshall advised Council that he talked to PPL regarding the conversion of our street lights to LEDs. Based on his conversation with the representative at PPL, it appears the worst case scenario would result in a \$50/month increase in the street light bill. Considering LEDs are brighter, longer lasting and more energy efficient, he feels it is worth pursuing. It was suggested we get a copy of the contract and speak to other municipalities that have made the complete conversion and get their feedback before making the move.

**Martin**- No report

**Soliday**- No report

**Johnson**- Absent.

**Spotts**- Mr. Spotts asked that the Nuisance Property ordinance provided to us by South Heidelberg Township be put on the March agenda.

**Rohrbach**- Mr. Rohrbach noted that Jack Keener is planning to submit his plan for ten more units at the end of his development on Smokering Drive. He asked if that was on the agenda for the Planning Commission meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>. He was told it is not since no plan has formally been presented.

**Miller**-. No report.

**Mayor Gartner**- No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – Fatzinger Automotive Clean-up: Give to Zoning Officer to enforce. The amended Shade Tree Ordinance was discussed under Solicitor.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No report

Lori Brown asked if the Borough has made any headway with PPL about the Christmas lights yet. Mayor Gartner reported that he is having some difficulty locating colored LED low voltage lights to fit our existing lines but will continue to look.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Kraft Codes monthly Property Maintenance Report.
- Monthly Police Report, in its entirety, was sent out to Council via email prior to meeting. Stats section was included in agenda packet.
- Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority meeting minutes (Dec) and Nov. & Dec. Treasurer's reports.
- RMA January meeting minutes and treasurer's report.
- RWMA December meeting minutes.
- Thank you from Berks Nature for year-end contribution.
- Western Berks Ambulance December & January reports

On a motion by Mr. Soliday second by Mr. Rohrbach and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer