

President Harvey Marshall called the November 2, 2020 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, Dean Johnson, Mike Martin and Matt Miller. President Harvey Marshall attended by telephone. Also attending the meeting were SHPD Chief Leon Grim, Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Kourtney Bernecker and Manager Lisa Heilman.. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Brian Focht of C2C Design, David Randler, David Bright, Lori Brown and Robert Garmer. A motion was made by Mr. Soliday to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020 Council Meeting. Mr. Spotts seconded and Council approved unanimously. A motion was next made by Mr. Martin to approve the meeting minutes of the October 20, 2020 Workshop Meeting with Mr. Soliday seconding. Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS: All visitors were observing.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner presented a letter he had prepared to send to the PUC regarding the Christmas lighting, seeking Council’s approval to send the letter. Mr. Marshall noted he would like to see something included in the letter regarding the grant money spent on the replacement/upgrade of the Christmas lights and that nothing was said when a work order was put in at the time of that replacement project. Mayor agreed to include that information in his letter. Mayor Gartner noted that Lori Brown had donated several posters to the Friends of the Furnace, one from 1936 that was still in great shape and thanked Ms. Brown for the donation.

SOLICITOR - Solicitor Bernecker presented the ordinance amending the joint zoning ordinance as follows: Article 4, Section 402.A.8, changing the maximum number of dwelling units within an AARC to six dwelling units per gross acre of the tract within the RR District within the Borough of Robesonia, and at Article 4, Section 402.A.9, allowing the building setbacks to be measured from tract boundary, and be set at the more restrictive of the buffer or underlying building setback within the Borough of Robesonia, and Article 4, Section 402.A.12.B, allowing Robesonia Borough Council to determine if recreation facilities are necessary or whether the Borough of Robesonia will accept a fee-in-lieu of the recreational facilities, and Article 4, Section 402.A.12.D, allowing a community center, but not requiring a community center to be provided, as determined by the Borough of Robesonia. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve to forward to the Western Berks Joint Planning Commission for approval contingent upon review and approval by the Berks County Planning Commission. Mr. Miller seconded and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Randler, Chairman of the Joint PC, recommended we get that ordinance forwarded to the Berks County PC as quickly as possible for review and we will, hopefully, have the approval from them before the December meeting. He recommends we meet in November and asked Manager to get notification out to the participating municipal members that there would be a meeting on November 19th.

ENGINEER – Building Permit and Engineer’s reports were included in the agenda packet. Jennifer Van Dyke of Technicon 2, submitted a letter to Council to recommend the partial release of financial security established for site improvements for the Keener Heights project. Based on Ms. Van Dyke’s recommendations, Mr. Spotts made the motion to release \$246,368.00 of the financial security, leaving a balance of \$419,361.25. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION – The next meeting is scheduled for November 18th, if needed.

MANAGER – Manager advised Council that a revised fee schedule needs to be done. There was some discussion on this prior to the onset of the pandemic but has not been pursued since that time. Mr. Spotts and Mr. Soliday offered to sit down with Manager to go over the fee schedule to update, hopefully, by the January meeting.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- Motion by Mr. Soliday, seconded by Mr. Johnson and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties. .

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration –Mr. Spotts presented the 2021 Budget to be advertised for adoption at the December meeting. The total budget is \$1,710,035. This represents a 8% increase. Mr. Miller made the motion to advertise for adoption at the December meeting and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Personnel: Borough Manager will do the remaining Employee Evaluations in December. Mr. Martin advised Council that the Personnel Committee has come up with new job classifications vs. titles for the Streets and Maintenance Department. There will be a Roadmaster, Highway I, Highway II and Highway III classifications going forward. Highway III will be for those hired on a part-time/as-needed basis.

Fire Protection/Safety – Mr. Martin reported that Social Quarters has a new cook and will be providing food on Thursday-Sunday and asked everyone to come out and support the Fire Company. He thanked Smiths Candies in Myerstown for donating the candy they handed out to the kids on Halloween. He thanked everyone who supported the truck fund and said donations are still coming in.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – Mr. Marshall advised Council that leaf picking has started, we're working on the Infrastructure Bank loan, Technicon quoted \$3-4,000 to help prepare the 2021 roadwork specs, and the loader has been ordered and we're expected to receive it sometime mid-January. Mr. Spotts asked about the signage for the South Church Street underpass. He was advised that the new stop sign, with flasher, was installed that day.

Parks & Recreation- Manager advised Council that the Trick-or-Treat Night was a success with over 200 kids served. We received many thanks from the participants for doing something special for the kids.

Library- No report. Mr. Spotts mentioned he may have someone willing to serve as the Borough liaison on the library board.

Water/Sewer Municipal Authorities-Mr. Soliday advised Council that the next RMA meeting is scheduled for December 9 at 6PM. He will get the Treasurer's Report for the October & December meetings at that time to present at the January Council meeting. He advised Council that it was determined at the 10/14 RMA meeting to provide credits to both the CW School and 120 N. Church Street (who had a breach in their water line while away). He advised Council that he went on an educational walking field trip down a portion of the trunk line with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Hannigan. Mr. Marshall told him that that section of the trunk line has since been cleared. He advised Council that the RMA is actively seeking grants to help with the repair of the exposed sewer line and that they are watching as-builts to ensure the proper grease interceptors are being used for new businesses. Mr. Marshall advised Council that the Robesonia-Wernersville Joint Sewer Authority has invited all of their contributors to an informational meeting on November 17th at the Wernersville Borough Hall.

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission: Mr. Randler (Chairman) recommended holding the next meeting on November 19th at 7PM at the Robesonia Borough Hall in order to keep the process of passing the proposed ordinance amendments moving forward. A copy of the proposed amendment shall be sent to Berks County Planning Commission this week for their review. We should hopefully have their response back in time to vote on it, along with the inclusion of Marion Township and the proposed amendment for North Heidelberg as well at the regularly scheduled December 17th meeting.

Police: No report.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Marshall – Mr. Marshall advised Council that we, along with the solicitors, met with representatives of PPL to discuss the proposed PPL Easement Agreement. PPL has still not provided an updated agreement nor have they provided us with a new dollar value of the property for which they are seeking the easement.

Martin- No report.

Johnson- No report

Soliday- No report..

Spotts- Mr. Spotts advised Council that the Finance Committee discussed the possibility of putting up a 20' Christmas Tree in the front of HPR Park this year since we will not be able to have our regular Christmas light display. Mayor Gartner asked about holding a Christmas decorating contest and volunteered the RCA to do the judging. David Randler advised Council that he and Kevin Snyder were considering doing something similar and suggested we combine events. We could include Robesonia Borough and Heidelberg Township in the competition. Robesonia would provide the promotion and judges. Further discussion needed to determine the details will be needed.

Rohrbach- Mr. Rohrbach advised Council that Bartlett's performed the service on the two American Elm trees on the playground. The trimmed, bolted and cabled the trees. He also asked the status of the removal of the duplicate poles in front of his property. Manager will contact Verizon again. If no action is taken, the PUC will be contacted for assistance.

Miller:. No report.

Mayor Gartner- Mayor Gartner advised Council that he has found a new group to assist in the Labor Day Car Show. The group, 39 with Honor, will receive the 80% registration proceeds. Their group raises money for Wreaths Across America. Mr. Johnson made the motion and Mr. Spotts seconded using 39 With Honor to assist and receive the proceeds. He then advised Council that he is looking to put together a group to run the Street Fair going forward. He asked for the use of the Council room to hold meetings, which was approved. He suggested they will need to find some big money donors since the fireworks, alone, are \$8,000/year. Mayor Gartner advised Council we need to get RFPs prepared to do the remediation on the Breininger property which the Borough took ownership of last week. He suggested checking with Jim Cinelli of Liberty Environmental. Manager to follow up.

Junk Cars- Mayor suggested it is time to get property maintenance involved in getting the junk cars cleaned up in town.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Fatzinger Automotive-All the non-registered/unlicensed vehicles removed from end of street, however there are still cars sitting in the grass. Kraft to follow-up to cleaning up property.

The change to the Shade Tree Ordinance to include enforcement/penalties was discussed. Mr. Marshall would like to see provision included to allow property owners the ability to refuse to have trees planted in front of their property. Mr. Marshall advised Council that Wernersville plants the trees in front of homes then gives ownership of the tree to the property owner, however, they must obtain a \$25 permit from the borough in order to do any trimming of the tree. The issue of tree damage liability was brought up. Manager to check with insurance carrier to report back to Council.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Kraft Codes monthly Property Maintenance Report.
- Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority meeting minutes

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- Monthly Police Report

On a motion by Mr. Soliday, second by Mr. Spotts and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer