

President Harvey Marshall called the August 3, 2020 meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Council Members present were Mark Spotts, David Rohrbach, Rod Soliday, Dean Johnson and Mike Martin. Also attending the meeting were SHPD Chief Leon Grim, Mayor Randy Gartner and Manager Lisa Heilman. Solicitor Kourtney Bernecker attended via speakerphone. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Ryan Knarr, Abby Brunner (Library Director), Lori Brown, David Bright and David Randler. A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2020 Council Meeting. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS:** Ryan Knarr advised Council that Jack Keener and Tom Breneman spoke on Friday to coordinate the paving of the tennis court. Tom confirmed that Jack was on the right track and they should be good to go once weather allows. Harvey Marshall asked Ryan if Jack verified the 10' perimeter with Tom. Ryan confirmed he did. Mr. Spotts asked if we had anyone overseeing the project to ensure the proper pitch is achieved when the court is paved. Mr. Marshall advised that we have our engineer, Technicon, overseeing the project. Mr. Knarr advised that the USTA will also approve. Mr. Rohrbach insisted the Borough ensure we get some type of signed confirmation. Mr. Knarr provided a proposal from Conrad Weiser Tennis Association that would contribute \$1,500 to the tennis court resurfacing, fully fund and support a summer tennis clinic for the area youth, insurance to cover all clinics/events held during the year. They will host three tournaments a year, one of which will be a fundraiser for the borough (funds could potentially be used for ongoing court maintenance) and ask for the use of one court to allow middle/high schoolers to use as needed for training. This will satisfy all USTA requirements of the \$30,000 grant. Solicitor Bernecker suggested Council consider having some kind of agreement drawn up between the Borough and the school. Mr. Spotts and Mr. Knarr also suggested the installation of some type of keypad system to keep the skateboarders/roller bladers and kinds not interested in playing tennis off the courts in order to keep the courts maintained and our investment protected. Mayor Gartner also suggested the possible installation of a light at the court to make it easier for the police to see when they drive by at night. Abby Brunner, Library Director, thanked Council for their ongoing support throughout the pandemic. Ms. Brunner advised Council that DCD guidelines dictate quarantining all returned library materials for three days. She submitted a proposal of a "book-go-round" designed by the son of one of her library board members. The book-go-round will be 66" square and cost approximately \$300 to build (which the library will cover). She is unsure how long they will be required to continue quarantining the books but hopes they will not need to do this for more than 3-4 months. It will be placed to the north of the library door in order to not block the handicap accessible ramp and walkway to the library. On a motion by Mr. Rohrbach, second by Mr. Johnson and unanimously carried, Council approved the request. Mr. Randler advised Council that he plans to take down three locust trees on the property at 1 West Penn Ave (Domino's Pizza). He stated they are unsafe and he does not want to bear the liability if one of them (or a large branch) falls on someone...or a car. Since he does not want to wait till next year when the Shade Tree Commission has more money for tree maintenance, he stated he will take them down. David Bright asked Mr. Marshall if he has received a key from Randy Yarnall to the POSofA building yet. Mr. Marshall advised him he had not. Mr. Spotts asked if the POSofA building would be a good candidate for a Knox Box emergency entry system in the event of a fire or break-in situation. Mr. Martin felt it would be. This will be looked into.

**MAYOR –** Mayor Gartner asked the status of the sewage odor emanating from 104 North Wayne Street. Mr. Marshall said he's been by the property several times and the basement door is always open and a fan running, but he is no longer smelling the sewer odor. Borough Manager sent a letter regarding

the grass and the sewage issue. The grass was mowed. Mr. Martin, the new owner as of the end of May, left a message at the Borough over the weekend and we returned his call. We are now awaiting a phone call back. Manager advised she spoke to the original complainants, Mr. & Mrs. Coldren, about the issue and the steps that are being taken to rectify the matter. Mayor Gartner then discussed a complaint he received about 32 West Ruth Avenue. A complaint form was received over the weekend and included in the agenda packet. Several neighbors submitted a complaint regarding the vacant status of the home and their fear that if it is left vacant/un-maintained could, potentially, affect/damage their homes. At this time the only things that can be addressed are the status of the yard (overgrown) and the non-compliance with shoveling the sidewalk in the winter. Mayor directed Manager to check with Kraft Codes if anything could be done about the matter through the IPMC. Mayor Gartner advised Council that the Robesonia Furnace Craft show will only have two vendors this year and will be held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. He advised Council that he and Mr. Marshall are working with PPL on moving our Christmas light strings. PPL will be installing new receptacles for the lights at no cost to the Borough (cost savings approximately \$13,000). We must install the new insulator bars on each line and will be working with Schlegel Electrical to move the strings as required by PPL. Mayor Gartner also advised the Borough that he will be holding a Back the Blue pro-police rally on August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-3PM on the ballfield.

**SOLICITOR** - Solicitor Bernecker advised Council that Kozloff Stoudt is doing a lot of webinars through the CELG and would be happy to provide more information for anyone interested in attending. Also advised Council to ensure CDC guidelines are being followed for in-attendance meetings.

**ENGINEER** – Building Permit report was included in the agenda packet.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – The next meeting is scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>, if needed.

**MANAGER** – Manager advised Council that the Jack Frost Parade for 2020 has been cancelled due to the pandemic. Manager reported Erica Ziegler has resigned from Council. Mr. Martin made the motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Ms. Ziegler. Mr. Soliday and Council approved unanimously. Manager reminded Council that a replacement will need to be found by the next Council meeting. Manager presented the 2021 Non-uniform pension MMO for \$6,820. Mr. Martin made the motion to accept and Mr. Marshall seconded. Council approved unanimously.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES**- Motion by Mr. Spotts, seconded by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties. Ms. Heilman advised Council that there was also a \$1,503.50 invoice for Kraft Codes not included in the bill list to be paid.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

**Finance/Administration** – Preliminary work will begin on the 2021 budget this month.

**Personnel:** Mr. Martin advised Council the evaluation is finished and will be conducted very soon.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Mr. Martin reported that the Social Quarters has been closed down again due to the Governor's orders. They are watching their spending very closely due to the lack of revenue coming in but they are fine for payments on the new truck.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – Mr. Marshall advised Council that he, Rod Soliday and Randy Gartner got together to tour the streets and prepare the road work list for 2021. Once the estimate has been obtained the Manager will make application to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank for a loan (\$500,000.00) in order to get the road work done.

**Parks & Recreation-** The ballfields are being used. Field of Dreams charity event scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Library-** No report..

**Water/Sewer Municipal Authorities-**Mr. Soliday advised Council that the next RMA meeting is scheduled for August 12 at 6PM. He noted he toured the RWMA and was impressed with facility and Lucas Blakeslee's professionalism and knowledge. Mayor Gartner suggested a possible tour by the whole Council.

**Western Berks Joint Planning Commission:** Since Marion Township has expressed an avid interest in joining the Joint Zoning, Mr. Randler agreed to hold another meeting in September. Ms. Heilman will send out notices to all board members advising them of the meeting to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Robesonia Borough building.

**Police:** Chief Grim reported on several unregistered/unlicensed vehicles they are tracking. Council asked him to also look into the silver Sunbird behind 111 S. Robeson St. and the Mercedes behind 35 N. Chestnut Ave. He was also asked to check on the status of the Fatzinger Automotive clean-up.

**Marshall** – Mr. Marshall brought up the Labor Day Car Show and advised Council that he had a conversation with our insurance rep from Harding-Yost Insurance who told him the carrier would not offer any kind of advice in the absence of any claim. He advised him to go ahead with the car show. Solicitor Bernecker advised Borough Council to be sure to follow guidelines from the Secretary of Health and CDC. Mayor Gartner assured Council all CDC guidelines would be followed: Bathrooms will be cleaned hourly (and documented), the number of cars being registered will be limited to keep participant numbers lower, signs will be posted to encourage social distancing and mask wearing and a lot of sanitizer will be placed around for the public's use. Mr. Spotts inquired how the Borough came to be the sponsor of the car show to raise money for another non-profit. He recommended **all** money raised and spent for this car show should go through the Borough Manager/Treasurer so an accurate accounting can be kept and easily explained to the auditors and that no taxpayer money be spent on this show. Solicitor Bernecker agreed. Additionally, Mr. Spotts suggested it be reflected in the minutes that this shall be a recurring annual event with the Fire Company getting the proceeds unless it is determined early in the planning stages to pick another recipient for the proceeds and all paperwork/registration forms, etc. reflect the new recipient. Mr. Spotts made the motion to note the Labor Day Car Show as an annual event with the proceeds going to the Fire Company, that all monies go through the Borough Treasurer and that no taxpayer dollars be spent on the event. Mr. Rohrbach seconded the motion and Council unanimously passed.

**Martin-** No report.

**Johnson-** Mr. Johnson reported that there is a detached garage behind 135 N. Robeson Street that is falling down. Manager will ask Kraft Codes to take a look and see if it is something that can be addressed through the IPMC.

**Soliday-** No report.

**Spotts-** Mr. Spotts sent out a link to the Mayor and Council Members for the newly designed website to review before we take it live. He included a section that allows residents to submit comments to everyone on Council ...and the Mayor, without them seeing actual email addresses and asked everyone if they were okay with that. Council approved.

**Rohrbach-** Mr. Rohrbach advised Council that a 96 gallon container for the collection of plastic bags and films has been placed in the lobby.

**Mayor Gartner-** Mayor Gartner asked if a fall clean-up has been scheduled since the spring one had to be cancelled. Mr. Marshall and Manager decided that the first Friday and Saturday in October (2/3) would be the best weekend to hold it. Arrangements will be made to set it up.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – Manager advised Council the letters to the 12 current handicapped parking space holders was sent out and are due back by August 6<sup>th</sup>. All but three have been received. It appears that only one (on North Church Street) still needs the space. All of those on Pennbrooke Avenue are still needed. Mr. Rohrbach made the motion to approve the requested permit for Schneiders at 132 Pennbrooke Avenue and Mr. Spotts seconded. Council approved unanimously. The sign at 28 North Church will be removed and placed at 133 Pennbrooke Avenue.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No report.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Kraft Codes monthly Property Maintenance Report.
- Robesonia-Wernersville MA July meeting minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Spotts, second by Mr. Rohrbach and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer