

President Frank Schnee called the November 4, 2019 meeting to order at 7:01 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Abby Wertz, Erica Ziegler, David Rohrbach, Harvey Marshall and Mike Martin. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Council member Rod Soliday was absent. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Vernon Bright, Emily Ulrich, Chief Leon Grim (South Heidelberg PD), Randy Yarnall and Bob Garmer, Judge of Elections. A motion was made by Mr. Marshall to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2019 Council Meeting. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS : Chief Grim thanked Mike Martin for the assist for their late night DUI checkpoint on Friday night. Randy Yarnall on behalf of POSofA thanked the Borough road/maintenance crew for their help in getting the property looking good again and thanked Randy Gartner for his help to put up a new light. He asked if a permit would be necessary to replace the bilko door at the property. Mayor Gartner advised him to go ahead and do it since it is just a repair.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner thanked everyone involved in the Jack Frost Parade. He still feels the route should be changed and the judge’s stand moved to Penn Avenue. He will write a letter and circulate among Council members for approval before sending to Pastor Bill Weiser at Trinity Lutheran Church. He advised Council that we have received the ISRP grant and are seeking matching funds. Manager Lisa Heilman advised Council that the grant writer we hired has identified two possible grants and will be writing them and is continuing to reach out (Congressman Dan Muser’s office, Berks Redevelopment Authority and Berks Community Foundation) to identify other sources. Will keep updated.

SOLICITOR - Solicitor George presented the following suggesting it is not urgent to pass immediately and is mostly a formality since no money would actually be required beyond what will be getting paid to South Heidelberg contractually.

RESOLUTION 2019-4

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND APPLICATION TO THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Mr. Marshall stated he saw no need to postpone the vote and made the motion to approve. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Solicitor George stated he has a personnel matter to discuss in Executive Session as well.

ENGINEER – No report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for November 20th, if needed.

MANAGER – No report.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration – Ms. Wertz advised Council that the 2020 budget is completed and needs to be advertised for adoption at the December meeting. Mr. Marshall made the motion to advertise and Mr. Martin seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Personnel: No report.

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Fire Protection/Safety – Mr. Martin reported that collection is continuing and thanked all for their support to allow them to continue providing outstanding services. He also advised Council that the Fire Company will be holding a Steak and Cheeseburger Night on Friday night from 5-8pm to support the Street Fair Committee and a new band, Generations, will be playing on Saturday night from 8-11pm. Also, he reminded everyone that the Turkey Raffle will be held on November 24th from 2-5pm. Please consider coming out to support this event.

Police Committee- Frank Schnee feels that based on the most recent budget reports provided by the PD, we should be in good shape for the year-end close-out.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – October meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that the Street Crew is busy picking leaves.

Sewer Authorities: Mr. Randler advised Council that the Robeson-Wernersville Sewer Authority is looking to reinstate the give-back to its shareholders. Specifically, they are considering \$10,000 over 3 years. He feels they could be more generous since they are in great financial shape due to all the infiltration.

Parks & Recreation- No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Schnee – Mr. Schnee asked if anyone has heard anything further on the excessive leaf blowing reported from Pennbrooke Avenue since the Borough sent out a certified warning letter. No one has heard anything from either the complainant or the person against whom the complaint was lodged. Will continue to monitor the situation. Mr. Schnee wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Marshall – Mr. Marshall advised Council he would like to discuss a personnel matter in Executive Session at the end of the regular session.

Martin- No report.

Ziegler- Ms. Ziegler asked Council for their support in the General Election by writing her in for the two year term and thanked them for their support.

Soliday- Absent.

Wertz- No report.

Rohrbach- Mr. Rohrbach advised Council that the Trash COG will be opening bids for the next contract on Wednesday, November 6th. Several options were advertised and will be considered.

Mayor Gartner – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

NEW BUSINESS – Manager advised Council that we are in need of a third Zoning Board member and that Erica's husband, Scott Wenrich, has offered to serve. Manager advised Council that a Zoning Variance application has been turned in from Shad, LLC of 225 East Penn Avenue to allow Castaneda's Mexican Restaurant to go in at their property. Mr. Marshall asked Solicitor's opinion on whether that may present a conflict of interest for Mr. Wenrich to vote on that since his wife, Erica, works for Castaneda's. Mr. George stated it would be a conflict and it may be good to find an alternate to serve on the Zoning Board. Mr. Garmer offered to serve in an alternate capacity but advised he could only make the meetings if held on Thursday or Friday evenings. Mr. Marshall made the motion to appoint Scott Wenrich to the Zoning Board and to appoint Robert Garmer as an alternate. Mr. Martin seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

Council adjourned for Executive Session at 7:37 pm to discuss personnel issues. Regular session reconvened at 8:08 pm. Mr. Martin made a motion to advertise an amendment to the Borough's Non-Uniform Pension Plan and Joinder Agreement. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- September Treasurer's report and meeting minutes from the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Authority meeting
- RWMA October Meeting Minutes
- Western Berks Regional PD monthly report and QB financial reports
- Technicon's monthly building permit report.
- Thank You letter and monthly report from Western Berks Ambulance Association.

On a motion by Ms. Wertz, second by Ms. Ziegler and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager