

Vice President Harvey Marshall called the March 2, 2020 meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Mark Spotts, Erica Ziegler, David Rohrbach, Rod Soliday, and Mike Martin. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andy George, Chief Leon Grim, Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Sean McKee (South Heidelberg Township Manager), David Randler, Tori Wawrzyniak, Bob Garmer, Alysha & John Baer, James Castaneda, Vernon Bright, Lori Brown, Carol Werkheiser, David Bright, and Keith Dmochowski of the Reading Eagle. Mr. Soliday made the motion to appoint Mark Spotts to the Vice President position. Mr. Rohrbach seconded and Council approved unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Soliday to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2020 Council Meeting. Mr. Spotts seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS : Bob Garmer advised Council that it is difficult to pull out at the intersection of Oak Avenue & South Church Street due to the two utility trailers parked next to the intersection and people traveling too fast when turning off of Penn Avenue. He suggested a speed sign be put along South Church Street before that intersection and to consider painting the curbs back further to allow for better sightlines. Streets Department will look at the matter and Manager will write warning letter to the owner of the utility trailers.

Alysha & John Baer advised Council of a situation they are having with Diversified Technology, the company responsible for the billing and collections of the Borough's trash services. Mr. Baer sent \$200 cash to Diversified in October. Diversified has acknowledged receipt of the cash payment (Mr. Baer ensured he was able to track the payment when he mailed it as well). Diversified noted their return of the cash but Mr. Baer never received it, nor did he realize it was even returned to him until he received his next trash bill and the \$200 payment he had sent was not shown as having been received. Diversified advised Mr. Baer there was nothing they could do since their notes show the cash as having been returned. They made no effort to ensure Mr. Baer received it (by tracking or sending it return receipt requested). They suggested to Mr. Baer that it was up to Council how to handle it. Council directed manager to write to Tom Tobin at Diversified to explain that this was a matter for Diversified to handle since the fault for the missing cash ultimately lies with them.

James Castaneda addressed Council seeking permission to place his food truck on the street (either Linden Street or East Penn Ave) or a parking lot (possibly behind Borough Hall/Library?) once or twice a week until he can get his permitting/building issues corrected and approved for the building at 225 East Penn Avenue. Mr. Marshall expressed some concern about allowing this suggesting everyone with a food truck may then want to park somewhere to run their own business. We will look at the zoning aspect of this and bring back for discussion at the Workshop Meeting on March 16th (time & date changed due to conflict with Friends of the Furnace Annual Dinner).

Chief Leon Grim advised Council that it's been a busy month in Robesonia for the police department. He advised Council that the two juveniles involved in the Dollar General situation pled guilty and the adults involved are currently in Berks County Prison. He noted that most of the people involved in that matter were living in one residence. He also advised Council that an arrest had been made involving the discharging of a firearm on North Church Street.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner asked that the Streets Department also look at extending the yellow no parking lines at the intersection of Chestnut Avenue and North Brooke Street. Sometimes cars are parked so close to all four corners that it makes it impossible for two cars to pass in that intersection. The matter will be taken care of by the Streets Department. The Annual Furnace Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th at 6PM at Ozgood's. The guest speaker will be author/historian Tracy Rice. Cash Bar is at 5:30, dinner at 6:30 and speaker at 7:15 PM.

SOLICITOR - Mr. Soliday made the motion to appoint Perry Lloyd to the remainder of Gary Heck's position on the Robesonia Municipal Authority (12/20). Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved

unanimously. Solicitor George then presented an updated Zoning Variance/Special Exception application as recommended by Eugene Orlando, Zoning Solicitor. Mr. Martin made the motion to adopt the new application and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously. Mr. George then suggested Council may want to consider updating the fee & permit schedule as this has not been done since 2000. Cost increases have been particularly noticeable during the last three zoning hearings....with costs exceeding the fees paid by applicants. Council directed Manager to gather costs for the last several hearings to get a better idea at how much we may need to increase the zoning hearing application fees.

ENGINEER – Engineer’s Report was included in the agenda packet.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for March 18, if needed. With Frank Schnee’s passing, we need to find someone to serve on the Planning Commission. Rod Soliday offered to serve since he will be retiring by the end of March. Ms. Ziegler made the motion to appoint Rod Soliday and Mrs. Spotts seconded. Council approved unanimously. This term ends 12/2024.

MANAGER – Manager presented a handicapped parking sign request for 133 Pennbrook Avenue (this is their second request. The first, submitted, 12/2017 was denied since Mrs. Schneider’s disability did not preclude her from being able to walk 50’). We have also been approached by the resident living directly across the street at 134 Pennbrooke Avenue for a handicapped parking sign as well (although they are only in the process of applying for the handicap placard). There are currently 6 closely placed handicapped parking signs on Pennbrooke Avenue and South Wayne Street. Many of these properties at which the handicapped signs are placed also have parking at the rear of their property. Council members are encouraged to take a look at the situation and make a determination at either the Workshop meeting on March 16 or the regular Council meeting on April 6th as to whether more handicapped parking spaces are really needed along Pennbrooke Avenue.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration – We need someone to take Mr. Schnee’s place on the Finance Committee. Mr. Spotts expressed interest in doing so, however, he also serves on the Water Authority whose meetings are held on the same night. Mr. Soliday made the motion to change the night of the Finance Committee and advertise the change. Mr. Spotts seconded and Council approved unanimously. Manager will advertise new dates for both the Finance Committee meetings and March Workshop meeting.

Personnel: No report.

Fire Protection/Safety – No report.

Police Committee- Mr. Marshall offered the spare car keys to South Heidelberg PD. Everything has now been sold and the Dissolution Agreement has been fully executed. Mr. Marshall and Manager both thanked Chief Grim for all of his invaluable assistance in closing down the old department.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – February meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet.

Sewer Authorities: Mr. Soliday advised Council that there will be no report until the Robesonia Municipal Authority hears from the Wernersville-Robesonia Municipal Authority on the last minute rate increase.

Parks & Recreation- We have not heard from any of the baseball or softball organizations for the use of our fields this year (which are in terrible shape). Mr. Marshall suggested we rent a spike of some sort to use to get the fields back into good shape. The 2020 Playground Program was discussed. Mr. Randler indicated that they would not be interested in running the playground program again unless we can come up with an additional \$2,000.....which is not an option. We may be taking back the program for 2020. This will be discussed at the March 16 Workshop meeting. Sean McKee advised Council that

South Heidelberg Township charges their residents \$85/child for their program while non-residents pay \$115/child which helps defray costs of the program.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Martin- No report.

Ziegler- No report.

Soliday- Mr. Soliday directed Manager to contact Dollar General to clean up along creek bank again.

Spotts- No report.

Rohrbach- Mr. Rohrbach noted that he is working to get 96 gallon containers in all three borough halls for the collection of plastic bags. He is also trying to find a place to recycle Styrofoam.

Mayor Gartner – Mayor Gartner noted the lights on the post and on the flag are both out in front of the borough hall. Mr. Marshall reminded him that he was going to check them awhile back. Manager was directed to contact Theo at Schlegel Electrical regarding the light on the south end of the parking lot.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Manager asked if Council had given any consideration to the request of the Keystone History Hoarders regarding metal detecting on the property the borough recently obtained from the Breiningers. Mr. Spotts made the motion to allow the metal detecting on the property with the proviso added to the hold harmless agreement that the Friends of the Furnace and/or Borough get first choice of any artifacts that may be found on the property property. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Western Berks Ambulance annual report
- Technicon's monthly building permit report.
- Kraft Codes monthly Property Maintenance Report.
- Thank you letter from Berks Nature for annual donation.
- Berks County Commissioners' Spring Breakfast-Ontelaunee Grange, March 13th.
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On a motion by Mr. Soliday, second by Ms. Ziegler and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager