

President Tony Wirebach called the February 4, 2019 meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Abby Wertz., Harvey Marshall, Mike Martin, Erica Ziegler, Rod Soliday and Frank Schnee. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Kourtney Bernecker, Manager Lisa Heilman and Mayor Randy Gartner. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Rohrbach, David Bright, Dave Randler, Lori Brown, Pamela Hoffman, Fire Chief Josh Babura, Scott & Kathy Binkley, Scott Wenrich, Joey Eckenroth and Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle. A motion was made by Mr. Marshall to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2019 Council Meeting. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Kathy Binkley expresses her frustration with residents on North Robeson Street that do not move their vehicles after a snow event to allow the plow trucks to push back to the curb. Since this is a citable offense, Ms. Binkley was told to contact the police if vehicles have not been moved after twelve hours following a storm. The Council members representing the Borough on the Police Commission will discuss this matter at their February meeting. Mayor Gartner told the audience that an odd/even system of plowing has been talked about over the years but has never been implemented. David Bright advised Council of the POSofA Memorial Service scheduled for May 23, 2019 and asked that everyone plan to attend, if possible. David Randler asked why the solicitor's rates have gone up. Ms. Bernecker explained that Andy George is now a shareholder of the firm and, as such, his rates have increased. David Rohrbach advised Council that he picked up the 30 engraved veterans' bricks for HPR Park and that they will be placed once weather allows. He noted that there is still room for 70-80 additional bricks and suggested we keep pushing them in our newsletter.

MAYOR – No report.

SOLICITOR - Solicitor Bernecker noted that the solicitors rate was erroneously listed as \$140/hour in January. Since Solicitor George has become a principal in the law firm of Kozloff-Stoudt, his rates have increased to \$170/hour. Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve the new rate and Mr. Martin seconded. Council approved unanimously. Solicitor Bernecker then presented Council with updated Trash/Recycling and Open Burning Ordinances for advertising, explaining the new ordinances will bring us into compliance with current regulations and allow the Borough to apply for a DEP 902 grant to create a new compost transfer facility at the Borough Garage property. Ms. Heilman advised Council that the new ordinances must be adopted no later than March 22 in order to have our grant application accepted by DEP and considered for this round of grant awards. Mr. Marshall made the motion to approve advertising the new ordinances and Ms. Ziegler seconded the motion. Council approved unanimously.

ENGINEER – No report.

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

MANAGER – Ms. Heilman advised Council that a request has been received by the Field of Dreams team for the use of the baseball field for the weekend of August 17/18th for their annual fundraising game. Ms. Ziegler made the motion to approve, with a fee waiver, and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously. Next, a request from the Soccer Shots organization was presented for the use of the field next to the tot lot pavilion for Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7PM, March 26-May 14th. Council typically waives the use fee for this organization. Ms. Ziegler made the motion, Mr. Soliday seconded and Council unanimously approved the use of the field with a fee waiver.

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 - No report.

Personnel: No report.

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Fire Protection/Safety – Chief Babura presented the Fire Company’s year end report, showing a total of 412 calls responded to. Mr. Schnee asked if we could see the Fire Company financials. Mr. Martin offered to provide them at the March meeting. The Fire Department has been billing insurance agencies, when able, to replace supplies used at fire calls and, as a result, collected approximately \$12,000 last year. He explained the difficulty faced by fire departments of the need to replace certain equipment every so many years (as required by regulations) or face the possibility of insurance claims being denied because the equipment being used was not up to date. Mayor Gartner expressed his unhappiness at the burdensome regulations that are discouraging young volunteers from joining local groups/organizations and thanked all those first responders giving of themselves so selflessly to their community.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – The meeting minutes from the January meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that he has obtained a quote from Berks Traffic, in the amount of \$3,340, to install the right-turn-only lanes on North and South Robeson Streets. Mr. Schnee made the motion to approve the bid and award the job to Berks Traffic and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Parks & Recreation- Ms. Heilman reported that a meeting is scheduled for February 21st at 6:30 PM to schedule ball field use. Ms. Heilman and Ms. Ziegler discussed the need to schedule a meeting in March to discuss the future of the playground program. A representative of the pool will be asked to attend the meeting when it is scheduled.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – Mr. Marshall reported that, after some research, the problematic driveway that leads to the Amy Fisher property is actually owned by C&S Wholesale and James & Brenda Williams. There does not, in fact, appear to be any right-of-way to the Fisher property. Solicitor suggested that a letter be sent to all three property owners to make an attempt to clear up the ownership issue before determining who is responsible for maintaining the driveway to ensure the rocks/dirt stop washing into the street and the stormwater culvert. Council concurred. Mr. Marshall also advised Council that he would be meeting with Steve Bright to obtain a quote on re-paving the lot at the borough garage and will be obtaining a quote for a 40’x30’ concrete pad for the roll-off containers for the compost facility as part of the 902 grant being submitted.

Martin- No report

Ziegler- No report.

Schnee-.Mr. Schnee excused himself from the remainder of the meeting due to illness.

Soliday – No report.

Wertz- No report.

Wirebach- No report.

Mayor Gartner – Mayor Gartner asked the status of seeking grant writers for the Breininger property clean-up. Ms. Heilman advised she has an upcoming 2/7/meeting with one and has obtained the contact information for another with which she will follow up on as well. Mayor Gartner asked if we will be tar and chipping this year and, if so, we should be working on getting bids early. Mr. Marshall advised he was waiting to see how much money we would have to work with before determining how much we could do. Mayor Gartner suggested Birch Alley should be considered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –Breininger Property Acquisition: Manager holding meeting with grant writer on 2/7.

Western Berks UCC Appeals Board: Mr. Marshall made the motion to join the board and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously. We will need to appoint one person from the Borough to the Board. It cannot be a municipal official.

Dollar General streambank clean-up: Complete

Van in back yard of 112 North Church St (Kalbach complaint): Removed

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NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Gartner advised Council that the Joint Water Authority received a \$10,000 invoice from DEP. Since this was a surprise and not budgeted for, a slight increase in water bills may be seen.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- December Treasurer’s report and Meeting Minutes from the Womelsdorf-Robesonía Joint Authority meeting
- Western Berks Police Meeting minutes and monthly report,
- Kraft Codes January report.
- Thank you from Berks County Conservation District for annual contribution
- Western Berks Joint Planning Commission January meeting minutes.
- Invitation to annual Municipal Officials’ Dinner on March 28th at Stokesay Castle.

On a motion by Ms. Wertz, second by Ms. Ziegler and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager