

Borough of Robesonia Council

Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2025

The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Monday, January 6, 2025 at the Robesonia Borough Hall located at 75 S. Brooke Street Robesonia, PA. The following Council members attended:

Harvey W. Marshall, President
Mark Spotts, Vice President
Matthew Miller, President Pro-Tem - Absent
Jame Burrus
Dean Johnson - Absent
Michael Martin
David Bright
Mayor Rodney Soliday - Absent

Staff: Solicitor Andrew George and Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by President, Harvey Marshall with the pledge of allegiance.

Beth Sattizahn and Terri Groff stated that they were recording the meeting.

Committee Selection for 2025

- President Harvey Marshall read the committee selection for the upcoming year.

Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by David Bright to approve the December 2, 2024 Council meeting minutes. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Bright to approve the December 16, 2024 Council Workshop meeting minutes. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.

Bills:

- A motion was made by Jame Burrus to pay and ratify the bills from December 7, 2024 to January 6, 2025. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

Police Report

- Police Chief Matthew Hook was absent from the meeting.

Scheduled Guests:

- Randy Gartner: Randy Gartner read a statement to Council regarding his support in approving the Friends of the Furnace agreement. He also stated that he hopes Borough Council will continue to support community entities.

Solicitor

- UCC Appeals Board Membership for 2025: A motion was made by Mark Spotts to approve the agreement to renew the Boroughs membership with the UCC Appeals Board for 2025. This includes approving Resolution 2025-3. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.
- Draft Ordinance for Parking Elimination on Penn Avenue: After a discussion, Council decided to table the proposed ordinance until they receive the draft ordinance and review it.
- Friends of the Furnace Settlement Agreement: A motion was made by Mark Spotts to approve the Borough and the Friends of the Furnace Settlement and Release Agreement. Seconded by Michael Martin. David

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Bright abstained due to not being on Council at the time when discussions and events took place. Motion carried.

- Maple Avenue Apartments: After a discussion and recommendation from Technicon Enterprises to approve, a motion was made by David Bright to approve the Developers Improvements Agreement and Stormwater Facilities Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the Maple Avenue Apartments. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.
- Resolution 2025-1: A motion was made by Jame Burrus to approve Resolution 2025-1 which states the rates and compensation for the Building and Zoning Enforcement Officer and application fees for Technicon Enterprises. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2025-2: A motion was made by Jame Burrus to approve Resolution 2025-2 which states the rates and compensation for the Sewage Enforcement Officer and application fees for Technicon Enterprises. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.
- Furnace Village III Subdivision Plan Review Deferral: After a discussion, Council decided to table this issue for the time being until they can review the subdivision plan.

Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on January 15, 2025 if necessary.

Manager

- No new business at this time.

Committee Reports

Finance Administration:

- No new business at this time.

Personnel:

- No new business at this time.

Public Safety:

- Robesonia Fire Company Chief John Christian summarized their year end report for Council and gave an update on plans for the upcoming year.

Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- Meeting minutes for review.

Parks and Recreation:

- Matthew Miller, Dean Johnson and Beth Sattizahn were appointed to the Parks & Recreation Board for 5-year terms.

Shade Tree Commission:

- Council reviewed an email from John Ravert regarding a tree removal issue at 19 North Brooke Street. Mark Spotts stated that the decision should be from the Shade Tree Commission. Council also reviewed future bids to be sent out which will be to Boyer Tree & Lawn, Schuylkill Tree and Landscape, Northern

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Berks Tree Service LLC, and Cocalico Tree Service. Clean Cut Tree and Lawn LLC will also be included in bids going forward.

Robesonia Community Library Report:

- No report at this time.

Old Business

- Borough Council Email Addresses: The Borough Manager is looking into the cost for additional emails going forward for all Council members. There are different options through the website and existing Borough email.

Council Member Reports

- Marshall:
 - Pedestrian Crosswalk Sign Quote: Council reviewed a quote from Miller Municipal Supply for crosswalk signs in the Borough in the amount of \$3,361.64. After a length discussion, a motion was made by Michael Martin to approve purchasing the signs. Seconded by Mark Spotts. David Bright voted nay.
- Burrus:
 - Shade Tree Commission: After a discussion, Jame Burrus suggested that Borough Council revisit and review the Shade Tree Ordinance and Commission going forward.
- Spotts:
 - Mark Spotts reported that the new trash contract is complete with Casella. A letter will be going out this week to all residents regarding the trash pickup day and also regarding the trash being added to the tax bill.

Authorities: The following Reports/Minutes were received.

- Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority Meeting Minutes & Treasurer's Report
- Robesonia Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes
- Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes
- Western Berks Ambulance Report

Public Comment

- John Minacapelli: John Minacapelli inquired if the Borough still receives money for recycling. Harvey Marshall stated yes, we do.
- Tracy Rice: Tracy Rice asked Council questions regarding ARP funds.
- Geneva Berger: Geneva Berger inquired about what will be permitted to be recycled with Casella. Council stated that all recycling products will be the same and Casella does not recycle glass.
- Jerry Laboranti: Jerry Laboranti expressed his positive opinion on several Borough events such as the Christmas lights and Christmas tree dedication ceremony. Jerry also stated that the Boroughs response to a Facebook post was very positive and respectful.
- Dave Fegley: Dave Fegley reported that trucks braking are making additional noise near Wawa. Harvey Marshall stated he will have a discussion with Chief Hook.
- Charlia Koch: Charlia Koch inquired about Council looking into adding a microphone for the meeting room. Council stated they are still considering this request.
- Beth Sattizahn: Beth Sattizahn asked if Council would consider reviewing Resolution 2024-11 since it only outlines rules for citizens and not Council. Beth suggested that more details be added to the meeting minutes going forward.

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- Terri Groff: Terri Groff suggested the Borough consider printing a newsletter again to inform residents about upcoming information. Mark Spotts stated that residents will have received six months' notice for the trash bill change.
- Lori Brown: Lori Brown asked if the Borough will be doing Christmas tree pickup this year. Harvey Marhsall stated yes, the streets department will be picking up as needed.
- Cindy Murdough: Cindy Murdough stated that there is excess salt near her property from the recent storm. Harvey Marshall stated that the road crew will pick it up.

Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session to be held.

Adjourn of Meeting

A motion was made by Mark Spotts to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. Seconded by David Bright. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Borough Manager
Robesonia Borough