

Borough of Robesonia Council

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2024

The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Monday, May 6, 2024 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
Jame Burrus
Dean Johnson
Michael Martin
Tracy Rice
Mayor Rodney Soliday

Staff: Solicitor Andrew George and Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Harvey Marshall with the pledge of allegiance.

Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve the April 1, 2024 Council meeting minutes. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried

Bills:

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to pay and ratify the bills from April 2, 2024 to May 6, 2024. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried

Police Report

- Police Chief Matthew Hook summarized the April Police Report for Council. Chief Hook also reported that the 2023 Annual Report is completed.

Citizens and Visitors: Sign in sheet is available upon request.

Heather Hanna Candidate for PA State House District 5: Heather Hanna introduced herself to Council as a candidate for PA State House District 5.

David Rohrbach: David Rohrbach representing the Henry Yunson Foundation stated that after having a conversation with Harvey Marshall, the foundation has decided to put a hold on donating to the Robesonia Community Library until the proposed lease agreement is signed and complete. Harvey Marshall stated that he had a conversation with David Rohrbach to inform him of the status of the lease agreement and did not influence his decision in anyway.

David Bright: David Bright stated that The Patriotic Order Sons of America, Camp 113 will be hosting their Annual Memorial Remembrance Ceremony on Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30 PM at the Henry P. Robeson Memorial Park. David Bright also suggested that the police give a reminder at the basketball court for players to please not litter.

Charlia Koch: Charlia expressed concern over certain crosswalks in the Borough. Harvey Marshall assured her that all crosswalks will be painted and redone in the Borough.

Justin Schaeffer: Justin Schaeffer representing the Street Fair Committee thanked Council for their continued support. The Borough Manger will draft the Street Fair agreement and send it the Street Fair Committee.

Solicitor's Report

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- Friends of the Furnace Agreement: Solicitor George stated that the potential Friends of the Furnace Agreement will be discussed in Executive Session.

Engineer's Report

- Resolution 2024-9: A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve Resolution 2024-2 which adopts the updated Hazard Vulnerability and Mitigation Plan which is updated every five years. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.
- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.

Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on May 15, 2024 if necessary.

Manager

- Noise Ordinance Exemption for Street Fair Fireworks: A motion was made by Matthew Miller to approve the Noise Ordinance Exemption form for the Street Fair Fireworks for June 22, 2024 with a rain date of June 23, 2024. Seconded by Tracy Rice. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Finance Administration:

- Meeting Minutes for review.

Personnel:

- No new business at this time.

Public Safety:

- No new business at this time.

Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- Meeting Minutes for review.
- Purchase of New Zero Turn Mower: A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve the purchase of a new Ferris Zero Turn mower for \$8,500.00 Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation:

- A motion was made by Tracy Rice to amend the agenda. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.
 - Resolution 2024-10: A motion was made by Mark Spotts to approve Resolution 2024-10 which makes Harvey Marshall and Elizabeth Miller authorized representatives of the Borough for the application of the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Grant Program. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried. Harvey Marshall and Elizabeth Miller will look into the possibility of hiring a grant writer for future grants.
- Tracy Rice reported on the following:
 - The Boroughs new website is redone and available for all to view.
 - The Parks and Recreation Board has been reaching out to local organizations for letters of support regarding the proposed new playground.
 - The Arbor Day tree planting ceremony, held on April 26th was successful and thanked all who attended and help make the ceremony possible.
 - Registration for the 2024 Playground Program has begun. The Parks & Recreation Board will ask Heidelberg Township for a contribution toward the Playground Program.
 - The annual Trout Rodeo will be held on Saturday, May 11th.

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- The Parks & Recreation Board has chosen July 5th and August 2nd as the two community nights at CW Pool for this year.
- The Parks & Recreation Board is partnering with the Pharaohs Car Club to hold the annual car show on September 1st with a rain date of September 2nd. A motion was made by Matthew Miller to approve signing a contract with the Pharaohs Car Club for their assistance. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.

Library Board Liaison:

- Meeting Minutes and Notes for Councils review provided by David Randler, Library Board Liaison.

Council Member Reports

- Marshall:
 - Enders Letter of Support: A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve writing a letter of support for Enders Insurance. Seconded by Tracy Rice. Motion carried.
- Spotts:
 - WRJA: Mark Spotts reported to Council that the WRJA is looking into putting their acres into a conservation easement.
 - COG Contract: Mark Spotts reported that the current trash contract expires at the end of 2024 and a new contract will need to be approved and in place for January 2025.

Communications: The following Reports/Minutes were received.

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

Executive Session

Council entered into an executive session at 7:48 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 PM.

Friends of the Furnace Agreement: A motion was made by Matthew Miller to vacate entering into an agreement with the Friends of the Furnace. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried. Tracy Rice abstained from voting.

Conflict Counsel: A motion was made by Michael Martin for the Borough to obtain conflict counsel for the Grande construction project. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.

Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:37 PM by Michael Martin. Seconded by Tracy Rice. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Borough Manager
Robesonia Borough