

President Harvey Marshall called the July 6, 2020 meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Council Members present in person were Mark Spotts, Erica Ziegler, David Rohrbach, Rod Soliday and Mike Martin. Council Member Dean Johnson was absent. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, SHPD Sergeant Dave McQuate, Mayor Randy Gartner and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Bright, Robert & Michelle Shaulis, James Castaneda, Mark Bechtel and David Randler. A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2020 Council Meeting. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS:** Robert & Michelle Shaulis sought Council's assistance/advice regarding a fence they would like to erect in their yard. They were advised by the Zoning Officer that because they live on a corner lot, both the front and side yards would be viewed as front yards. They presented the drawing they submitted with their permit. Mr. Marshall advised them if they moved the fence along the side lot line to not project past the wall of their home, they could put it there, but it would cut down on the size of the enclosed space. He advised them he would check with the zoning officer to verify. The other possibility was to seek a zoning variance to allow them to place the fence further out on lot as they initially presented it. They thanked Council for their assistance. James Castaneda sought Council's approval to allow Castanedas food truck to be parked in front of the property where the restaurant will be going. He advised Council that he has received his building permits to start the project. Mr. Marshall read the conditions of the U&O Permit (Mon-Fri, 11AM-8PM) and advised him it would be effective for 30 days and renewed by Council's vote at each Council meeting going forward until the new restaurant is completed. He advised Mr. Castaneda that the permit may be revoked at any time if there are unforeseen issues that arise. Mr. Soliday made the motion to approve the permit and Mr. Spotts seconded. Council approved unanimously. Ms. Ziegler abstained from voting as she is an employee of Mr. Castaneda. Mr. Castaneda thanked Council.

**MAYOR –** Mayor Gartner advised Council that he got a complaint from Barry Coldren of 102 N. Wayne Street about a sewage odor emanating from 104 North Wayne Street. We will look into the matter and find the best way to correct the problem. Mayor Gartner advised Council that the borough experienced a lot of tree damage in the storm on 7/3 and Harvey and John did a great job getting it all cleaned up. Mayor Gartner then explained that the Street Fair had been cancelled early in the pandemic because of the uncertainty of when Berks County would go green and the inability of having a large crowd if we did not go green by the scheduled date of the street fair. He felt the fireworks went well but explained the Street Fair Committee is having a lot of difficulty getting volunteers and raising money to keep it going. They only have \$3,000 going into next year. He is asking for any ideas to get more help and money to keep it going next year or it may have to fold. Mr. Spotts asked if they would be open to holding it at a more central venue. Mr. Gartner said all ideas would be considered. He also thanked Mark Bechtel and Jen Coldren for all their help in planning and cleaning up.

**SOLICITOR** - Solicitor George advised Council that the agreement between POSofA and the Borough has been signed by POSofA and is ready for Council's signature to complete.

**ENGINEER –** Engineer's Report and Building Permit report were included in the agenda packet.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – The next meeting is scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup>, if needed.

**MANAGER –** Manager advised Council that a request was received from Soccer Shots (2-5 yrs. old) for the use of the field next to the Tot Lot Pavilion on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:15, 9/1-10/20/2020. Ms. Ziegler made the motion to approve and Mr. Spotts seconded. Council approved unanimously. Trinity Lutheran Church is seeking approval from Council to hold the Jack Frost Parade on November 1<sup>st</sup> (pandemic permitting). They need Council's approval to apply for the parade permit from PennDOT.

It was suggested Pastor Bill Weiser and Chief Grim be invited to attend our scheduled July 21<sup>st</sup> workshop meeting to discuss some traffic improvements before granting approval. Manager will send out requests for their attendance at the workshop meeting. Manager sought Council's input on the Rental Inspection Program. Do we proceed? Since Berks County has gone green, Council feels it is safe to proceed with the program. Mr. Randler voiced his ongoing objection to the program. Mayor Gartner doesn't feel the program has met our objective of getting some of the properties cleaned up. Possible changes to the program were discussed. Solicitor reminded Council that, should changes be made, the ordinance would need to be amended. To be further discussed at 7/21 Workshop Meeting. Ms. Ziegler made the motion to proceed, Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously. Manager will notify Kraft to proceed.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** Motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Spotts and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties. Mr. Marshall questioned the \$350 being paid to the Lion's Club. Manager explained it was for the purchase of the playground mulch for the tot lot.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

**Finance/Administration** – Preliminary work will begin on the 2021 budget this month.

**Personnel:** Mr. Martin advised progress is being made.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – Mr. Martin reported that the engine had to go out for service. He also reported that the social quarters has been re-opened and the new smoking patio has been added. Please come out and show your support.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – Mr. Marshall advised Council that one of the two old sycamore trees in the 200 block of West Penn Avenue sustained damage from the storm. It was determined that the tree is dying and needed to come down. Stoltzfus Tree Service is providing emergency service at \$3,000 to cut down the tree and remove the trunk. The Streets Department will remove all the branches/limbs...which will save the Borough \$2,000 additional cost. He advised Rod Soliday and Randy Gartner that their assistance is required to prepare the road work list for 2021. A plan and estimate will be required in order to secure the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank loan (\$500,000.00) in order to get the road work done. Mr. Marshall presented a quote he received from Berks Traffic & Line Painting to re-stripe South Church Street for \$850.30. Mr. Rohrbach made the motion to approve and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Marshall advised Council that the repair to the Fisher driveway on South Freeman Street seems to have fixed the problem and CNS Grocery Wholesale also seems very happy with the end result.

**Parks & Recreation-** Ms. Ziegler reported that both the tot lot and the basketball court are opened with the new signage and seem to be getting used hard.

**Library-** Ms. Ziegler advised Council that the library is now open for touchless curbside pick-up and still doing most of their programs remotely. There is still no definite date as to when the library will re-open to the public.

**Water/Sewer Municipal Authorities-**Mr. Soliday advised Council that the meeting minutes and treasurer's report from the June RMA meeting were in the packet and the next meeting is scheduled for August. Mr. Randler asked if a response letter to Heidelberg Township has been drafted by the RMA to date. David Bright (RMA engineer) advised Mr. Randler it is currently in the Chairman's hands.

**Western Berks Joint Planning Commission:** No report. Mr. Randler (chairman) was reminded that Marion Township is still interested in joining.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – No report.

**Martin**- No report.

**Ziegler**- Ms. Ziegler advised Council that she has forwarded an email from the CW School District regarding the Health & Safe Re-entry survey. She's asked that anyone interested in participating to please take the survey and give your opinions as a community member.

**Johnson**- Absent.

**Soliday**- No report.

**Spotts**- No report.

**Rohrbach**- No report.

**Mayor Gartner** – Mayor Gartner asked Sergeant McQuate to present the monthly police report. Sergeant McQuate also reported that he spoke with Mr. Don Fatzinger last week about all the cars/tires all over his property and on the street. Mr. Fatzinger noted that he IS working on reducing the number of cars. He has since gotten rid of one or two and the tires. Mr. Marshall reported that he spoke with Mr. Fatzinger and suggested he consider putting up a stockade fence and create an enclosed area in which to keep his cars. Mr. Fatzinger told him he's "thought about that" but made no commitment to do so. Sergeant McQuate will circle back with Mr. Fatzinger this week to see if any further progress has been made. Mr. Marshall asked if they could tag unlicensed/unregistered vehicles if they are on private property if they could see the tags without having to go on the property, noting the silver Pontiac Sunfire sitting behind 111 South Robeson Street. Sergeant McQuate said they could. Manager was directed to send a final warning letter before we get the police involved. Mayor Gartner also asked if it would be possible to get the police to do a sweep of the town once or twice a year to identify all those unlicensed/unregistered vehicles sitting on properties in town. Sergeant McQuate advised Council the PD is getting tags made up to tag such vehicles and can be used going forward.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** –Council feels we can safely start up the process of having existing handicapped parking space holders re-verify their ongoing need for the space in front of their properties. Letters/forms will be sent out and 30 days will be given to respond.

Council suggested the letter regarding the stones all over the sidewalk in front of 317 East Penn Avenue be resent uncertified this time.....and a call to Mr. Charles should be made as well. If we get nowhere with him, the borough Street Department will clean it up and a lien will be filed against the property.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No report.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Kraft Codes monthly Property Maintenance Report.
- Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Water Authority meeting minutes for May and Treasurer's Report (April)
- Western Berks Ambulance Reports (May & June)
- RMA Meeting Minutes (March) and Treasurer's Report (June)
- Robesonia-Wernersville MA May meeting minutes.

On a motion by Ms. Ziegler, second by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Attest:

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA  
July 6, 2020  
Page 4 of 4

Lisa Heilman  
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer