

Mayor Randall Gartner called the January 6, 2020 meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Mike Martin. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Chief Leon Grim and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Ryan Knarr, Randy Yarnall, Jerry Bashore, Pete Reifsnnyder, Carol Werkheiser, Mark Spotts, Erica Ziegler, Maree Forbes and Geneva Aulenbach of the Reading Eagle. Mayor Gartner swore in Frank Schnee and Rodney Soliday to their 2-year terms and David Rohrbach and Harvey Marshall to their 4-year council seats. At this time, election of officers took place. Harvey Marshall nominated Frank Schnee for President. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Martin made the motion to appoint Harvey Marshall as Vice President, Mr. Rohrbach seconded and Council approved unanimously. At this point President Schnee took over presiding over the meeting.

Mr. Schnee asked for a motion to appoint Erica Ziegler to a 2 year seat on Council. Mr. Soliday made the motion and Mr. Martin seconded. Council approved unanimously. Next a motion to approve Mark Spotts to a 4 year seat on Council was sought. Mr. Marshall made the motion, Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously. Mayor Gartner swore in Ms. Ziegler and Mr. Spotts at that time. A motion was made by Mr. Martin to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2019 Council Meeting. Mr. Marshall seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS – Randy Yarnall, on behalf of POSofA, thanked the Borough for their clean-up efforts at the pay master's building. In particular, Mr. Yarnall thanked Sam Hancock for taking down the big, dead tree on the property since it was a potential hazard to the building. Ryan Knarr addressed Council on the tennis court rehab project. He advised Council that the Borough has received \$30,000 in grants from the USA and Mid-states Tennis Association toward the rehab. Since we, unfortunately, fell a little short in the grant money we sought, an additional \$3,100 will be needed from the Borough toward this project, bringing the total paid by the borough to only 14% of the entire cost of \$65,000. Mr. Schnee made the motion to approve the additional expenditure since the tennis program at Conrad Weiser has brought a lot of attention to the sport and he feels it will be a great community asset. Ms. Ziegler seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. Mr. Marshall advised Council that the poles for the new courts had been installed that afternoon. Pastor Gerry Bashore of the Heidelberg Bible Church, and Pete Reifsnnyder (church member) asked Council if they knew the status of the approval to move their church into the old Glory building at 317 East Penn Avenue. Borough Manager advised Pastor Bashore that the zoning officer had sent a letter to the owner, Moses Charles, sometime in October advising him that more information was needed before approval could be granted and the Borough has received no response from Mr. Charles since that time. She agreed to forward a copy of that letter to Pastor Bashore. Mayor Gartner advised Pastor Bashore that there is an issue with the water service to that building to which Mr. Charles has not responded to as well, and Mike Martin noted there were also some fire safety issues that have not been addressed by Mr. Charles. Chief Grimm updated Council on the progress being made in doing the inventory and the transference of records, etc and thanked Mr. Marshall for all his help in the clean-up. He noted that SHTPD took over the policing duties on December 22 and have responded to nine calls in the borough since that time.....none of them major. He thanked Mr. Martin for his participation in the NYE celebration for the 14 year old Robesonia girl afflicted with leukemia. The police, fire and ems were all involved in getting Ms. Munger to the middle school to celebrate with her friends. Mr. Soliday noted that 69 News did a great job in their coverage of the transition of police services and the Shop with a Cop program.

MAYOR – The Mayor discussed a letter that was circulated among Borough Council that he had written to Pastor Bill Weiser with certain suggestions for the Jack Frost Parade. He asked if anyone had any comments on it or suggested changes/additions, etc. His two biggest concerns are the congestion at the church at the end of the parade and the safety issue of parade participants having to walk back to their vehicles at the school in the dark. His thoughts would be to change the route slightly to allow for those who would like to leave instead of having to sit at the church until the entire parade gets through and holding the parade either a week earlier (before Daylight Savings Time) or an hour earlier (start at 2 pm and finish at 4PM while there is still enough daylight for a safer walk back to the school). He will meet with Chief Grimm to discuss before meeting with Pastor Bill. He asked Mr. Marshall if he had any updates on his paving plans. Mr. Marshall advised Mayor Gartner that he is planning to meet with

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

January 6, 2020

Page 2 of 4

Martin Paving for some assistance in coming up with a plan and an estimate since both are needed before we can apply for the funding. He hopes to have an answer by the next meeting.

SOLICITOR – Solicitor George presented the following resolutions for adoption:

Resolution 2020-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP'S COMMENCEMENT OF PROVIDING POLICE SERVICES WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 22, 2019, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERMUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICES AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA AND SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP.

Mr. Martin made the motion to adopt and Mr. Soliday seconded. Council approved unanimously.

Resolution 2020-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS OF ROBESONIA BOROUGH AMENDING RATES OF COMPENSATION FOR THE SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND APPLICATION FEES AND OTHER CHARGES FOR ON-LOT SEWAGE.

Mr. Marshall made the motion to adopt and Ms. Ziegler seconded. Mayor Gartner asked the question if the SEO's hourly rate is billed on top of the permit fees. Directed Manager to find out and report back

.Mr. George advised Council that he provided everyone with a copy of the final draft of the WBRPD Dissolution Agreement for them to look over for approval at the February meeting.

Mr. George presented the 2020 Appointments for approval as follows:

APPOINTMENTS FOR 2020:

- PLGIT and Fulton Bank- Womelsdorf Branch- as the Borough's depositories
- Andrew George and Kozloff-Stoudt as Borough Solicitors at a rate of \$200/meeting, \$170/hour for partner, \$140/hour for associate, \$125/hr for paralegal
- Technicon Enterprises II, Inc. as Borough Zoning Officials and MS4 Engineers at an hourly rate of, \$93.00/senior engineer, \$80.50/engineer,\$56.25/Sewage Enforcement Officer;\$49.50/zoning officer, \$42.75/clerkial
- Technicon Enterprises II, Inc. as Borough Engineers at an hourly rate of \$93.00/hr-senior engineer; \$80.50/hr-engineer; \$58.50/hr.-SEO; \$51.50/hr-Zoning officer; \$42.75/hr.-clerkial
- Technicon Enterprises II, Inc. as Borough Building Code Officials- \$65.75/hour
- Eugene Orlando of Orlando Law Services as Zoning Board Solicitor @ \$180.00/hour and \$150/hour for paralegal services.
- Kraft Code Services as the Borough Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Officials
- Rodger Krause, CPA as the Borough Auditors at a rate of \$9,000/year.
- Lisa Heilman as Borough Manager/Secretary/Treasurer
- Mike Martin, 1 year term as Borough Representative to Berks County Boroughs Association
- David Rohrbach, 1 year term on the WRW Trash COG (2020)
- Rod Soliday, 5 year term on the Robesonia Muncipal Authority (2024)
- Harvey Marshall, 5 year term on the Wernersville-Robesonia Municipal Authority (2024)
- Terry Williams, 3 year term on the Zoning Hearing Board (2022)
- Frank Schnee, 5 year term on the Robesonia Planning Commission (2024)
- Mark Spotts, 5 year term on the Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority (2024)
- Western Berks Planning Commission representatives: Randy Gartner, Frank Schnee-alternate. **Next meeting to be held on 1/16/20 at 7PM at the Robesonia Borough Building**

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, second by Ms. Ziegler and unanimously carried by Council, all appointments carried.

ENGINEER – The Engineer's Report was included in the agenda packet and consisted primarily of Keener Heights matters.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Next meeting is scheduled for January 15th, if needed.

MANAGER – Advised Council that we received notification from DEP that we have been approved for a \$294,690.00 grant for the new compost transfer facility and some equipment. Manager introduced Maree Forbes

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

January 6, 2020

Page 3 of 4

who has been helping us seek alternative funding sources to bridge the gap between the Borough's committed \$30,000 and the required \$99,200 to meet our 25% match requirement for the Breininger property clean-up. Maree explained to Council that she thinks we may be able to qualify for Community Block Grant money. She has spoken again to Ken Pick who is going to take our request to the County Commissioners to see if some of the Block Grant money could be used for our project. Mayor Gartner offered to contact Christian Leinbach's office to ask for his support as well.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS- Committees were reorganized as follows:

Finance/Administration – (Schnee, Chairman; Marshall; Martin) No report

Fire Protection/Safety – (Martin) No report. Mr. Martin advised Council about the Fire Company's participation in the NYE celebration at the middle school for one of our young residents suffering from leukemia. The event was great! Also, that a new Berks County Fire Chaplain's organization is starting up, of which he is a member. Mr. Martin has also been nominated for the Outstanding Fire Volunteer honor. Council congratulated him.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – (Marshall, Chairman; Soliday; Rohrbach) Mr. Marshall brought up the subject of Keener Heights and Jack Keener's new proposal to add 12 additional units (for a total of 60) and to eliminate the cul-de-sac bulb and replace it with a "hammer head" turn-around. Mr. Marshall asked for a motion to direct solicitor or engineer to write a letter to Mr. Keener and his attorney notifying him that the borough has only approved 48 units with the cul-de-sac. Mr. Rohrbach made the motion to direct solicitor to compose and send a letter certified/return receipt requested to Mr. Keener and his attorney denying any further consideration of his request as presented. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Parks & Recreation – (Ziegler) No report.

Personnel- (Ziegler-Chairperson; Spotts; Martin) No report.

Library Liaison- Erica Ziegler

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission: (Gartner, Schnee; Alternate)

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Martin- Mr Martin advised Council there is a Berks County Borough's Association meeting at Albright College on January 29th at 6:30 PM. Also, he and Harvey will be attending the MS4 Financing program at the CELG on January 14th at 7:30 AM.

Schnee- No report

Soliday – Mr. Soliday noted that the trash bills that were just received were billed at the old rate of \$65.00 for the quarter when the flyers that were sent out in December noted the rates would be increasing to \$90.00/quarter. Manager noted that the billing company sent out the bills before they could be approved for running/ mailing. Company has promised not to mail before approval again, but the damage is done. Several options were suggested by Diversified and discussed: 1. Sending out a 2nd bill for the remaining \$25; 2. Adding the \$25 missed this quarter to next quarter's bill (\$115); or 3. The Borough could absorb the additional \$25/unit (at a cost of \$21,200). Since mailing a second bill has the potential to really confuse people, that idea was passed on. The option of absorbing the \$21,200 error was passed on as well. Mr. Spotts asked if the company could put a global message on the next bill to explain the extra charge. Manager thought they do have that capability. Mayor got extremely upset at this point that he was not informed of the matter and left the Council meeting. It was decided to just add the \$25 onto the April billing along with a global message explanation. Manager will continue to advise residents that call about the matter to just pay the \$90 now to avoid the \$115 bill in April.

Rohrbach- Mr. Rohrbach noted that there were a lot of issues with the switch-out of recycling containers and with the old company taking peoples' trash containers as well. He asked for a list of those residents that have called and asked for their trash containers to be returned. Borough office will provide.

Spotts- Thank you to Council for appointment and opportunity to serve his community. He has retired and decided he would like to give back to the community that he has called home for more than thirty years.

Ziegler- Ms. Ziegler notified Council that Castaneda's got their zoning variance and will, hopefully, be moving pretty quickly from here.

Mayor Gartner - Absent.

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

January 6, 2020

Page 4 of 4

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –Lori Brown, who arrived later in the meeting, noted that the 20 minute parking signs have still not been removed from in front of the Wells Fargo Bank. Mr. Marshall noted that the ATM was still active and used by many people. As long as the ATM remains active the 20 minute parking signs will remain there. Ms. Brown complained that she was denied a 20 minute parking sign in front of her business and suggested this matter is more about who you know. Mr. Schnee closed the matter for now.

NEW BUSINESS – None

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Meeting minutes & Treasurer's reports from the Womelsdorf-Robesonía Joint Authority meetings
- Kraft Codes Re-appointment thank you letter
- Technicon monthly building report.

On a motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer