

President Harvey Marshall called the March 7th Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag. Council members present were V.P. Mark Spotts, Mike Martin, Matt Miller, Dean Johnson, and Tracy Rice. Jamie Burrus was absent. Also attending the meeting were SHPD Chief Leon Grim, Mayor Randy Gartner, Solicitor Andrew George, Engineer Jen Van Dyke and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Dave Rohrbach, Vernon Bright, David Bright, Carol Werkheiser, Fire Chief Josh Babura, Cindy Murdough and Brian Focht of C2C Design. A motion was made by Mr. Spotts to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2022 Council Meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS: David Bright advised Council the POSofA Memorial Remembrance is planned for May 26th.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner asked Chief Grim if the PD could do some pedestrian crosswalk enforcement and asked where the most effective place would be to place the pedestrian crosswalk signs. Chief Grim advised him to place them in the middle of the street for maximum effectiveness and stated he would have some enforcement activity provided in the near future since the temperature is warming up and more people are out and about.

SOLICITOR - Solicitor George provided Resolution 2022-3 as a housekeeping item. The Police Contract was approved in December.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-3

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BOROUGH CODE AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION LAW, TO ENTER INTO AN INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE POLICE SERVICES WITHIN IN THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Miller and unanimously approved by Council, motion carried.

ENGINEER – The Engineer’s Report was included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Van Dyke reported that the Final Plan for the Furnace Hill development has been submitted and is being planned in two phases due to the required environmental remediation needed where two of the apartment buildings are proposed to be built (Phase II). The RIR will be submitted to DEP this month. Mr. Spotts asked what would happen should Phase II not get built. Ms. Van Dyke advised that the Phase I portion is designed to “stand on its own” should Phase II not be built and would meet all stormwater, landscaping, and other ordinance requirements.

The HOA will be required to maintain the stormwater facilities. The Robesonia PC made the recommendation to grant the conditional final plan approval for Phases 1 & 2 based on the applicant complying with the comments in the Technicon review letter dated 2/14/22.

Mr. Martin made the motion to grant conditional final plan approval contingent upon compliance with Technicon’s review letter date 2/14/22. Mr. Spotts seconded the motion. Ms. Rice recommended holding off on approval until the RIR is approved by DEP since she was concerned there were only 4 samples taken on the property. Ms. Van Dyke noted that over 50 samples had actually been taken during 4 sampling events. Both Ms. Van Dyke and Solicitor George noted there is nothing written into the Borough’s current SALDO that would allow Council to refrain from approving the plan pending RIR approval (DEP has a 60 day review period). Solicitor George advised that the DEP would be the ultimate authority on the RIR/NPDES approvals and would supercede anything the Borough would

require and that the developer assumes all risk. Council voted 5-1 (Ms. Rice, nay) to grant the conditional final plan approval.

The Wawa Zoning Variance application was presented. Ms. Van Dyke reviewed and explained each of the seven variances being sought which are related to parking setbacks, tree planting, sign size and administrative timeframes and noted that the PC took a position of “No Position”. She also indicated that a right turn lane from Bernville Road onto 422 and a turning lane from Penn Avenue (Rte 422) into Wawa are being proposed. Mayor Gartner noted that a right-hand only turn will need to be added and suggested moving the trip plates /stop bar back to allow trucks making a right hand turn off of Penn Avenue sufficient room to make the turn onto the Bernville-Robesonia Road. Ms. Van Dyke will make that suggestion to the developer.

Mr. Martin made the motion, and Mr. Miller seconded, to issue a favorable position of support for the requested variances. On a 5-1 vote (Rice-nay), the motion carried.

Ms. Van Dyke provided an update on the Borough’s NPDES permit/MS4 requirements. The BMPs submitted in the most recent NPDES permit will need to be completed by July of 2023. We will be working on getting them installed this year. The Borough has a General NPDES permit, not an Individual NPDES, and is on a different time schedule than Ms. Rice thought we were. Ms. Van Dyke will provide a more detailed timeline for the March 21st workshop meeting. Ms. Van Dyke also indicated that the 2022 Roadwork bid packages are under review by PennDOT due to use of liquid fuel funds and will be advertised shortly for a bid opening at the April 4th Council meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION – The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on March 16th, at 7PM, if needed.

MANAGER – Presented the following requests for approval:

Request received from Trinity Lutheran Church for approval to apply for the Special Event Permit needed to hold the Jack Frost Parade on Sunday, November 6th this year. Council asked Manager to obtain a copy of the parade route.

Ms. Rice made the motion to approve, Mr. Spotts seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Request received from CWCA T-ball (5-8 yr olds) to use the field next to the Tot Lot Pavilion from April 11-June 4th. I suggest we waive fee for them as we do for the Soccer Shots organization since they will not be using the bathroom. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve the use, waive the fee and allow them the use of the restroom. Mr. Spotts seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Received request from Trinity Lutheran Youth Director to use the tot lot pavilion and adjacent field on April 9th for their annual egg hunt and July 18-22nd from 8:30-noon for their VBS program. Mr. Martin made the motion to approve requested usage and fee waivers. Mr. Johnson seconded and Council approved unanimously.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- Motion by Mr. Spotts, seconded by Mr. Martin 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: Mr. Spotts advised Council that applications were received for both the full-time and part-time administrative positions but they are not ready to hire yet. Will hold the full-time application till the position is advertised and will hold off on the part-time application until the Workshop meeting.

Fire Protection/Safety – Chief Babura reported that the Fire Company responded to 385 calls in 2021, 64 of which were in the borough. Mayor Gartner asked if they had a policy for responding to false alarms. Chief Babura reported they are working with the Fire Marshall to update their False Alarm Policy.

Streets & Highways- The meeting minutes for the February meeting were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Marshall advised Council that there is a sinkhole on West Ruth Avenue (currently has a barricade over it) and has Ronnie Folk Paving lined up to open it up and repair it. Also, reported the Christmas lights have been taken down.

Parks & Recreation- Ms. Rice reported that the Parks & Rec Board met with the baseball organizations to schedule spring/summer season ballfield use. Mayor reminded her that the fields cannot be scheduled during the annual street fair (6/24-25) or during the Labor Day Car Show. She also advised Council that they are recommending starting the in-house summer playground program again. She will have recommendations (# of leaders, wages, hours, etc) for the March 21st Workshop Meeting. She advised Council that the Tot Lot is in dire need of being replaced. She suggested it would take three years to accomplish this. Year 1: Design and Plan; Year 2: Apply for grants/funding; Year 3: Construction. Reminded Council that it would have to be brought up to ADA compliance standards.

Library- No report.

Police- Chief Grim noted the SHTPD now has two new full-time officers and they are fully staffed. Mr. Marshall advised Chief Grim that the situation at the old Gloray Building seems to be under control.

Water/Sewer Municipal Authorities- N/R

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission: N/R.

Environmental Remediation Committee: Meeting minutes from the February 14th meeting were included in the packet. Jen Van Dyke reminded Council that no NPDES permit or formal E&S approval would be needed for the project but an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan would be needed on-site. Due to timing, funding, and limited available donated soil (a little less than ½ what is needed for the whole project), the remediation work is now proposed to be in two phases. Phase 1 would involve excavating contaminated material from areas 3 & 4 and using it to fill in depressions in the rear areas 1 & 2. Areas 3 & 4 would then be capped and stabilized as part of Phase 1. The necessary wall removal would also be done in Phase 1. Phase 2, the capping of areas 1 & 2 and permanent stabilization would occur the Borough has obtained enough donated clean fill material. The Tree Removal Project for all four areas has been advertised to be awarded at the March 21st Workshop meeting. Mayor Gartner offered to contact Dave Zwicky to let him know the project has been put out for bid.

American Rescue Plan Committee: Mark Spotts advised Council that since the committee's sole purpose is to advise where to spend the money he would like all Committee Chairpersons to submit recommendations of how much they'd need and where/how it would be spent. He suggested that since the funds are limited they should be spent on projects that can be completed now.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Marshall- No report.

Martin- No report.

Rice-Ms. Rice noted that she works with the CW Food Pantry. They currently have 300 families registered and approximately 100-125 families come each month.

Johnson- No report.

Spotts- No report.

Burrus- Absent.

Miller- No report.

Mayor Gartner- No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Womelsdorf-Robeson Joint Water Authority Treasurer's report and Meeting Minutes
- RWMA Meeting Minutes, operational report :& engineer's reports
- RMA Treasurer's report
- SHTPD Police Report. Stats section & Calls of Interest were included in agenda packet.
- Building Permit List
- Western Berks Ambulance Report (January & February)

On a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Miller and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer