

Borough of Robesonia Council

Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2024

The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robesonia Council was held on Monday, November 4, 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
David Bright
Mayor Rodney Soliday

Staff: Solicitor Andrew George and Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Harvey Marshall with the pledge of allegiance.

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

Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Dean Johnson to approve the October 7, 2024 Council meeting minutes. Seconded by David Bright. Motion carried.

Bills:

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to pay and ratify the bills from October 8, 2024 to November 4, 2024. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.

Police Report

- Police Chief Matthew Hook summarized the October Police Report for Council.

Scheduled Guests:

- None.

Solicitor's Report

- Resolution 2024-12: A motion was made by Dean Johnson to approve Resolution 2024-12 which adopts the application to participate in the volunteer service tax credit program. Seconded by Mark Spotts. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-13: A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve Resolution 2024-13 which appoints the Tax Claim Bureau of the County of Berks as the delinquent tax collector for the Borough for 2025. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-14: A motion was made by David Bright to approve Resolution 2024-14 which appoints Statewide Tax Recovery as delinquent per capita tax collector for the Borough for 2025. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-15: A motion was made by Dean Johnson to approve Resolution 2024-15 which sets the tax rate at 4.90 mills for the Borough for 2025.
- Resolution 2024-16: Resolution 2024-16 sets salaries and wages for 2025. After a discussion, Council tabled this resolution until the December meeting.

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- Application for Zoning Relief for 115 East Penn Avenue: Solicitor George announced that the Borough received an application for zoning relief for 115 East Penn Avenue. The zoning hearing will be held on November 20th.

Engineer's Report

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.

Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on November 20, 2024 if necessary.

Manager

- 2025 Meeting Dates: A motion was made by Matthew Miller to approve the advertisement of the meeting dates for 2025. Seconded by Dean Johnson. Motion carried.
- 2025 Budget: After a discussion, a motion was made by Michael Martin to approve advertisement in the Reading Eagle. Seconded by David Bright. Motion carried. Council also agreed to post the proposed budget on the Borough website for residents to review.

Committee Reports

Finance Administration:

- Meeting minutes for review.

Personnel:

- Hiring of Part-Time Streets Department Employee: After a discussion, Council stated that they are all in agreeance that the Borough Manager has the right to hire employees going forward.

Public Safety:

- No new business at this time.

Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- Meeting minutes for review.

Parks and Recreation:

- Harvey Marshall stated that no Parks & Recreation Board meeting was held last month and the Brough was not awarded any money from the LSA Grants for the playground replacement project.

Library Board Liaison:

- Jennifer Franklin introduced herself as the new Library Director.
- Appointment to Library Board: Leslie Pirl Roth and Council had a discussion regarding the number of members allowed on the library board. Council stated that they will advertise for their appointments to the board and will appoint them at the December meeting.

Council Member Reports

- Marshall
 - Trash Notice Mailing: Harvey Marshall stated that with Councils approval, the Borough will send out a mailing to all residents to let them know that the trash will now be a line item on the tax bill. All were in agreeance.
- Spotts

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- COG Contract: Mark Spotts gave an update on the COG contract. After a discussion, a motion was made by David Bright to authorize Mark Spotts to reject all bids that were received and to begin the bidding process again. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.
- Bright
 - David Bright and Harvey Marshall had a discussion regarding the Furnace Hill and sight lines at Penn Avenue and Church Street.

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

- David Randler: David Randler stated that he will be removing two trees in the planting strip at his own expense. This issue will be discussed with the Shade Tree Commission.
- Joel Costenbader: Joel Costenbader expressed concern over an incident that occurred at the end of the Jack Frost Parade.
- Charlia Koch: Charlie Koch asked Council about the status of the possibility of getting microphones. Elizabeth Miller stated that she had reached out to a company that was referred by South Heidelberg Township and is waiting back for a quote.
- Beth Sattizahn: Beth Sattizahn repeated her suggestion that Council should consider scanning and uploading all Borough ordinances onto their website.
- Tracy Rice: Tracy Rice gave an update on the local food pantry and families served. Tracy Rice also inquired if Council had allocated money in the budget for a grant writer.
- Heather Hanna: Heather Hanna thanked Council for their time and volunteerism.

Executive Session

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:25 PM to discuss personnel issues and current litigation.

The meeting reconvened at 9:12 PM.

Adjourn Meeting

A motion was made by Matthew Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 PM. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Borough Manager
Robesonia Borough