

MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

June 1, 2020

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President Harvey Marshall called the hybrid (in-person/Zoom teleconference) June 1, 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 as was Manager Lisa Heilman. Also attending the meeting via Zoom were Council member Dean Johnson, Solicitor Kourtney Bernecker, Chief Leon Grim and Engineer Jennifer Van Dyke. Mayor Randy Gartner was absent. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were Jack Keener, Heath Machemer, David Randler and Lori Brown (via Zoom). A motion was made by Mr. Soliday to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2020 Council Meeting. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS: Jack Keener and his engineer, Heath Machemer, presented a sketch plan (known as Keener Heights II) for a proposed addition to the current Keener Heights project. Mr. Machemer advised Council that Mr. Keener would need several waivers approved in order to proceed. The major ones include the extension of the street/cul-de-sac for an additional 100' (approximately), 10 more housing units, and limiting zones for stormwater basins. The others (which had been approved for the initial phase of the development) include the slant curb, lot depth, rec area/in-lieu of fee, etc. Following their presentation, Council members studied the sketch plans provided by Mr. Keener and asked many questions regarding the emergency access road, the stormwater run-off, the additional parking area as suggested by Mr. Rohrbach at the earlier site meeting, the types of homes, the ongoing maintenance of the stormwater facilities, etc. Jennifer Van Dyke, borough engineer, also answered several questions brought up by Council and reminded them this is just a very preliminary sketch plan and no official action should be taken until a formal plan has been submitted, and that this was just Mr. Keener's attempt to get a feel for Council's favorability toward such an extension before investing the time and money into such a plan if there was little chance of it being approved. The "overflow" parking as depicted on the sketch plan was not viewed favorably by most. Mr. Rohrbach argued that additional overflow parking for guests would be a great asset and help keep the parking situation from becoming another situation where the parking demands outnumber the available parking spaces. Mr. Keener was asked if he had presented this plan to Heidelberg Township yet as it appears several of the new housing units will actually be in Heidelberg Township and their exemption waivers would also be needed in order for this project to move forward. Mr. Keener told Council he has not but since the bulk of the affected property is in the Borough he wanted to start with the Borough first. Mr. Randler was asked if he had an opinion since his private access road would be affected. Mr. Randler stated that his biggest concern is the stormwater run-off and velocity. He stated we had a major flooding issue with runoff from this property before and is fearful we could be creating another. He is not in favor of the proposed overflow parking and he has serious concerns about residents using the private access road past his house and crossing the unsignaled railroad crossing in order to take a shortcut from the west end of town instead of going up South Church Street. Mr. Johnson agreed with that....if given a chance, people will use a shortcut. Gating the access road was briefly discussed.

MAYOR – No report.

SOLICITOR - Solicitor Bernecker advised Council that Kozloff-Stoudt is there for us throughout the pandemic and are able to help us with advise and resources to stay compliant, if needed.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – The meeting minutes from the May 20th Planning Commission meeting were included in the agenda packet.

MANAGER – Manager advised Council that a new Planning Commission member is needed since Jimmy Bright has offered his resignation. Solicitor Bernecker advised Council that no more than two Council members could serve on the five-member board. Mr. Soliday made the motion to appoint Harvey Marshall. Mr. Spotts seconded the motion and Council approved unanimously. Manager presented the quote received from Diversified Technology to include a return envelope with the trash bills. Diversified suggested \$40/quarter to cover the cost of the envelopes. Council decided not to

pursue the addition of return envelopes at this time. Manager advised Council that CELG is asking Council to seriously consider including Frank Schnee's match of \$300 to our annual \$300 contribution this year. Considering the impact of the pandemic on municipal budgets this year, Council opted to not include the additional \$300 this year but promised to look at increasing our annual contribution in the 2021 budget.

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. Spotts asked if the \$3,000 check for the Conrad Weiser Swimming Pool was just an annual donation or whether it included any money from the playground program. He was advised it is strictly a contribution to the pool that was budgeted for. Mr. Randler asked the status of the playground program and advised Council that the pool is reopening and was planning an "abbreviated" playground program for the children of the community. He noted that Heidelberg Township donated \$2,000 to the pool and \$2,000 to the playground program for the Heidelberg Township children. Solicitor Bernecker noted that the CDC and state have provided guidelines for such things and suggested many municipalities have decided to cancel their programs due to the limitations and liability. Manager noted that Council had voted in May to cancel the 2020 Playground Program for those reasons and the Borough saves \$7,000 in their budget to help in these uncertain economic times.

COMMITTEE REPORTS-

Finance/Administration – No report.

Personnel: No report.

Fire Protection/Safety – Mr. Martin reported that the Fire Company will be taking part in a Senior Class Parade on Friday, June 5th at 7PM, starting at Fecera's Furniture in Sinking Spring, traveling west through Wernersville, Robesonia and Womelsdorf and ending at the CW West Elementary School. He noted they have been involved in several of these events during the pandemic lockdown.

Streets/Highways/Sewer – Mr. Marshall advised Council that he has spoken to Jeff Kerlin at Technicon to have him write up an agreement to have signed by Jim & Brenda Williams to allow us to put a pipe under the driveway (provided by Jack Keener) leading to 238 Freeman Street to eliminate the stormwater runoff issue we've had there for several years. We have an agreement letter from CNS Wholesale so we are only waiting for the written approval from the Williams'. He's hoping we can get the project done the week of June 7th.

Parks & Recreation- No report.

Library- Abby Brunner, Library Director, submitted a thank you letter for the Borough Council's ongoing support throughout the lockdown, noting the library has been holding quite a few programs virtually/remotely. She also provided Council with a detailed reopening plan draft.

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission: No report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Marshall – No report.

Martin- No report.

Ziegler- No report.

Johnson- No report.

Soliday- No report.

Spotts- Mr. Spotts will discuss his issue with the South Church Street underpass with Mr. Marshall before bringing it back to Council.

Rohrbach- Mr. Rohrbach spoke with Quality Signs (Scott) and they advised him that the new plans for Castanedas has been submitted to Technicon for review.

Mayor Gartner – Absent

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The status of the additional clean-up funding for the Breininger property was discussed. The information passed on by Mayor Gartner that he received from Dan Meuser's office

was the same information provided by Senator Toomey's office. Manager reached out to Maree Forbes to ask if any more funding opportunities (ie. Brownfields grant funding) might be obtained if the Borough took ownership of the property. Mr. Spotts expressed some concern about doing this since we could be tagging the taxpayers for the additional clean-up costs if we are not able to get further grant funding after taking ownership. We are waiting to hear back from Ms. Forbes on this.

The handicapped parking request for 133 Pennbrooke Avenue was discussed. There are already six handicapped parking spaces on that street as well as one on the corner of Pennbrooke and South Wayne. Mr. Spotts suggested we send out letters to all current handicapped space holders asking them to update their forms and provide current copies of their placards, however, we should wait until we can open up the Borough Hall to public business again to do so.

The Fatzinger Automotive property was discussed. Mr. Soliday reported a few of the cars have been moved but there is still much to be done. He will discuss with Mr. Fatzinger and report back at the July meeting.

Resolution of the Baer billing matter was discussed. The matter has been resolved and Diversified credited Mr. Baer his \$200 to his account.

Manager advised Council that the certified letter sent to Mr. Moses Charles on April 17 regarding the stone all over the sidewalk from his property was returned unclaimed to the Borough on May 29th. Council expressed some concern with Mr. Charles' proposed senior living apartment plans if we cannot get him to respond to a simple request to clean up stones in front of his property. It was reported by Mr. Spotts that he did, finally, install the backflow preventer as required by the Water Authority.

NEW BUSINESS – No report.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Kraft Codes monthly Property Maintenance Report.

On a motion by Mr. Soliday, second by Mr. Spotts and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer