

President Harvey Marshall called the May 3, 2021 Council meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag. Council members present were V.P. Mark Spotts, David Rohrbach, Mike Martin, Matt Miller, Dean Johnson and Rod Soliday. Also attending the meeting were SHPD Chief Leon Grim, Mayor Randy Gartner and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Carol Werkheiser, Lori Brown, David Bright, Geneva Berger, Tracy Rice, Scott Adams, John Schoener and Abby Wertz. A motion was made by Mr. Spotts to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 Council Meeting. Mr. Martin seconded and Council approved unanimously.

VISITORS & CITIZENS: David Randler asked if the Borough intended to host/sponsor the Jack Frost Parade this year since Trinity Lutheran Church has decided not to do it again this year. Jim Dotzenroth has offered to assist the Borough if they choose to go ahead with it. The Borough would need to apply for a special event permit from PennDOT immediately if they should choose to go ahead with it. Mr. Spotts made the motion, and Mr. Martin seconded, to submit a special event permit. Council approved unanimously. Mr. Randler then asked the Council what they have decided to do about a playground program for 2021. Manager noted that the Pennsylvania Recreation and Parks Society was still not recommending in-person playground programs for the summer and finding people to be playground leaders at this late date would be difficult. She suggested Council consider possibly hosting a splash party or two over the summer. TBD. Mr. Randler once again expressed his displeasure with the current rental inspection program as it is currently run. He told Council it cost him \$120 for two reinspections that were both done very quickly. He insists the current rental inspection program has got to go. Mr. Marshall suggested if a change is to be made it should be done this year since it is an “off” cycle year. He suggested there are too many inconsistencies among the inspectors...even after talking to Glenn Kraft about this problem several times. He said we have still adopted the International Property Maintenance Code...and we may want to consider hiring a part-time, in-house codes inspector. The committee (Harvey Marshall, Randy Gartner, Mark Spotts and Dave Randler) shall meet prior to the June Council meeting and report back to Council at that time. Mr. Randler then brought up the possibility of obtaining an administrative search warrant for 317 East Penn Avenue. There is a couple living there illegally that is harassing patrons of Castaneda’s Restaurant who are (legally) parking on the lot at 317 East Penn Avenue (the owners of both properties have an informal agreement to allow the parking). Ms. Chiang has been writing emails and letters to Mr. Randler, the Borough, the owners of Quality Awnings & Signs (who own the building in which Castaneda’s is located. The building’s owners, Moses Charles and Alfonso Noll, seem unwilling or unable to control these tenants and/or remove them. Mr. Marshall offered to speak to the attorney to determine our course of action.

Cherie Benfer, representing the CW Food Pantry, sought Council’s approval to alter their route for the food pantry. She noted to Council that the drive-thru pantry is working out so much better than the in-person pick-up and helping to deter much of the drama they had to deal with previously. With the (hopefully) re-opening of Little Peoples Pre-school in fall, they need to move the traffic off the parking lot of the church to allow for parents dropping off and picking up their pre-schoolers. They would like to re-direct the traffic onto Railroad Avenue behind the church and back onto South Robeson Street. There was a brief discussion with a few options floated but it was ultimately decided their request could be approved as presented. Ms. Benfer also asked Council’s approval to hold the summer volleyball program on the field between the tot lot pavilion and South Robeson Street...in addition to the potential hosting of the summer volleyball tournament (approx.. 100 people on three different courts). Council was fine with the summer program but was unsure if there was enough space for three courts. Also, the proposed date of the tournament is in direct conflict with the CW Field of Dreams team game scheduled

for that date (August 14). She acknowledged that they could change their date if necessary. If the space is available and there is no other conflicts, Council was okay with their request.

Abby Wertz advised Council that the Borough Manager had forwarded an email to her and Mayor Gartner from Maree Forbes who had written the narrative for the ISRP grant. Ms. Forbes expressed an interest in working with whomever to write the historic preservation/green space part of the project since she feels there is a great story to tell. Ms. Wertz feels they would be better utilizing Simone Collins Landscape Architecture from Norristown, PA to help design the park and write the grant. She feels it would be good to get started right away. Mr. Spotts noted that Ms. Wertz's idea is an excellent one, but suggested they wait to get started since we are still not certain that additional problems will not be found when doing the remediation of the property and the borough cannot be certain of what their total share of those costs may be till it is all said and done. Mr. Spotts made the motion to give Ms. Wertz the go-ahead to get a cost from Simone Collins on what they would charge for their services. Mr. Soliday seconded and Council approved unanimously.

Geneva Berger also noted that a crude sign has been erected on the parking lot at 317 E. Penn chasing away would-be parkers. Mr. Spotts asked John Schoener & Scott Adams (owners of Quality Awnings) whether they had seen the Chiangs actually living in the building and where they park? They noted they have witnessed people living there and that they generally park on the west side of the building off of Linden Street. They have a white Chevy or GMC pick-up truck and some type of Nissan.

Mrs. Berger asked if there was a parade planned this year for the CW Senior Class? Chief Grim noted that a parade is planned starting at Calvary Fellowship Church heading west on 422.

David Bright reminded Council of the Memorial Remembrance Ceremony on May 27th at 6:30 pm.

MAYOR – Mayor Gartner advised Council that he has ordered a couple items to experiment with an idea he has to create low voltage Christmas lighting. He asked Borough Manager to arrange for free dumpster for the street fair, he thanked Chief Grim for the police response to an incident, he thanked everyone who came out to support the food truck event and he advised Council of the following upcoming events at the Furnace Pavilion: May 8, 4-7 pm, Flamin' Dick & the Hot Rods (benefits Friends of the Furnace); May 28th, 4-7 pm, Steak & Cheeseburger Night (benefits Street Fair Committee); and June 12- 39w/Honor will be hosting a 4-band event (for Wreaths Across America).

SOLICITOR - No report.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION – The next meeting is scheduled for 19th at 7PM. Engineer is awaiting the revised plans for Phase II of the Keener Heights development. If received in time for engineer to review, PC will be notified.

MANAGER – Manager presented a request from Glenn Snyder, of South Wayne Street, to allow portions of the area to be blocked off for a block party. Council expressed they are amenable to allow such with the proviso they work with the Borough Streets Department to ensure those living on Pennbrook Avenue and surrounding streets have a means of egress.

PAYMENT OF INVOICES- Motion by Mr. Spotts, seconded by Mr. Miller 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: No report.

Fire Protection/Safety – No report.

Streets & Highways- Mr. Marshall reported that Spring Clean-up will be held on May 7/8. Mr. Marshall advised Council that Berks Traffic has donated their time and the paint the line the tennis and pickleball court and noted we need to take the time to thank them in a special way somehow (Fire Company Marquis? Borough Newsletter? Sign on fence at tennis court?). He reported that UGI will be repaving half of North Wayne Street following their project. Lastly, Mr. Marshall reported that Heidelberg Township approached him about the possibility of piggy-backing on their roadwork they are doing in Fry Manor. We would have a portion of the intersection of Linden Street and Lincoln Avenue to complete in order to have the entire intersection done at one time. He feels it really needs to be redone. He will get a cost for the Borough's portion and reported that general funds will probably need to be used to do it.

Parks & Recreation- No report.

Library- No Borough liaison has been found yet.

Police- Chief Grim reported that the Autism Awareness Day was a great success. The monthly police report was included in the agenda packet.

Water/Sewer Municipal Authorities-Mr. Soliday reported the next RMA meeting will be held on June 9th.

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission: No report.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Marshall- No report..

Martin- No report

Soliday- No report

Johnson- No report.

Spotts- Mr. Spotts reported on the Teleconference with Judy Schwenk regarding the American Rescue Plan money the borough should be receiving in the near future. The details on what it may be used for are still sketchy, but we are trying to determine that so we'll know where it can be applied when received.

Rohrbach- No report.

Miller:. No report.

Mayor Gartner- Mahyor reported the Furnace Dinner will be held on May 18th at the Furnace Pavilion. Dinner will be a buffet and will cost \$29.95/pp. The guest speaker will be Paul Druzba, speaking on Carsonia Park. Also, the furnace pavilion is available for rent. Friends members can rent it for \$75 while non-members will be charged \$125.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Fatzinger Automotive Clean-up: Mr. Fatzinger called and asked for an extension. He was given until May 14th and told that would be his last extension. If the property is not cleaned up by then, he will be cited.

Solicitor is looking into the Street Light Conversion agreement. Mr. Marshall will meet with solicitor to go over his comments. He has spoken to Chief of Police for Spring Township who told him the conversion has not cost them a dime (for the replacement of 1200 lights).

NEW BUSINESS – No report

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Monthly Police Report. Stats section was included in agenda packet.
- Womelsdorf-Robesonias Joint Water Authority meeting minutes and Treasurer's reports (March)
- Robesonias-Wernersville Municipal Authority special meeting minutes (March)

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- Western Berks Ambulance monthly report-April
- Building Permit List
- Kraft Codes monthly reports for March and April

On a motion by Mr. Soliday second by Mr. Johnson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Attest:

Lisa Heilman
Manager/Secretary/Treasurer