

**WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 101 WEST HIGH STREET ON
AUGUST 3, 2020**

This Meeting was called to order by Council President Bruce Edwards at 7:00PM, beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT

Council Members: Josh Fidler, Jim Mellon, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, Dave Moyer and Bruce Edwards; Mayor-Jen Gettle, Solicitor-Andy George, Engineer-Craig Bonenberger, Police Chief-John Pontician, and Secretary-Mickey Balistrieri

ABSENT

Council Member Connie Keller

GUESTS

Pastor Ken Wiest, Donald Ebling, Carl Liptak, Bernie Bingham and Ed McCaffrey

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to accept the July 6, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Fidler, second by Mr. Mellon to accept the July 21, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Moyer to accept the list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$57,652.71. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Edwards asked Carl and Chief Pontician to use the Wex Bank fuel card for their departments fuel purchases, for the tax savings. There are no bills to be ratified.

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to approve paying this week's payroll. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Moyer, second by Mr. Fidler to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

A list of four communications was given to Council, none requiring action.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Forget Me Nots: Mr. Bingham and Mr. McCaffrey reported their plans for the "Ride for Freedom" this year, with COVID-19 and social distancing. They will not be setting up the parade in Womelsdorf as in prior years, with 1,000 to 2,000 motorcycles here at one time. The bikers will sign in at the Reading Motor Club. They will ride through Womelsdorf, stopping at the War Memorial then traveling on to Reading for a service at noon. The bikers will be honoring the MIA's along the same route as prior years, on Sunday, August 30th between 9:00am – 11:00am. The public is welcome to greet them as they pass through our Borough as we have in

the past. They will be traveling through at their own pace, in smaller groups. The Fire Company will greet them at the War Memorial. Council thanked the gentlemen representing the Forget Me Nots for continuing to bring their riders through our Borough.

Pastor Ken Wiest: Pastor Wiest reported that he comes before Council to request that the old church located at 101 N. Front be removed from the Historical District Overlay Map. It is not listed on the National list of Historical buildings. They are in the process of having an auction to sell the building. Pastor Wiest discussed issues that he is having with information on the properties not being correct at the County. Our zoning map does not show ownership of properties. Mr. Edwards suggested that the church get permission to demolish the church, and then sell the property. If the buyer wishes to demolish the building, they need to come to Borough Council for authorization. If they wish to building something that would require a variance, they would need to apply to the Zoning Hearing Board. Pastor Wiest thanked Council for their time and spoke kindly of the office staff.

Donald Ebling-Emergency Management: Mr. Ebling reported on the storm that is coming tonight and tomorrow. Road barricades may be needed if flooding occurs, we are expecting 6 inches of rain. The VFW pond over flows into the park, and erodes the dirt. Winds are only expected to be 30 mph, electric should not be affected. Mr. Ebling also reported that he took care of the NIMS Questionnaire. Mr. Ebling reported that he will get NIMS Training information from Donnie Swope for Council Members. Training can be done online. Mr. Ebling will send the information via email by Friday. Mr. Ebling would like to be able to use the Borough Hall Council Room if needed, for residents to come in and meet with him to fill out damage control paperwork for the County if this becomes a flooding event. Mr. Ebling is working on a Flood Mitigation Project; water table builds up and floods the basements at High and Water Street.

EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/COMMISSIONS

Carl Liptak-Public Works/Maintenance:

- Street Sweeping-about 85% of the people obeyed the No Parking signs so that they could get both sides of High, Front and Franklin Streets with the street sweeper.
- Library Roof-The roof is leaking again. Mr. Edwards reported that it was patched by Unger, who said that it needs to be fixed in the Spring.
- Discussion on the ditch on Mill Road behind the Rod 'n Gun to Wilde Snack Food.
- Town Square-Mr. Liptak reported a broken curb from the road work.
- Rt. 422 Lot #4-Mr. Liptak reported that with the excavation of soil from Lot 4, it is getting closer to the maintenance garage. There is around 80 feet that was to be dedicated to the Borough, in lieu of the developer paving the road. There is no longer 80 feet there to dedicate. The Solicitor will look at the plans and any agreements.
- Police door-The parts are here, they will be working on it this week. The door to be painted white.
- CDL-Mr. Liptak reported that he will be taking his CDL drivers test next Thursday.
- Pesticides/Pool Chemical-They will be attending the training being held in September.
- Water Street-Mr. Liptak reported that he received a call from Mrs. Shattuck about water runoff from the ballfield onto their property on Water Street.
- Summit Circle-Mr. Liptak reported a hole in the road at Summit Circle, right where you come in off of Rt. 422. He will try to see how deep it is.

- Bucket Truck-the bucket truck passed inspection, it needs tires, it also needed brakes and calipers. There is a little rust that can be taken care of.
- Ball Field Damage -Mr. Liptak reported that there is damage from the weekend usage of the Ball field by Northwest Revolution Baseball. Red and white striping paint is on the inside and outside of the dugout. Deep ruts and tracks in the field made by a truck. Mickey reported that the muddy tracks from the tree line down to the dugout on the third base side were made by two skateboarders. The parent was coaching at third base. Mr. Liptak to let Mickey know the number of hours that were needed to repair the damage.

OLD BUSINESS

Ratification of Motions-A list of all Motions/Action taken during the COVID-19 “ZOOM Meetings” was handed out. The following Motions for Ratification were made.

1. Minutes

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mrs. Hopple to Ratify the Motions to approve the Minutes from March 2nd, 17th, April 6th and May 4th 2020 Council Meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Bill Payment

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to Ratify the Motions to approve all the bills paid on March 17th, April 6th, May 4th and June 1st of 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Payroll

Motion by Mr. Mellon, second by Mr. Miller to Ratify the Motions approving paying payroll on March 17th, April 6th, May 4th and June 1st 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Action Taken

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to Ratify the Motions for action taken and purchase approvals on March 17th, April 6th, May 4th and June 1st 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

The list of Motions being Ratified were available to the public at this meeting, and posted prior to this meeting on the web site and Facebook.

Vacant seats-Planning Commission-1, Zoning Hearing Board-1 plus 1 Alt., Library Board-1

SOLICITOR

Resolution for Rt. 422/419 Traffic Light-This will be ready for the September Meeting, due to changes being made.

Pool Pavilion-Solicitor George reported that the pavilion must have certified plans. Mrs. Hopple wanted to know if they are giving money to the Borough to build a pavilion, why do we need certified plans? Discussion on why permits are needed for the Borough to build on their own property. Mr. Bonenberger reported that the engineer cannot seal someone else’s design. The design engineers are the ones who seal the plans.

ENGINEER

S. 4th Street Completion-After the Town Square is completed, paving is scheduled for August 7th.
2020 Road Work-Mr. Bonenberger reported that all three projects, Bunker Hill Road, Mulberry Alley, and Cherry Alley are done and we are waiting for the invoices.

Library Sidewalk-The library sidewalk is done and paid.

Town Park Memorial & Park Bridge-That should be started immediately after 4th Street.
High Street Inlets-in progress, curb work today. Roof drain problems, modifications were needed. Mr. Mellon reported on the work that had to be done, due to the roof drain problem. Discussion on the culvert, swale, sawcut, roof drains, and the water flow. There is not as much depth, but the surface is wider now for the flow of water.

Bunker Hill Road Culvert-is completed.

Questions for the Engineer: Mr. Moyer questioned the pooling of water on top of N. Front Street after Mulberry Alley was paved. Mr. Bonenberger will take that back to McCarthy Engineering. Mr. Miller reported an incident when Cherry Alley was being paved, to the Engineer.

MAYOR

Police Vehicle-Mayor Gettle reported that the new Police Truck is in, Chief Pontician has to pick it up and get the lights and details put on. Mayor Gettle requested that her cell number be used instead of her home number.

Chief Pontician:

- Street Sweeping, vehicles that do not obey the "No Parking" signs will be warned, ticketed, and if repeated noncompliance towed.
- Ride for Freedom-Discussion to get job johnnies for the Ride for Freedom.
- Part-time Crossing Guards-Chief Pontician reported that he needs a few more part-time crossing guards. Mayor Gettle will put it on Facebook.
- Weeds-Mrs. Hopple reported a property with extremely high weeds.

MR. FIDLER

LED Sign-Mr. Fidler is waiting to hear back about the LED Sign.

Rec Board-Duck Feeders: You cannot put a duck feeder out that requires money for dispensing.

MR. MELLON

Office doors-Mr. Mellon reported that the contractor is working on the doors.

Invoice Cloud-Mr. Mellon reported that we were working with Lori for making payments through the Website. Mickey reported that Lori will be in on Thursday for training.

Water Street-Mr. Mellon talked to Glen about curbing while the WRJA is having work done on S. Water Street at Park Court. A street cut permit will be needed. Discussion on a section of S. Water Street that is eroding away, it is about a 4-foot x 10-foot area near the VFW. The Engineer can talk to Folk while they are still here working. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Fidler to authorize spending up to \$1,000 to patch that bad area on S. Water Street. Motion carried unanimously.

MS. KELLER-Absent

MRS. HOPPLE

Community Yard Sale-Library Prayer Breakfast, Park event, etc. will be held on the 1st Saturday of October.

Pool Pavilion-Mrs. Hopple gave Council packets with bids for the pavilion. She reported that they are looking at going with Wood Originals, Inc.; with the concrete work being done by Charlie Ulrich for \$2,800.00. They need the Borough guys to down dig 8". The pavilion will be put in with an overhang on two sides. Stones will be needed; Electric will be done. Charlie will

come in to do the concrete work. On the side of the pavilion toward the pool building they want to concrete an area for a grill. They are also looking at putting in a sidewalk from the pool building to the pavilion. Mrs. Hopple also reported that on Wednesday night she will be getting approval for getting the money. On Friday, August 21st at 2:30, Wood Originals Inc. will come to look at the area. Mr. Edwards and Mrs. Hopple will meet on Saturday to look at trees to be ordered for the pool.

Maybe Charlie Ulrich will be able to do the concrete slabs for the picnic tables, while he is there. Mr. Moyer recommended using 4,000 PSI concrete, with a broom finish. Electric to be turned off while work is being done.

Thank you note-Mrs. Hopple requested a thank you note be sent to Mrs. Effrig for weeding at the park.

Car Show-Mrs. Hopple reported that they are having a car show on September 13th.

MR. MILLER

Fire Company-911 Memorial Service is still going on at 7:00PM on Friday, September 11th.

Awards-Firefighter of the year was Scott Kramer; Officer's Award went to Dave Schabb.

Pool-Mr. Miller questioned whether Council was going to have the "Y" come back or have our own lifeguards. Wayne will talk to Renee, and he may have someone for the snack bar. The cost to lease the snack bar to stay at \$2,100.00.

Fundraiser-Mayor Gettle reported that a gentleman reached out to her in regards to holding a fundraiser in the Town Park on Sept. 12th* for Emma Munger who is fighting cancer. He was hoping the Borough would donate the Park. Mayor Gettle will talk to the community organizations to see if they would be interested in hosting the event. (*Secretary's Note: At the time of typing the minutes, the event has been organized, and the date was changed to Sept. 19th)

Newsletters-Mr. Miller questioned what are we doing with the boxes of newsletters that didn't go out, due to COVID. The newsletter was on the Web Site.

MR. EDWARDS

Codification-Mr. Edwards reported that he reached out to Paul Jansen for information on the codification of Borough Ordinances. Mr. Jansen suggested that it is cheaper to stay with the company we had because those records are saved electronically. There are only three companies that do that work. We can choose how many books we want, and the information will be online for our residents. Mickey will be getting a quote, once they have the ordinances that need to be added.

Grant-Jane Meeks found information on a website for us. The Grant Application filed via mail as requested, is still held up in their office, as they are still working remotely from home.

Mickey scanned the signature page and sent it electronically, they have everything they need.

Mr. Liptak reported that the chipper is coming in mid-September, and the leaf machine is coming in mid-October. Mr. Edwards reported that the dumpster must be ordered.

Newsletter-The Mayor would like to see a newsletter for Fall/Winter, even if it is just online.

MR. MOYER

Pool Filters-Mr. Moyer reported that he doesn't have filter prices yet.

Street light-There is a light out at 315 Lyman Avenue.

Bunker Hill Road-Mr. Moyer asked if lines were going to be painted down the center of Bunker Hill Road. Mr. Liptak was not aware that the Borough had equipment to paint center lines.

Cat problems-Mr. Moyer reported a cat problem in the neighborhood.

NEW BUSINESS

Social Archive-Mickey reported that the Borough is responsible for all contents on the Borough's Facebook page. Discussion on comments made by others, and the protection Social Archive provides for Municipalities by archiving the information from social media. Solicitor George to take a look at the information from Social Archive for the September Council Meeting.

With no further business brought before Council; **Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Fidler to adjourn the Meeting. Motion carried unanimously. This Meeting adjourned at 9:57PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Balistrieri
Secretary