

**WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 101 W. HIGH STREET ON  
JULY 6, 2021**

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, James Mellon, Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, Dave Moyer, and Bruce Edwards; Solicitor Courtney Bernecker, Engineer- Craig Bonenberger, Police Officer-William Schlichter, Maintenance Manager-Carl Liptak, and Secretary-Mickey Balistrieri

**GUESTS**

Harriet Grimes, Linda Sekelic, Darlene Kelchner, Barry Kelchner, Jeffrey Adams, Susan Hardinger, Rose DeJesus, and Vincent Swanier

**MINUTES**

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to approve the June 7, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Mr. Mellon, second by Mr. Fidler to approve the June 17, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Moyer to approve the June 22, 2021 Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**BILLS TO BE PAID**

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to approve the list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$52,158.29. Motion carried unanimously. There are no bills to be ratified.

**PAYROLL**

**Motion** by Mr. Fidler, second by Mr. Moyer to approve paying this week's payroll. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Mellon to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mr. Edwards asked for a spokesperson for each item with a five-minute time limit, any other person who wishes to speak on the same topic will be given one minute.

Park Place Circle: Jeffrey Adams-spokesperson reported that Park Place Circle is a private road, it does not get municipal snow removal. He is getting ticketed for parking in front of his townhouse. Mr. Edward's reported that the ticketing is being done on S. Pine Street, which is a Borough street with signage posted pertaining to parking. Discussion on the addresses of the townhomes. The addresses were assigned by the post office and the developer; not Borough Council. The Solicitor questioned what the issues are here, snowplowing and ticketing are two different issues. Mr. Adams reported that the Borough does not plow or maintain Park Place

Circle. His opinion is that if the road is S. Pine Street, then the homes should be re-addressed. Discussion that there are two designated parking spaces per unit on Park Place Circle located behind the units. The development was approved because it has two parking places per unit. After much discussion about the history of the development, planning commission, the parking situation, etc., Council determined that they will be including S. Pine Street in their review of the parking in the Borough. Mr. Adams left pictures for Council to view. Two additional residents from S. Pine Street reported receiving tickets after 9:00am.

Seltzer Avenue: Spokesperson-Harriet Grimes reported that she lives on Seltzer Avenue and the whole street got cited for weeds. The statement was corrected to say that they all received letters. Several residents who always take care of the vegetation on the hillside were upset with the letter that they received. Mr. Edwards reported that a letter was sent to homes on Seltzer Avenue, and apologized that it should have stated that if you are taking care of your property, please disregard this letter. Mrs. Grimes discussed the “Tree of Heaven”, and reported that there are five of them growing on a property on that hillside. These trees are host trees for lantern flies. Mrs. Hopple will contact the Penn State Ext. Office for information. Mr. Edwards thanked the residents for taking care of their property. The residents were assured that there were not any negative reports or actions against their properties. The residents also stated that they have less parking at their homes than Park Place Circle, and that they knew that when they bought their homes.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

A list of communications was given to Council.

## **EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/COMMISSIONS**

Carl Liptak-Maint. Manager:

Front end loader-Mr. Edwards reported that Robesonia will loan their front-end loader to the Borough. Their driver will bring it here and pick it up. We only need it for a couple of hours.

Grass/Weeds-Mrs. Hopple questioned the weeds growing along some of the streets, where the road meets the curbs. From the curb in is the resident’s responsibility, outside of the curb is the Borough’s responsibility for grass/weeds.

Electrical Code Inspection-Mr. Liptak reported that the Electrical Code Inspection was completed at the pool.

## **SOLICITOR**

Solicitor Bernecker reported that we have two ordinances that were advertised for adoption in the Reading Eagle and the Berks Law Journal.

**Motion** by Mr. Fidler, second by Mrs. Hopple to adopt Ordinance #2021-01 amending the rules & regulations governing outdoor fires within the Borough. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Mellon to adopt Ordinance #2021-02 to establish regulations and fees regarding opening and cutting of roads within the Borough, requiring notice, permits, surcharges, inspection fees, and escrow deposits. Motion carried unanimously. The Stormwater Ordinance is still being worked on.

## **ENGINEER**

2021 Street Work-Everyone received a copy of the bids:

Ronnie C. Folk Paving Inc.	H&K Group, Inc.	Gaver Industries, Inc. DBA Barker & Barker Paving	Construction Masters Services, LLC
\$93,035.85	\$106,261.58	\$106,896.20	\$127,619.00

Motion by Mr. Moyer, second by Mr. Miller to accept the bid from Ronnie C. Folk Paving Inc. of \$93,035.85 for the 2021 Street Work. Motion carried unanimously.

Lot 4-Tower Health-They are stoning and getting ready to black top.

Pool filter system-Nothing new on this until next week.

Zimmerman/Martin Subdivision-Preliminary Plan-Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Moyer the Borough will conditionally accept a time extension of ninety (90) days; if the extension is not received the day prior to the deadline, we authorize the engineer to reject the Zimmerman/Martin Subdivision-Plan.

Cold Summit Farmers-Traffic Planning and Design would like to know what Council would like them to focus on. Focus is on the amount of truck traffic that would be using our roads.

With no further questions for the him, Engineer Bonenberger left the meeting at 8:47pm.

## **MAYOR**

Chief Pontician-Mayor Gettle reported that the Chief Pontician is in the hospital; Officer Bill Schlichter was asked to attend the meeting in his place. The June police report states that the Police Department answered 174 calls. Overnight July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> there were no calls.

Part time Police Officer-Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Fidler to hire Courtney Garipoli as a part time police officer, at the starting pay rate of \$20.00 per hour, subject to the required probation. Motion carried unanimously.

Pool-Discussion on an incident at the pool, those involved are currently suspended while there is still an open investigation. Discussion on the updated pool rules; You have to be a Member, or a Womelsdorf Resident, or a guest of either a Member or a Resident to come to the pool. Only an Adult age 18 or older that is either a Member or a Resident can bring in a guest.

## **MR. FIDLER**

Rec Board-Mr. Fidler reported that the Rec Board will be meeting tomorrow.

Police Committee-Did not meet today because the Chief was not here.

## **MR. MELLON**

Trash Billing Update-It was recently decided that the Borough would use Diversified for the trash billing. Mr. Mellon put together a comparison of costs for trash billing. Fulton Bank fees would add additional costs of \$2,300.00 the first year for using Diversified as the billing agent. Mr. Mellon stopped everything, and the June billing was done here. Diversified was put on hold, everything is set up to continue as we were before. Motion by Mr. Fidler, second by Mr. Mellon to rescind the motion to go with Diversified for the trash billing; contingent upon Mr. Mellon obtaining written confirmation of Diversified cancelling the contract. Motion carried unanimously.

## **MRS. KELLER**

Library-No one got back to Mrs. Keller from the Library.

Mrs. Keller asked when the budget process begins. Mr. Edwards said that the Paul Jansen is already working on a 5-year budget.

Discussion about the upcoming carnival, the Fire & Ice Event and the Craft and Vendor Event that already has sixty-two vendors registered.

### **MRS. HOPPLE**

Personnel: **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to accept with regrets, the resignation of Pat Rhine from cleaning the Borough Hall. Motion carried unanimously. She would like to continue her Crossing Guard position.

Pool: Mrs. Hopple reported that she had an incident tonight, someone had a group of kids in the pool to take swim tests for boy scouting. There was not a Use of Facilities form filled out, insurance, or hold harmless agreement. They did not request permission, and no one on Council was aware that they were coming. Mrs. Hopple has asked for the form to be filled out and submitted, with the required list of attendees and payment will be requested.

Mr. Liptak has a camera ordered for the pool.

Secretary-Rachel started to work today, thank you to Jim and Bruce for coming in to greet her. Mickey reported that it was a productive day, Rachel and Nan worked together and she was already answering the phone. Mrs. Hopple reported that Rachel will start full time on Monday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hopple also reported that Nan had given the 21<sup>st</sup> as her last day, but has now changed it to the 14<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hopple requested an executive session later, for personnel reasons.

Discussion on activities held at the pool, including yoga, and “doodle your noodle” which is a pool noodle decorating contest.

### **MR. MILLER**

Fire Company-Mr. Miller reported that Friday Night Cook Outs are every other Friday.

Ms. Keller discussed a request a resident made for a trash to be located on the West end of High Street. There is one in front of the Borough Hall, could one be placed at the engine house. The cost of the trash can is \$1,200.

### **MR. MOYER**

Planning Commission-Nothing new to report.

Mr. Moyer complimented Mr. Liptak on doing a great job.

Mr. Moyer reported that the library raised \$65.00 towards a deposit return box. The cost to purchase one is \$6,000.

### **MR. EDWARDS**

Fire & Ice-Mr. Edwards reported that the Lynn is looking for volunteers to make chili to compete in the competition.

COG-Mr. Edwards reported that Waste Management has officially taken over as our trash haulers. Our contact is Jill Punter. Mr. Edwards will be meeting with her and the other COG Members of Friday at 11:00am.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Emergency Declaration-Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Fidler to end the Emergency Declaration effective immediately. Motion carried unanimously. The Covid waivers will no longer be needed with the Use of Facilities Applications.

With no further business brought before Council; Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Fidler to adjourn the meeting. This meeting adjourned at 9:42pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mickey Balistrieri  
Secretary