

**WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held at 101 W. High Street on**  
**October 5, 2020**

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

**PRESENT**

Council Members: Joshua Fidler, Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, Dave Moyer, and Bruce Edwards; Mayor Jen Gettle, Solicitor-John Muir, Engineer-Jim McCarthy and Secretary-Mickey Balistrieri

**ABSENT**

Council Member Jim Mellon, and Chief John Pontician

**GUESTS**

Library President-Trista Oxenreider, Carl Liptak, Christine Hartman and Tyler Fisher

**MINUTES**

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to accept the September 1, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Moyer to accept the September 15, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**BILL PAYMENT**

**Motion** by Ms. Keller, second by Mr. Fidler to accept the list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$50,982.34. Motion carried unanimously. There were no bills to be ratified. The Secretary was given permission to cancel "Go to Meeting" subscription.

**PAYROLL**

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Fidler to approve paying this week's payroll. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mrs. Hopple to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A list of communications was given to Council Members, with the following action taken:

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to appoint Carolyn Bauerle to the Library Board to finish Jim Gibson's term. Discussion on the ARL proposed contract for 2021, no action was taken.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

**Christine Hartman**-Ms. Hartman discussed a Handicap Parking Space that has been placed in front of her home on South 5<sup>th</sup> Street. She would like to see the spot placed across the street. She has concerns that the spot in front of her home will reduce the selling price of her home. After much discussion, Mr. Edwards explained that Council reviewed the placement of the sign and voted their approval. Ms. Hartman's home has four parking spaces around her home, not

including the driveway parking. No other home in that development has that amount of off-street parking.

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

Trista Oxenreider, President of the Library Board of Trustees: Mrs. Oxenreider reported that the Library is open, items can still be requested for pick up. Books can be transferred in from the other libraries. The library is doing okay this year, despite not being able to hold the planned fundraising events. They do not know what next year will be like.

Carl Liptak, Maintenance Manager: Mr. Liptak reported that he heard from a woman in regards to a juvenile probation program; asking if the youths involved in the vandalism in the Town Park could provide community service instead of fines for the parents. Solicitor Muir recommended seeing if they would be supervised while providing the community service work.

Maintenance and Equipment Updates:

- New Ford F550-body is ready to go to E.M. Kutz
- Steel plates were placed over the hole at the bridge at Mulberry Alley.
- Leaf Machine-will be delivered in two weeks
- Pesticide Certifications-Mr. Liptak tested and is waiting for results, Mr. Windley is registered for testing in December
- The electric panel was replaced at the Town Park
- Winter gear: **Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Moyer to spend up to \$700.00 for the purchase of winter gear for the Maintenance Department. Motion carried unanimously.
- Mr. Liptak put on Facebook that the Maintenance Department will be able to collect tree trimmings, brush and branches; they must be kept away from raked leaves. No grass clippings. Discussion that trash CANNOT be placed in the new recycling dumpster.
- Master Key System: **Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mrs. Hopple to change the keys for the pool at a cost of \$1,500. Motion carried unanimously.
- Pool painting-The black stripes are bubbled, the numbers are faded decals, not painted.
- **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Ms. Keller to rip out the bushes in front of the Borough Hall and replace them with items that are lower to the ground and colorful. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Library Roof – Mr. Edwards reported that the library roof has been repaired.

On line bill pay-Pay Pal, Diversified, Invoice Cloud, and Intuit (QuickBooks) were looked into. QuickBooks was the least expensive for taking credit cards and check pay. Discussion on the different services.

Vacant seats-We are still in need of one Zoning Hearing Board Member and one alternate.

Phones- Frasier United Voice, Comcast and 2 other companies to be looked at for price comparisons.

Social Archive- Social Media storage service, decision to use service not determined.

**SOLICITOR-John Muir**

J F Martin – J.F. Martin will be purchasing \$35,000 gallons additional capacity from the Sewer Authority. A planning module will be coming from J. F. Martin.

**ENGINEER-Jim McCarthy**

Traffic Light-The contract was signed at the last council meeting. Discussion on the pre-emption codes for police, fire, ambulance. The light work probably won't be done until Springtime.

Lot 4 Development Plan-Development Plans will be coming before the Planning Commission Meeting in two weeks. They have their E & S permit and their driveway permit. The Engineers talked to them about a fence at the top of the hill behind the maintenance garage, and stabilize the hill side. Discussion on the donation of property in lieu of paving the road that had been agreed upon. The property no longer contains the 100 feet of land to donate.

Paving-Ms. Keller reported that High Street needs to be paved, but it is a PennDOT street. Mr. McCarthy suggested Ms. Keller contact Mark Kosick; and the District Office in Allentown. Mr. McCarthy will find out the last time it was paved.

Pool-Motion by Mr. Moyer, second by Mr. Miller to authorize the Engineer to prepare bid specifications for repair to the pool infiltration system. Motion carried unanimously. With no further questions for the Engineer, he was released from the meeting.

**MAYOR**

Truck-going for the computer mount. Discussion on colors on the truck and the shield. Mayor Jen reported that the Chief would like an advertisement for part time police officers to run in a Sunday edition of the Reading Eagle.

**MR. FIDLER**

Police Committee-Mr. Fidler reported that the Police Committee met and discussed raising the hourly rate for the part time police officers. Mr. Edwards suggested that the Mayor meet with the Chief and full-time officers to go over the upcoming raises and a bonus structure. Mayor Jen reported that in the month of October we had at least one shift on every day. Discussion on the many types of issues that the police are handling. Mayor Jen reported that if Council has concerns seeing times when the car is sitting at the police department for a period of time, let her know the date and time. Mr. Fidler requested that the weekly police timecards be sent to the Police Committee Members. The Police Committee would like to look into raising some of the fines. The current Fee Schedule Resolution is to be given to the Police Committee and Solicitor George. The Solicitor will check to see if the police fines can be included in the Fee Resolution, or whether it must be in an ordinance.

**MR. MELLON-absent****MS. KELLER**

Budget-The Finance Committee and Secretary agreed to meet on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM to begin work on the 2021 Budget. The Secretary suggested that the Committee ask the

departments to turn in the “wish lists” for items needed for 2021. Mr. Liptak asked that some monies be appropriated for equipment.

### **MRS. HOPPLE**

Pool Pavilion-Mrs. Hopple reported the plan is done. The concrete guy will be talking to Carl. Reception to be held on a Saturday, the weekend before Memorial Day. Refreshments will be served. Does the Pool Committee want to have an open house?

Ballfield-Mrs. Hopple reported that the CW fifteen-year-old team reported that the team using the field before them, left trash and equipment in the dugout.

Christmas decorations-Mrs. Hopple reported that there will be a twenty-two-foot blowup soldier for the War Memorial, and a twenty-two-foot Snowman for the East end of Town.

Jr./Sr. Dance-Mrs. Hopple reported that the Women of Today would be sponsoring a dance in the Town Park on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The Cancer Fundraiser Event made \$1,000 for the student.

### **MR. MILLER**

Fire Company-Mr. Miller reported that Ryan Zerbe was coming to talk to Council about the hand pumper that is owned by the Borough. The Reading Fire Museum is interested in taking the old fire pumper to display in the museum. Council agrees to loan the equipment to the Reading Fire Museum, but Mr. Miller to get more information from Ryan Zerbe. Solicitor Muir suggested getting a form from the museum that explains what their plans are.

### **MR. MOYER**

Planning Commission-Mr. Moyer reported that the Planning Commission will be meeting on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. The Secretary to notify the members in advance about the meeting.

### **MR. EDWARDS**

Cohen Law Group-Mr. Edwards reported that a Public Meeting will be held at our regularly scheduled Council Meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00PM. A Public Notice will be advertised in the Reading Eagle.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Healthcare Insurance-Mickey reported that we have a police officer request to change his healthcare coverage to Employee & Spouse, instead of Employee & Family. Our Plan Document offers coverage for Employee or Employee & Family. (Employee pays for the cost of their family, Borough pays for the employee’s coverage.) With Council’s permission, Mickey will contact Benecon about adding Employee & Spouse coverage to the Plan Document, if available. Council gave permission for Mickey to check into adding this coverage to our plan.

With no further business brought before Council; **Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Ms. Keller to adjourn the Meeting. This Meeting adjourned at 9:37PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mickey Balistrieri, Secretary