

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 101 W. High Street on
January 4, 2021

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

PRESENT

Council Members: Jim Mellon, Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, Dave Moyer, and Bruce Edwards; Mayor-Jen Gettle, Solicitor-Andy George, Esq., Engineer-Shawn Schwartz, Police Chief-John Pontician and Secretary-Mickey Balistrieri

ABSENT

Council Member-Josh Fidler

GUESTS

Carl Liptak-Maintenance Manager

MINUTES

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

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Moyer to accept the December 15, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Moyer to accept the list of bills to be paid, changing the amount of bill #15 to Suburban Testing Labs to \$294.00 instead of \$194.00; for a total amount of \$38,635.70. Motion carried unanimously.

BILL TO BE RATIFIED

Motion by Mr. Mellon, second by Mr. Miller to ratified the payment to UGI in the amount of \$285.03, which was due December 30th. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS-None received.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD-None attending

EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/COMMISSIONS

Carl Liptak-Maintenance Manager: Mr. Liptak reported that he emailed Council an updated list of work projects. The Christmas trees and blow-up decorations have been taken down. Council

gave the okay to take down the metered light decorations. The International will ready soon, it still doesn't have the plow.

OLD BUSINESS

In Person Credit Card Payments-The Secretary reported that the swipers came in the mail. The Merchant program will be added to the software this month and then we will be able to accept in-person only credit card payments.

Phone Service-No change

Board and Commission Appointments: **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Ms. Keller to re-appoint the following:

- Library Board: 3-year term expiring January 1, 2024
Carolyn Bauerle, Diane Schwab-Sullivan, and Sara Sechrist
- Planning Commission: 4-year term expiring January 1, 2025
Shaun Gettle
- Sewer Authority: 5-year term expiring January 1, 2026
Paul Hopple
- Water Authority: 5-year term expiring January 1, 2026
Rod Lebo and Albert J. Morris, Jr.
- Zoning Hearing Board: 3-year term expiring January 1, 2024
Peter Chamberlain, Jr.
- Wester Berks Joint Planning Commission: 1-year term expiring January 1, 2022
Connie Keller, Josh Fidler, and Bruce Edwards (alt)
- Recreation Board: 5-year term expiring January 1, 2026
Tiffany Covell

All were in favor of the re-appointments. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR

Handicap Parking Space-Discussion that the handicap parking space on N. Front Street, next to the Borough Building, would be limited to Borough Business usage during the regular business hours Monday through Friday 8:00am-4:00pm with a fifteen minute time limit. This will provide a handicap parking space for customers while doing business at the Borough Hall.

Joint Zoning Ordinance-Solicitor George discussed the proposed changes that North Heidelberg, Robesonia, and Heidelberg are requesting. Council agrees with N. Heidelberg, and is not in favor of the changes proposed by Heidelberg Township regarding junk vehicles. The Secretary to send a letter worded the same as North Heidelberg's that Womelsdorf wants to keep it as is; and does not want to be included in the changes that Heidelberg is requesting. Marion Township will be joining in the Joint Zoning Ordinance, and will need some wording changes, and they will be added to the map.

ENGINEER

Traffic light Rt. 419/Rt. 422-Engineer Schwartz reported that the light head has not come in yet. Mr. Edwards reported that the estimate from Telco to install a battery back-up unit is \$6,675.00. We will use the generator instead.

Lot 4-Development Plan-Solicitor George is waiting for the Developers Improvement Agreement, Letter of Credit and Stormwater Management Agreement. Mr. Moyer reported that

he accepted a position with another company, and will be abstaining from voting or signing anything for the project on lot 4.

Pool Filter System-The documents went out for bidding on the 14th of December, the bids are due back by 11:00am on the 18th of January. The bids can be opened and read at the Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 19th. Discussion on providing access to the site for contractors. The engineer can contact Mr. Liptak for access.

Discussion on engineering expenses, that are incurred for services due to a development plan.

MAYOR

Chief Pontician

- Handicap Parking Complaint-Chief Pontician reported that it will be addressed according to the law and with discretion.
- New police truck-The new truck is in the Borough garage, it needs radio maintenance and decisions to be made about storing essential equipment in the bed.
- Part time police officer applications-Chief Pontician reported that he is going through the applications as he has time. He has a list of three or four; he would like to get together with the Police Committee to have the qualified applicants interviewed.
- Abandoned vehicles-The police officers have been aggressively checking out backyards for storage of abandoned vehicles. Kraft Code Services is involved with the violations for the abandoned vehicles.

Mayor Gettle reported that the Police Department did a great job in getting vehicles moved from the snow emergency routes. Vehicles that were not moved, were ticketed and then had to be towed.

Ms. Keller discussed a large trailer, dump truck, bucket truck etc. parking along the road in front of her home. This makes it difficult for two-way traffic. Marion Township does not have a truck parking ordinance. Chief Pontician will check the Motor Vehicle Code.

Mr. Miller asked Chief Pontician how the police handbook is coming along; it is in the works. Solicitor George reported that the Borough got an inquiry about an old sub division plan from 1986 for property next to Ms. Keller's neighborhood. Mr. Roy Zartman would like to take a look at this plan, and will probably be contacting the Borough.

MR. FIDLER-Absent

MR. MELLON

Discussion on the driveway that Mr. Horst agreed to have paved, that comes out along Bunkerhill Road, for the waiving the review rights for his construction project to Heidelberg Township. Mr. Mellon reported that the driveway has not been paved yet.

Sewer Authority-Mr. Mellon reported that the Borough used the sewer truck for snow plowing. The Sewer Authority is hoping that if the truck would break down, the Borough would share ½ of the costs.

Mr. Moyer discussed the work he is doing with the curb and sidewalk database. Mr. Moyer and Mr. Mellon will discuss this more at a later date.

MS. KELLER-No report at this time.

MRS. HOPPLE

Pool Pavilion-Mrs. Hopple reported that they are ready to go with the pavilion.

Parking-Mrs. Hopple discussed extending the time for parking in front of the Borough Hall on week days from 8:00am-4:00pm to 8:00am-9:00pm. This would allow parking for attendance at the multiple meetings that are held at the Borough Hall each month. The Secretary to look at the Ordinance that would need to be amended. Mrs. Hopple had concerns with the amount on cars that are now parking on the square. The maintenance department was asked to re-paint the lines. Cars are not to block the cross walk, or stick out making it dangerous for vehicles turn on to Front Street.

MR. MILLER

Pool-Mr. Miller would like a master key for the pool. He has an appointment with the YMCA at the pool on January 14th at 11:00am. Mr. Liptak is having a couple of master keys made. Mickey reported that she received three sets of the five individual keys, from Mr. Liptak. Discussion on the occupancy of the pool.

MR. MOYER

Mr. Moyer had a personal request asking for prayers for his Mom who is very ill, on hospice, and has COVID.

MR. EDWARDS

Budget-Mr. Edwards reviewed the 2020 budget; COVID did not have a negative effect on the tax income as we thought it might. LST tax is better this year, which means people are working here in the Borough. Mr. Edwards suggested looking at the roads to see which ones need attention to extend their wear.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution: A designation of Agent Resolution is needed for PEMA to give authorization to Mickey to execute for and in behalf of the Borough. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to name Michele L. Balistrieri as the Agent authorized to execute for and in behalf of Womelsdorf Borough, Berks County. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Edwards reported that Fulton Bank can only authorize "On Line Banking" to someone who is an authorized signer on the bank accounts. Neither Mickey nor Nan are check signers on the accounts, so we can't have online banking access at the Borough office.

With no further business before Council; **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Ms. Keller to adjourn the meeting. This Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Balistrieri
Secretary