

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 101 W. High Street on August 1st, 2023

Council President Bruce A. Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees: Council Members: David Craft, Council President Bruce Edwards, Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, James Mellon Sr., Hector Feliciano, Borough Manager- Michael Williams, Secretary - Melissa Mellon, Maintenance Manager- Carl Liptak, Police Chief- John Pontician, Solicitor- Colin MacFarlane, Engineer- Spencer Ericke
Absent: Mayor Jennifer Gettle, Shannon Windley

Minutes: **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Mellon to approve the July 3rd, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried. **Motion** by Mr. Craft, seconded by Mrs. Keller to approve the July 18th, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Bills to be Paid: The following late additions to the Bills to be Paid were reviewed and added: a total of \$8100.00 for the cleanup of properties at 217 W High St and 104 S Second St Cleanup and a total of \$1435.00 for the Womelsdorf Baseball and Soccer Field Mowing for June and July. **Motion** by Mr. Feliciano, seconded by Mr. Craft to approve the list of bills to be paid with the additions above in the total amount of \$137,318.07. Motion carried. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Feliciano to ratify the bills in the total amount of \$300. Motion carried.

Payroll: **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Mellon to pay the current payroll. Motion carried. **Motion** by Mr. Mellon, seconded by Mr. Feliciano to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried.

Citizens to be heard: Mrs. Eileen Zerbe in attendance had no concerns.

Old Business – Request received from Rehrersburg for the Womelsdorf Fire police to assist at their Car Show on Saturday Sept 9th. **Motion** by Mr. Feliciano, seconded by Mr. Craft for Womelsdorf fire police to assist as requested if the request is approved by the Womelsdorf Fire Police Chief. LAF Renewables provided a quote for a 10x20 shed with two windows and T-111 siding delivered and set on a level pad and remove the old shed for a total of \$4120. **Motion** by Mr. Mellon, seconded by Mr. Craft to amend the agenda to include action on replacement of the shed next to the maintenance garage due to unsafe conditions of the current shed. Council members and maintenance discussed the storage needs including the size of the shed required and the possibility of utilizing a fireproof cabinet for gasoline storage. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Mellon to purchase the shed as described in the quote from LAF Renewables in the amount of \$4120. Motion carried. Maintenance will prep the new site for the shed. The ordinance to change S. Mill Rd from Franklin to 3rd to a one-way street headed north was properly advertised. **Motion** by Mr. Feliciano, seconded by Mr. Mellon to enact the ordinance as advertised. Motion carried.

Public Works – The quote for the diving board replacement remains the same as that which was previously approved.

Borough Manager – Maintenance completed repairs of Mulberry Alley guiderail. Letters were sent to neighboring municipalities to request assistance for Fire Police Assistance for the Ride for Freedom Event on Aug 27th. A meeting was held with the Engineer's office regarding the upcoming MS4 inspection. Notification was made to Kraft and MSBK of the approved increase in zoning hearing fees to \$1100. Letters will be sent this week to residents directly affected by the change in Mill St. to a one-way road. Advertisement of the meeting date change from Sept 19th to the 20th for CELG event was sent and will run 8/2/23. Maintenance reports the mulch at the two Borough parks is significantly below recommended levels for a playground. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Craft to amend the agenda to include a vote on the mulch for the town parks for safety concerns. Restoring the mulch to 12" with the certified playground mulch at both parks was priced out by maintenance at a cost of \$1740 in mulch for Mill Springs and \$4000 for Town Park as well as a \$525 fee to rent a front loader for the week of the project. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Mellon to approve the purchase of the certified mulch as well as the rental of the skid loader for a total of \$6285. Motion carried.

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Solicitor- Maximum credit card convenience fee is 4%. Discussion was held on how to pass the appropriate charge along to the consumer. Employee handbook is still being finalized. Mr. Williams will follow up with surrounding Boroughs regarding their PTO policies regarding sick versus PTO standards. Discussion was held regarding the property at the east end of town that is pending development. Mr. George will reach out to the property owner's lawyer to request maintenance of the property.

Engineer – MS4 inspection is scheduled August 14th, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ericke and Mr. Liptak met to discuss this upcoming inspection. Recommend an MS4 waiver application be submitted along with a \$2500 check to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the submission fee. The waiver would be good for 5 years and the fee would be refunded if the waiver is denied. **Motion** by Mr. Mellon, seconded by Mr. Feliciano to approve the submission of the waiver with the \$2500 application fee. Motion carried. Mulberry Alley bridge deck bidding is live and will be ready for September Council meeting. 300 Mill Rd sidewalk will be completed next week. War Memorial bid package should be out this month. Mr. Edwards noted that the Engineer's Report had an incorrect total for the 2023 Roads Program, which Mr. Ericke will amend, the correct total was accepted by the contractor. Ballpark Plaza plans were reviewed and is pending resubmission. Sidewalk letters were sent to property owners. Letter to request desilting the swale at the Pretzel Factory property is in process. Quotes for sidewalk work at various Borough properties should be available for the September Council meeting. Mrs. Keller asked about a cracked sidewalk near Mill Spring Park. Maintenance will follow up with the property owner.

Mr. Mellon – 300 Mill Rd ADA ramp will need to be repoured due to errors in the initial construction. The County pays in advance for the ramp & sidewalk; however, the homeowner is required to reimburse the County a pro-rated percentage of the costs when they move from the property. The homeowner has requested the Council consider covering this fee, should it become applicable, for the ADA ramp costs, as all other ADA ramps in the Borough were paid for by the Borough years ago. **Motion** by Mr. Mellon, seconded by Mr. Feliciano to enter into an agreement to reimburse the current homeowner of record for any remaining pro-rated balance of the cost of the ADA ramp, at the time of sale to the next owner, to a maximum of \$1200. Motion carried. Mr. Williams will follow up with the homeowner. Road projects pre-construction meeting is scheduled for 8/2 and the aim will be to complete any projects around the school prior to opening day. Notification will be made to residents.

Mrs. Keller- Library raised \$5000 with the Fire & Ice Festival. The Womelsdorf Librarian finishes in her position at the end of this week. Council expressed gratitude for her excellent service. The library has new email addresses which Mrs. Keller will provide to Mr. Williams. Storytime starts August 11th.

Mr. Craft –Mr. Ryan Zerbe applied for a \$2500 grant for the repair of the deteriorating wheels on the antique Fire Truck Pumper which is on loan in the Reading Fire Museum. Whitmer Coach is going to assess and give a quote for the repair. Discussion was held on the expected costs for baby pool and splash pad.

Mr. Feliciano – Splash party was last Friday and this Friday. Luau next Saturday. Discussion was held on the pool filter repairs or upgrades. Mr. George was not in agreement with Engineer's assessment that this would not need to be put out to bid. This project would either need to be put out to bid or a COSTARS authorized contractor would need to be utilized. Mr. Liptak will follow up with a COSTARS approved vendor who has previously expressed interest in the project.

Mrs. Hoppie – Requested Maintenance re-hang the fallen Hometown Heros Banners. Mr. Liptak mentioned that the bucket truck recently passed inspection so they will work on the banners ASAP. Cat ordinance was discussed, Robesonia has a system for reimbursing residents for performing TNR however only one resident has ever taken advantage of the reimbursements. Borough Hall will be closed Aug 17-18th.

Chief Pontician- Reviewed monthly report. Currently the Borough has coverage most days of the week from the morning to midnight and overnight until 3-4 am several times per week.

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Mr. Edwards – Discussed repairing curbs through town before 419 is repaved in 2024 or 2025. Mrs. Hopple mentioned the rehabilitation grant for this purpose. Mr. Williams to follow up with Mr. McCarthy regarding these grants. COG met last week and the contract was extended. COG will be meeting in January to begin working on the new contract due to expected increases and difficulty obtaining a contract.

New Business- A bid was received to have LAF Renewables mow the median triangles at 422 and 419 for \$45 per cut, to be discussed at next meeting.

Motion by Mr. Feliciano, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to recess for an Executive Session with additional action to be taken after the executive session. Motion carried. Meeting recessed at 8:52pm. Council returned from Executive Session at 9:32pm.

A parks and recreation training will be held to train licensed swimming pool operators. **Motion** by Mr. Mellon, seconded by Mr. Craft to send Mr. Paul Hopple to attend this training with the intent for him to take the certification test to become a licensed swimming pool operator. Mrs. Hopple abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

The following statement was read into record by Solicitor George regarding the employment of Mrs. Rachel Brown: Rachel was invited to come back to work in her position as Borough Secretary on July 28th, 2023 at 8:00am after all of her leave had expired. However, Rachel did not come back to work and chose to not come back to work and therefore the job was abandoned and Rachel is no longer an employee of the Borough and was no longer considered an employee of the Borough effective July 28, 2023.

Mrs. Hopple and Mr. Edwards will attend Rec Board meeting tomorrow evening in Mrs. Windley's stead to address some concerns at that meeting.

Motion by Mrs. Keller, seconded by Mr. Craft to adjourn the meeting at 9:37pm. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa (Lisa) Mellon, Secretary