

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 101 W. High Street on September 5th, 2023

Council President Bruce A. Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendees: Council Members: David Craft, Council President Bruce Edwards, Cindy Hopple, James Mellon Sr. (arrived at 7:24pm), Hector Feliciano (arrived at 7:30pm), Shannon Windley, Mayor Jennifer Gettle (arrived at 7:21pm), Borough Manager- Michael Williams, Secretary - Melissa Mellon, Maintenance Manager- Carl Liptak, Police Chief- John Pontician, Solicitor- Andrew George, Engineer- Spencer Ericke

Absent: Connie Keller

Minutes: **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Craft to approve the August 1st, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried. **Motion** by Mrs. Windley, seconded by Mr. Craft to approve the August 15th, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Bills to be Paid: **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mrs. Windley to approve the list of bills to be paid in the total amount of \$88,052.07. Motion carried. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Craft to ratify the bills in the total amount of \$300. Motion carried.

Payroll: **Motion** by Mr. Craft, seconded by Mrs. Windley to pay the current payroll. Motion carried. **Motion** by Mrs. Windley, seconded by Mr. Craft to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried.

Communications: Request received for the Womelsdorf Fire Police to assist at the Paws of Thunder Ride on Sept 16th. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mrs. Windley to assist as requested. Flyer regarding the upcoming PSAB leadership Conference from October 13-15th was provided to Council members for their review. Request received for financial support of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority for their upcoming hazardous waste and shredding events. **Motion** by Mrs. Windley, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to provide a \$500 sponsorship. Motion carried.

Citizens to be heard: Mrs. Eileen Zerbe commented that the weeds and grass along the curbs continues to be an issue despite the notice sent to residents in the recent newsletter.

Public Works – Mainline Pools is no longer a Costars vendor therefore a bid package for pool filter repair/replacement would be required. Engineer's office will search old files for bid packages from years past. Mr. Williams will contact PSAB and Mr. Paul Janssen to determine if there are other current Costars vendors in the area. Mr. Liptak questioned if the pool should be emptied this fall. Council members determined further information including a timeline on sandblasting and painting is necessary for a final decision. Crosswalk painting is underway and yellow curb painting is upcoming. Mr. Liptak also mentioned the need for pool stream wall repairs. Mrs. Hopple requested the parking lot at the pool resealed and repainted this fall. Mr. Mellon will follow up on this.

Borough Manager – Mr. Williams had nothing to report.

Solicitor- Liens were filed against abandoned properties this month for yard cleanup. Additional upkeep costs can be collected at the end of the season and added to the liens. The agreement with the owner of the 300 Mill Rd regarding reimbursement for the ADA ramp was prepared and mirrors the agreement the owner has with the County; reimbursement will not exceed \$1200. The employee handbook updates are prepared and will be reviewed by the Personnel Committee before it is brought to the Council.

Engineer – CMS will be out to check on a few concerns regarding the roadwork recently completed in the Borough. MS4 waiver request was submitted and is under review. The MS4 annual report needs to be submitted by Sept 30th once signed and approved by Council. **Motion** by Mr. Mellon, seconded by Mr. Feliciano for Mr. Williams to sign the annual report and Mr. Ericke to submit the report. Motion carried. Mulberry bridge deck bids and Engineer's recommendations to award the bid to DESCCO Design and Construction, Inc. were reviewed by the Council. Discussion was held regarding

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having maintenance place the required “One Lane Bridge” sign. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Feliciano to award the bid to DESCCO without the “one lane bridge” sign (item 11 on the bid tabulation) for a total of \$101,295.60. Motion carried. Sidewalk extension letters were sent to local businesses. Mr. Larry Grybosky, a representative from C2C design group, gave a presentation on the proposed E. High St. subdivision of 16 single family lots. DEP has approved the stormwater management system, but highway occupancy permits are outstanding. They anticipate and request that the street would be dedicated to the Borough, and water and sewer would be dedicated to the water and sewer authorities. HOA would manage the stormwater management system. The HOA would be bound legally by an agreement to maintain the swales and other stormwater systems going forward. The current access easement to the properties behind the subdivision would remain unchanged. After full review of the current plans, the Engineer’s office and the planning commission recommended to give preliminary approval to move into final planning phases conditional upon addressing Penn DOT letters, final phase items, furnishing agreements and escrows as required. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Mellon to give conditional preliminary approval for the subdivision to move into final planning phases. Several waivers are also requested for the plans as currently laid out which were reviewed by the Engineer and planning commission and recommended for approval. The full list of waivers is as follows:

1. Intersections with major streets shall be located not less than 1000 feet apart. (Section 11.42(h)(5))
2. Minimum Lot width to depth ratio of 1 to 1. Allow lot 2 a 0.7 to 1 width to depth ratio. (Section 11.44(a)(3))
3. Concrete monuments shall be set at all corners of the original tract being subdivided. (Section 11.52(i)(1))
4. 2-year Post to 1-year Pre-Development. (Section 302)
5. Bypass Swale A has a slope of less than 1%. Spot elevations show swale at approx. .5%. (Section 304.2.N.1.a.ii)
6. Minimum depth from the bottom of bio-basin should be 48” from bedrock or any seasonally-high water table, since BMP is to received runoff from roads, grass, and roof drains. Allowing 24” depth. (Section 307.B.1.d)
7. Water Quality requirements (Section 308)
8. Streambank Erosion requirements (Section 309)

Motion by Mr. Feliciano, seconded by Mr. Mellon to approve the requested waivers as listed. Motion carried.

Mrs. Windley – Town wide yard sale is Sept 16th. The next Rec Board meeting is tomorrow. Beth sold candy at the pool and raised \$50 for the Rec Board through the sale.

Mr. Mellon – Discussed placing warning signs across the Borough line in Heidelberg Township to notify drivers of the upcoming school zone and reduced speed ahead. Mr. Williams will craft a letter to make this request of Heidelberg.

Mr. Craft – The fire company is considering rebuilding or modifying the engine house. They are planning to change to a new grant writer. Antique pumper repair costs and grants are still in process.

Mr. Feliciano – Dog swim is tomorrow. The Labor day party at the pool went well.

Mrs. Hopple – Hiring for the Borough Secretary is ongoing. The Labor Day pool party had approximately 300-400 attendees. One of the local communities asked why their leaves are not collected. Per maintenance and Mr. Edwards, as the streets are not dedicated to the Borough, leaves are the responsibility of the HOA and residents there. Stream wall repairs are still pending a bid. Discussion was held regarding recognition of citizens who serve in the Borough. Suggestion was made for a “Citizen Spotlight” to be posted on the website.

Mayor Gettle/Chief Pontician- Monthly police report was reviewed. Discussion was held regarding the ongoing need for new park cameras. A new crossing guard application was received and is in process.

Mr. Edwards – The price increase for the waste contract is still being calculated. Mr. Liptak requested additional 10 recycling bins from Waste Management.

New Business- A resident requested an extended solicitation permit. Council noted other individuals in the past were told extended permits were not available. Therefore, the individual will be informed to apply for a day by day permit specific to the dates the solicitation would occur.

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Motion by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Feliciano to adjourn the meeting at 9:05pm. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa (Lisa) Mellon, Secretary