**WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held at 101 W. High Street on**

**December 3, 2019**

Council President Bruce Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENT**

Council Members: Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, David Moyer, Bruce Edwards, Josh Fidler (7:13 P.M.) and Carl Liptak (7:47 P.M.), Solicitor – Andrew George, Esq., Engineer – Jim McCarthy, Acting Secretary – Nan Feeg, and Mayor Jennifer Gettle (7:48 P.M.).

**ABSENT**

Police Chief John Pontician.

**GUESTS**

Residents: D.P. Randler and James Mellon, Sr., and Geneva Aulenbach – Reading Eagle

**MINUTES**

**Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Moyer to accept the November 6, 2019, Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** moved by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mr. Moyer to accept the November 19, 2019, Council Workshop Meeting Minutes with one correction: Mr. Miller met with the “Y” at the YMCA, not at the pool. Motion carried unanimously.

**BILLS TO BE PAID**

Discussion regarding Bill #12 to Schlegel Electrical. Mr. Edwards pointed out that two of the Christmas lights are not working due to the outlets needing to be replaced. He noted all of the outlets will need to be replaced before next year. Discussion followed regarding Penn Hill Park. **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to approve the list of bills to be paid as presented in the amount of $33,806.28. Motion carried unanimously.

**BILL TO BE RATIFIED**

**Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the one bill to be ratified in the amount of $75.00 for petty cash for the Borough’s Christmas Tree purchased from Penn Ridge Nursery. Motion carried unanimously.

**PAYROLL**

**Motion** moved by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to pay this week’s payroll. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Moyer to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A list of Communications was given to Council Members, with action requested.

* #1 ARRO/John F. Martin & Sons Request – **Motion** moved by Mr. Moyer, seconded by Ms. Keller to accept the request by ARRO for Martin & Sons to grant a 90-day extension until March 17, 2020 to act on the plan. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously.
* # 2 Berks Nature Donation Request – Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Fidler to donate $25.00 to Berks Nature. Motion carried unanimously.
* #3 TruGreen – Discussion followed. Council instructed the Secretary, Mrs. Balistrieri, to contact them regarding the discount amount and questioned if it is coming out of the Rec. Board Account. Council agreed to table this.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Dave Randler – Mr. Randler reminded Borough Council the Joint Planning Commission will be reorganizing the third Thursday in January at 7 PM so Council will need to fill their positions on the Joint Planning Commission. Mr. Randler informed Council Marion Township will be joining and he will let the Borough know where the meeting will be held since he is not sure if it is Heidelberg or Robesonia’s turn to have the meetings this year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Keller to amend the motion that was made for the hiring of Gordon Effrig for part-time maintenance from up to 14 hours per week to up to 30 hours per week. Motion carried unanimously.

**EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS**

Maintenance – Mr. Edwards informed Council he has spoken with Billy Covell and he is welding the dump truck bed to the frame on the 550. We are still waiting for the grant to replace/buy equipment. Mr. Edward also noted two of the outlets need to be replaced on the Christmas lights that are not working and the others will need to be replaced before next year and they will be collecting leaves until December 13. It was noted we did not get any equipment from Wyomissing to use for leaf pick-up.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Tax, Special Tax and Refuse Ordinances – Solicitor George informed Council there is a change and unless there is a change in the taxes, they can now be passed by Resolution rather than Ordinance and Mr. Edwards verified with Solicitor George it was included in the new Trash Ordinance the refuse charges could be done by Resolution, even if there is a change and Solicitor George agreed. It was agreed to do the Resolutions at the next Workshop Meeting.

Council Meeting Dates – Due to the situation with the Secretary, Council agreed to move the Council Meeting dates to the first Monday of the month except for September and December when they will meet the first Tuesday and Workshop Meetings will continue to be held on the third Tuesday. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the dates of Council meetings as presented and agreed upon. Motion carried unanimously.

Boards and Commissions – Mr. Edwards requested Council people contact the various Board and Commission members whose terms expire the end of this year.

**SOLICITOR**

Police Employee Handbook – Solicitor George informed Borough Council it is with the Chief and Police Committee for review.

Trash Liens – Solicitor George announced to Council the Borough has received payments to cover ten liens for nonpayment of trash bills, (five each on two properties) and the liens have been satisfied.

**ENGINEER**

4th Street Emergency Repair – Mr. McCarthy informed Council the repairs are almost done; the pole has not been moved yet by PPL and the paving that can be paved will be done in the next week. Mr. Edwards explained everything that can be paved will be paved, but some of the paving may have to wait until spring if the plant closes before it’s done. Mr. Edwards updated Council on the work that has been done. Both Mr. Edwards and Mr. McCarthy commended the work that has been done so far. It was noted PPL is not charging the Borough to move the pole.

419 & SR422 Traffic Signal Plans – Mr. McCarthy questioned if we have received a response to the letter to J.F. Martin, which the Borough has not received, so it will be followed up with an email.

Linden Alley/Jefferson Street Water Drainage – Mr. McCarthy informed Council we will submit the Linden Alley project for the grant, the deadline for review is April and the grants will be awarded in May. The BMP will be put in the Park so it qualifies for the grant according to Mr. McCarthy. Discussion followed including dogs in the park and signage in the park as well as skateboarding in the Borough.

**MAYOR –** Nothing to report.

**MR. FIDLER**

Police Committee – Mr. Fidler informed Borough Council he and Mr. Edwards met with the Chief and the concern is being addressed. Mr. Fidler listed the part-time officers currently on the Borough payroll. Ideas moving forward were discussed and it was noted the new Police Secretary is working out quite well. Mr. Fidler informed Council he talked with the Chief and part-time Officers Steve DeVore and Jeff Futchko are willing to go to full-time, both agreeing to starting at the end of December and the starting salary. Discussion followed. Further discussion regarding police wages and retaining officers. Mr. Edwards noted the Police Secretary is helping to reach out to other departments regarding starting salaries. It was suggested in order to try to keep officers after their probationary period to offer bonuses and incentives. Discussion followed. Council agreed to an Executive Session.

Snow Parking Signs – Mr. Edwards reminded Council the signs must go back up.

Rec. Board – Mr. Fidler had nothing to report, since Rec. Board did not meet again in November.

LED Sign – Mr. Edwards questioned Mr. Fidler about the LED sign, so Mr. Fidler will talk to the Rec. Board. It was suggested contacting places that already have them. Discussion followed regarding the size.

**MR. LIPTAK** - Nothing to report.

**MS. KELLER –** Nothing to report.

**MRS. HOPPLE**

Personnel Committee – Mrs. Hopple informed Council the new guy is working out very well.

Christmas Social – Mrs. Hopple went over the responses and reminded Ms. Keller she is in charge of the food, Mayor Gettle is to get the desserts and she will get the drinks, paper products, etc.

Part-time Snow Plowers – Mr. Edwards verified with Mrs. Hopple that we are okay with part-time snow plowers.

Lights in the Park – Mrs. Hopple informed Council she put out lights on some of the bushes in the Town Park, but more outlets are needed to the other beds.

New Year’s Eve – Mrs. Hopple requested North Front Street be blocked off and no parking from 6 PM – 2 AM on North Front Street all the way up to the cemetery as well as in front of the Borough Hall. She announced this will be the last year for the fireworks and cigar drop.

Pool Pavilion – Mrs. Hopple informed Council she has a group that has money to build a pavilion with electric on the pool property about the size of the pavilion that is in the Town Park now and has people who have volunteered to help, but needs permission to move forward. Location was discussed. Mr. McCarthy reminded Council a permit must be gotten. Mrs. Hopple would like to have the pavilion up by spring. **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Fidler to grant permission for Mrs. Hopple to move forward with building a pavilion on the pool property. Motion carried unanimously.

Employee Gift Cards – Mrs. Hopple requested $1,055.00 to be used to purchase gift cards for Borough employees, which is less than last year. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Liptak to buy gift cards for employees for $1,055.00 from Boyer’s. Mrs. Hopple explained this includes full-time employees, part-time employees, janitor, part-time maintenance, crossing guards and police. Motion carried unanimously.

**MR. MILLER**

Fire Company- Mr. Miller reminded Council of upcoming events by the Fire Company: 12/22 – Santa on the Fire Truck, 1/7 – Fire Extinguisher Training at the Middle School, and 1/22 – Suicide Prevention Class at Zion Lutheran from 6-9 pm. He also noted the Fire Company will be meeting on 12/30 instead of 12/31. Mr. Miller stated it was brought up at the Fire Company meeting and questioned about keeping poisonous snakes in the Borough. Discussion followed.

Pool – Mr. Miller informed Council he and Mrs. Hopple met on November 21 with Kim and Alyssa at the YMCA where they expressed to them how well the pool was run, how clean it was and all the complements they have received. Mr. Miller also thanked them for washing the curtains to the bathrooms, which they did not have to do and have been returned to the Borough Hall. Mr. Miller mentioned to them they might want to do more splash parties and activities next year. The “Y” also had ideas such as possibly holding a triathlon and had suggestions including the deposit money as well as closing earlier on weekends and weekdays due to lack of people there. Mr. Miller informed Council he also met with F & M Painting on November 21 and according to them all the paint does not have to be removed. The paint must dry 3-7 days before the pool is filled. He reviewed with Council their suggestions and stated their quote is in the works. Mr. Miller also informed Council he, Mr. Moyer and Mr. Edwards met with Jim from James P. Sankey and Associates, who gave his ideas and he also agreed all the paint does not need to be removed. Jim noted the pool is in good shape and asked for the pool measurements, which Mr. Moyer provided, so he could provide a quote, including the baby pool which also has a crack. Mr. Miller stated we also have a quote just for sandblasting the pool and Mr. Edwards reminded Council we have another quote from Goldman where he was doing the pressure washing with the chemical. Discussion followed. Mr. Moyer will keep looking for drawings for the pool, so it was suggested he check with Doug Hoover.

**MR. MOYER**

Planning Commission – Mr. Moyer informed Council he has nothing to report on the Planning Commission.

Borough Map – Mr. Moyer noted he is still looking for an accurate Borough Street Map. Mr. McCarthy stated he can do this. Discussion followed.

Sidewalks – Mr. Moyer questioned since, even after reviewing the ordinances, he is unsure of the criteria regarding curbs and sidewalks, if Council sees issues with sidewalks, if they could not be referred to the Code Enforcement Officer. Discussion followed and Mr. McCarthy stated that if it’s 5/8th or under it’s okay. Council did not like the idea of sidewalk issues being referred to the Code Enforcement Officer due to the costs involved.

Martin Property – Discussion followed regarding the proposed plans and vacating an alley.

**MR. EDWARDS**

Sewer Authority – Mr. Edwards reported the Sewer Authority has a 5-year plan to video the sewers for infiltration leaks and is in the process of videoing 1/5 of them for leaks. They have applied for grant to cover the repairs. He also reported things are going well with their new employee John Kesselring. The Sewer Authority will be coordinating with the Borough for repairs that will affect our streets.

COG – Mr. Edwards informed Council there was no trash pick-up today and no contact from County Waste as to why it was not picked up. He noted with the new contract with the new hauler, the Borough’s trash will be picked up on Mondays, and recycling will be picked up on Fridays, unless there is a holiday or bad weather event, then it will be picked up a day later following the holiday or bad weather event. Mr. Edwards noted the new recycle cans, which are grey with a yellow lid, are for recycling only and if they are used for trash the trash will not be picked up and you can be fined. Glass is not accepted for recycling and Advanced Disposal is coming out with a flyer to be included with the letter explaining the recycling, according to Mr. Edwards. Mr. Edwards informed Council they had a very productive meeting with the new hauler and they are local, so weather should not be as much of an issue with them. Mr. Edwards stated we never supplied trash cans, only recycle cans and the current recycle cans will be picked up on Friday, December 27.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

With no further business for Mr. McCarthy he was excused at 9:03 p.m. Council went into Executive Session at 9:03 PM for personnel reasons and returned at 9:32 PM. **Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to hire Jeff Futchko starting as soon as possible at our typical starting rate. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to be brought before Council, **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Fidler to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nan Feeg/Acting Secretary