

**WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held at 101 W. High Street on**  
**JUNE 5, 2018**

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

**PRESENT**

Council Members: Josh Fidler, Carl Liptak, Connie Keller (7:10), Cindy Hopple, Bruce Edwards and Jr. Council Member-Jennica Pearson; Mayor-Jen Gettle, Solicitor-Andrew George, Engineer-James McCarthy, Police Chief-John Pontician, and Secretary-Mickey Balistrieri.

**ABSENT**

Council Members: Wayne Miller and Lori Fitterling

**GUESTS**

Mike Feigum, Dave Randler, Fire Chief Bob Martin, Christine Delp and Jody Hoover.

**Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mr. Fidler to accept the May 1, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Liptak to accept the April 17, 2018 Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mr. Fidler to accept the May 16, 2018 Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Liptak to accept the list of bills to be paid totaling \$65,047.88. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mr. Fidler, second by Mrs. Hopple to accept the one bill to be ratified; UGI Utilities for \$126.37. Motion carried

**Motion** by Mr. Fidler, second by Mr. Liptak to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A list of communications was presented to Council, with the following action taken: **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mrs. Hopple to authorize the Womelsdorf Fire Police to Assist Pioneer Hose Co. and Robesonia Borough on June 23<sup>rd</sup> for their Fireworks and Street Fair; if their schedule permits. Motion carried.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

**Fireworks**-Mrs. Jody Hoover had concerns with the loud noise disturbances from fireworks being set off by residents on Memorial weekend. Not only concerns for her family; but pets, and individuals suffering from PTSD, anxiety, autism, asthma, and possible fire hazards. Council will look into ordinances that other municipalities are adopting since the State of

Pennsylvania has legalized the purchase of fireworks. Municipalities can regulate the usage of fireworks in their municipality. Chief Pontician reported that he received some citizen's complaints after Memorial weekend. Chief Pontician has been looking into this issue and what the police department along with the Fire Marshal can do. Mrs. Hoover and Mrs. Delp were encouraged to contact Chief Pontician in the future. Mr. Mike Feigum would like the fireworks to be allowed until 9:00 or 10:00pm. Discussion on the amount of yardage needed for setting off fireworks near an occupied structure.

Barking dog-Mrs. Delp questioned what can be done about a dog that barks for hours. We have an ordinance that can be enforced, the Police Dept. should be called.

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

Recreation Board-Chairman Mike Feigum reported that the Rec Board did not give permission to the baseball teams to mow or do anything to the grass at the ball field. Mr. Feigum said that Jason had asked him about this. Mrs. Hopple reported that Mrs. Fitterling had contacted Jason in regard to C W Baseball spraying the weeds at the ball field; Jason needed to know what they would be doing and what chemical would be used because everything must be documented. Jason received the information and made documentation as required. The ballfield was mowed without anyone's permission and was cut too short.

## **SOLICITOR**

Litigation: An Executive Session will be held later this evening.  
Solicitor George had nothing further to report.

## **ENGINEER**

James McCarthy reported that he has been assigned to our Borough, replacing Chuck Hess.  
Water Street Paving & Drainage Improvements Project-Mr. Hess reported that we received one bid, utilizing PennBID, on the Water Street Paving & Drainage Improvements Project from, Construction Masters Services, LLC of Adamstown with a bid of \$269,030.50. Mr. Hess recommended that Council reject all bids and authorize McCarthy to rebid the project with an extended time to complete. After much discussion; **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mr. Fidler to reject all bids for the Water Street Project. Motion carried. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Liptak to ask for resubmission of the grant to apply for more funds. Motion carried. Discussion on Water Street and working with the WRJA.

MS4 Permitting/Audit-will be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Jeremy will be attending the audit; he recently received his P.E.

Jefferson Street/Storm Water-The official counting will be down when school is out.

Mr. Edwards questioned the status of the Martin's waiver request; Mr. McCarthy reported that they can get a general permit for a driveway crossing from the Conservation District. With no further business for Mr. McCarthy, he left the meeting.

**Executive Session:** Council went into an Executive Session for litigation purposes at 8:22pm and returned at 8:38pm with no action taken.

Questions for Solicitor: Mr. Liptak asked for Council's permission to speak with the Solicitor for legal council for the Fire Company for their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mr. Fidler to approve spending up to \$2,000 for legal services pertaining to the Womelsdorf Fire Company's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Motion carried. With no further questions for Solicitor George, he left the meeting.

## **MAYOR**

### **Chief Pontician**

- Applicants- Chief Pontician would like to bring applicant Justin Ruhl on board; and Lexi Frey when the background checks are completed. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mr. Fidler to hire Justin Ruhl and Alexi Frey as part time police officers pending the results of their background checks. Motion carried.
- Police Explorer-needs four tires, quote from Keppley's Tires is over \$1,000.00; Cooper's Tires is \$608.00, they are the same quality of tires. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Liptak to purchase the Cooper Tires for a cost of \$608.00. Motion carried. Mayor Gettle reported that the tires were not bald, they passed state inspection, no one was ever at risk driving the vehicle.
- Grass/Weed fines-thirty grass/weed tickets were issued.

## **MR. FIDLER**

Square Card Reader-Mr. Fidler reported that the card reader is working well at the pool. Each pool membership purchased on the card reader costs \$72.00; \$70.00 for the membership and a \$2.00 Credit card user fee.

Discussion on comments received by Council Members volunteering for the Memorial Day membership signups.

## **MR. LIPTAK**

Jason-Mr. Liptak reported that Jason is not here tonight due to being home with his kids, as one of them needed stitches.

Pool-The pool is leaking 3" a day; they narrowed it down to an underground line running from the pump house to the deep well. They may be able to line it. Last year's leak was 8" a day.

Insurance-Mr. Liptak reported that the insurance company recommended that our age limit for renting borough facilities should at least be 21 years of age. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mr. Fidler to lower the required age limit for renting a Borough Facility to 21 years of age. Motion carried. It was currently 25 years of age.

Crack sealing-The maintenance guys will be starting crack sealing next week.

## **MS. KELLER**

Streets/Sidewalks-Ms. Keller reported that people have been repairing their sidewalks.

Library-Ms. Keller reported that the library is planning a garden tour for August 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>. They also gave the Fire Company a \$200.00 donation and the book sale was success.

Question from the Library Board that if they have roof repairs, would be Borough foot that bill? The Borough would take care of library building repair expenses. Mr. Edwards reported that his wife did some landscaping at the library; she was given a \$500.00 budget from the Library.

Flower Pots-Mrs. Keller reported that she will call Mrs. Frey to take care of the flower pots. Mrs. Hopple reported that she is getting a price for a new pot, (to put on the concrete slab) and will order one.

Property Maintenance Issues-The following property maintenance concerns were discussed: Walborn apartments, Sofa in yard behind Kerry Mull's, 2 disabled cars in yard on E. Franklin Street, overgrown trees overhanging sidewalk on W. High Street making it difficult to pull out of N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **MRS. HOPPLE**

Handicap Parking Space-Mrs. Hopple reported that Mrs. Koch requested a handicap parking space on the road beside her home. This street is narrow with no parking permitted, the curbs are painted yellow. She also has a driveway in front of her home.

Pool -Lou Miller donated an umbrella to the pool. Five guard tubes were purchased. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Fidler to spend up to \$1,000 to purchase another life guard chair. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hopple asked permission that a bench ordered by the Women of Today in memory of Linda Gates be allowed to be placed at the pool. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Ms. Keller to place Linda's bench at the pool. Motion carried. The Women of Today would also like to purchase three 10' to 12' trees for the Borough. They would like to put the trees at the pool with a plaque underneath each tree for three members who have passed away; Diane Merkel, Lynette Gaskin and Linda Gates. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mrs. Hopple to grant permission for the Women of Today to donate these trees w/plaques for the pool as requested.

Pool Meeting-Mrs. Hopple reported that Wayne held a meeting with the pool staff from the "Y". Minutes of the meeting were printed and given to Council Members. Two lifeguards will be on the pool at all times.

Junior Council Member-Congratulations to JCM Jennica Pearson for receiving three scholarship awards!

Summer Playground-Mrs. Hopple reported that there were two kids who caused commotions during playground last year; the police were involved and letters of concern were received from staff members. Mrs. Hopple was going to talk to the parent, but it was decided that if the parent comes in to sign the two children up, the girls are to take the application and fee. A letter stating that due to the issues that we had last year, the children cannot attend summer playground is to be sent out along with the registration money.

Fire Company 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting-Mrs. Hopple reported that She, Carl, and Jen all attended the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting for the Fire Company. Possibly 100 to 150 people from

Germany may be coming during May 28<sup>th</sup> thru the 31<sup>st</sup> of 2020. Tentative schedule is that Thursday night they will be escorted and welcomed in. Friday morning will be a breakfast at the Social Quarters, afternoon may be a private splash party. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple that on Friday, May 29, 2020 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm there would be a splash party for the German visitors, Womelsdorf Family, and the host families. Motion carried. They are looking to raise \$50,000. There will be a big parade on Saturday, and a big party at the VFW Saturday night. Friday night will be a VIP party, including Council Members and Dignitaries, to be invited to meet the German visitors. This is where we will need to ask those legal questions as to the Borough's involvement.

**Computer Updates**-The quotes for replacing the Borough offices' computer equipment from Max Rey were reviewed by Council. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Ms. Keller to go ahead with the purchase of the two computer systems; spending up to \$2,500. Motion carried. Mr. Edwards talked to Max about getting a remote back up system at some point in the future.

Much discussion on the ballfield, the usage, the net, who's paying for it, use of equipment without authorization, etc.

**MR. MILLER** – Absent

**MRS. FITTERLING** – Absent

**JCM – JENNICA PEARSON**

Nothing to report at this time.

**MR. EDWARDS**

**Benecon** – Discussion on Benecon's compliance form to be completed regarding the length of time healthcare benefits are to be continued during specific types of leave. The Solicitor should be contacted for his input.

**COG**-Mr. Edwards reported that the COG will be meeting either in late June or early July. All three Boroughs have said that they want to continue the contract for another year. Due to what is happening with the cost of recycling, be prepared for an increase in cost with the next contract. Mr. Edwards has a new contact from County Waste, if we have any problems or concerns.

With no further business brought before Council; **Motion** by Ms. Keller, second by Mr. Fidler to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. This Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mickey Balistrieri  
Secretary

