

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

JUNE 1, 2020

Held via ZOOM at 7:00PM

Solicitor Kourtney Bernecker, Esq. was administrator of this Meeting, with Council Members and the public invited to join in electronically or by phone. This Zoom Meeting was held in accordance of Act 15 keeping in compliance of the Sunshine Laws and Social Distancing for health and safety. The information to attend this regularly scheduled meeting was listed on the Borough's Web Site, Facebook, and posted on the front door of the Borough Hall. All guests were invited to type in any questions they have.

PRESENT

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

GUESTS

Trista Oxenreider, Megan Ott, Amber Kupper, June Bair, Sean Barnette, Renee Sisler, Tiffany Covell, and other participants who did not sign in but were on the Zoom Meeting. There were twenty-three participants.

ABSENT

Council Member Connie Keller

MINUTES

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Mellon to accept the May 4, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

BILL PAYMENTS

Motion by Mr. Mellon, second by Mr. Moyer to accept the list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$83,524.77. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Mellon to accept the list of bills to be ratified, in the amount of \$11,399.06.

Motion by Mr. Moyer, second by Mr. Mellon to authorize paying the bills that are due before the July 6th Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

Motion by Mr. Fidler, second by Mr. Miller to approve paying this week's payroll. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Fidler, second by Mrs. Hopple to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

A list of communications was provided to Council, with the following action taken:

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Fidler to accept with regrets, the resignation of Alexander Doelp from his position as police officer effective May 26, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/AUTHORITIES

Carl Liptak updated Council on maintenance projects in progress; crack sealing is completed at the pool and the painting will begin tomorrow. Mr. Edwards suggested ordering another pallet of cold patch material, for pot hole repair. **Motion** by Mr. Mellon, second by Mrs. Hopple to purchase a pallet of cold patch at a cost not to exceed \$2,200. Motion carried unanimously. Council Members thanked Carl for the update reports that he sends out.

SOLICITOR

JFM Holdings LLC: The Original Standby Letter of Credit is at the Borough, Developers Improvements Agreement, and Stormwater Management Agreement have been signed by the developer. These documents and the Land Development Plan can all be signed by Council. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Mellon to approve the signing these of documents and the Plans. Motion carried unanimously. The Plans to be signed by Council and the Planning Commission, and given to JF Martin to have recorded.

Mrs. Hopple asked Solicitor George about the Emergency Declaration and opening of the park facilities. Solicitor George recommended keeping the Emergency Declaration in place at this time. Park facilities can be open, following the CDC Guidelines. After much discussion, **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Fidler to open up the parks on Friday, June 5th when we enter the yellow phase. Solicitor George will provide the language for the signs for the parks, and for the COVID Waivers. Most were in favor with Mr. Moyer voting “No”. Motion carried. Use of Facility Applicants must have waivers signed. Mr. Edwards reported that the Elections will be held in the Borough Hall tomorrow, the voting machines are to removed Wednesday, and the disinfecting group hopefully will be in on Wednesday. The office staff should not come in on Wednesday, but will be paid for the day and can return to work on Thursday. Mr. Liptak offered to have his phone number put on the door while the office is closed.

Solicitor George reminded all attendees on the Zoom Meeting that they are welcome to type in any questions they might have.

ENGINEER

2020 Roadwork-Mr. McCarthy reported that the contractor will be starting in July. All the paperwork has been turned in.

High Street Inlet-Mr. McCarthy reported that Double D did not call PA One Call and hit a gas line. UGI has finished with the repair. It was determined that no further work be done until the contractor contacts One Call, it is his responsibility. Mr. McCarthy will contact the contractor.

Bunker Hill Road Culvert-Mr. Moyer reported that the work has been done. It has not been sodded or seeded. Mr. McCarthy will contact the contractor that it needs to be sodded.

Traffic Study-Mr. Miller reported that in the first fifteen minutes, he counted eighteen, in the second fifteen minutes, he counted eighteen, and it got worse after that.

MAYOR

Grass/Weed Citations-Mayor Gettle reported that the police are issuing citations for violations.

Police Chief- Chief Pontician reported that we have Mutual Aid Agreements signed. With the current situation, BCERT was standing by in Reading, organizers are trying to keep protests peaceful.

MR. FIDLER

Mr. Fidler thanked everyone for what they do. Nothing new to report at this time.

MR. MELLON

Sewer Authority-Mr. Mellon reported that the Sewer Authority is considering hiring a second operator, a final decision has not been made yet.

MRS. HOPPLE

Sandwiches-Mrs. Hopple reported that 1,000 sandwiches were made and handed out. Thank you to Chief Pontician for being there all day, contacting the elementary school, and delivering sandwiches to those in need. The Fire Co. received \$2,000 in donations.

Summer Cookouts-Mrs. Hopple reported that the Fire Company will be opening up for their Summer Cookouts. A funnel cake stand, a French fry stand and another stand is willing to come to Womelsdorf and set up on N. 5th Street at the Engine House. The Fire Co. is in need of funds, they would be selling hot dogs and hamburgers. It would be a Friday, Saturday and Sunday event for the Fire Company. Volunteers will be needed. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Mellon to authorize closing N. 5th Street from High Street to the alley for this event for the Fire Company. Date to be determined. Motion carried unanimously.

German Visitors-Mrs. Hopple reported that the visitors from Germany will be coming October 8-11, 2021. The parade will be held on Saturday, more information will be coming.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Trista Oxenreider-Library Board Member: Reported that the Library will be open for curbside service beginning Friday, June 5th to check in materials. Patrons will not be allowed in the Library yet. June 12th they will be able to request materials to check out, through pick up only. COVID funding relief has been applied for to replace the book drop. Jim, Dave and Josh will look into where a book drop could be placed for curbside drop off. They will not find out if they were approved for the funding until June 15th. Mr. Edwards reported that the Borough is replacing some sidewalk at the Library.

MR. MILLER

Pool-Mr. Miller reported that we closed the pool for this year. Mr. Miller also reported that he received the letter from Kim Johnson that they will not be able to manage the pool this year; and sent it to the Pool Committee Members. Mayor Gettle read two emails from Alyssa Bushkie Executive Director of the YMCA.

Public Comments:

Amber Kupper-reported that she wants to see the pool open, her kids need something to do for the summer. She would be willing to help if the pool opened.

Megan Ott-reported that she has a list of certified lifeguards.

Solicitor George reported that he didn't know of any municipal pools that were opening, and discussed the liability prospective, and following the healthcare guidelines. Mr. Moyer reported on the issues at hand with getting the pool open and suggested working towards having a top-notch pool for next season.

After a long discussion on whether the decision to close the pool should have or should not have been made on the 20th of May a motion was made: **Motion** made by Mr. Fidler, with regrets, not to open the pool this year, seconded by Mr. Miller. Most were in favor, with Mrs. Hopple voting "No". Motion carried.

Discussion on ideas for the 2021 swim season. Mrs. Hopple would like the Borough to run the pool themselves as they had in previous years. Mayor Gettle suggested that the Solicitor look into the possibility of having Pool Board, with citizen involvement.

Public Comment:

Pastor June Bair thanked Council for making the decision to keep the pool closed this year because of the pandemic. As a church, they have had to make some painful decisions. She said that she always has a membership for the pool and will miss it this year, but Council made the right decision.

MR. MOYER

Nothing further to report, but checked to see if any other listeners had something to say.

MR. EDWARDS

Workshop Meeting-Mr. Edwards asked if any of the Council Members were interested in a Workshop Meeting this month. The July 6th Council Meeting will be a regular meeting with ratification of all motions of business that was conducted during the COVID shut down.

Mr. Fidler and Mr. Moyer were the only members interested in the second June meeting, therefore, the June 16th Workshop Meeting was cancelled.

With no further business brought before Council, **Motion** by Mr. Fidler, second by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting. This meeting adjourned at 8:56PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Balistreri
Secretary