

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 4, 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. Solicitor Bernecker welcomed everyone and reviewed Act 15 which was adopted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, including the approval for usage of teleconferencing such as Zoom to hold the meeting, keeping in compliance of the Sunshine Laws and social distancing for health and safety. 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.

PRESENT

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

GUESTS

Carl Liptak and Kim Johnson

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Fidler, second by Mr. Mellon to accept the April 6, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

BILL PAYMENTS

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to accept the list of bills to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Moyer, second by Mr. Fidler to accept the nine bills to be ratified in the amount of \$17,488.16. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Mellon, second by Mrs. Hopple to authorize paying regular monthly bills on time that are due before the next Meeting on June 1st. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

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

Motion by Mr. Fidler, second by Mr. Mellon to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

A list of communications was provided to Council, none requiring action.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Miller introduced Kim Johnson, from the YMCA. Ms. Johnson reported on the status of the YMCA during this closure of non-essential businesses. The YMCA is not able to operate. They have advertised for months but have not received any applicants for a pool manager or life-guards. Ms. Johnson also reported that the water is not the problem, but maintaining the social

distancing is. It might require only allowing eight persons in at a time. We are still in the Red Zone until the 25th of May, and might not be authorized to open for another eleven weeks. Lifeguards cannot get certified until we are in the green stage. After discussing the pool situation with Council, Ms. Johnson apologized for bringing bad news. The Solicitor advised the Pool Committee to work with the Solicitor's Office in developing a policy for protocols that would be needed, as well as talking with the insurance provider about liabilities. Council thanked Ms. Johnson for joining the meeting.

Mr. Liptak-Discussion on the park closure. Solicitor Bernecker asked about signage for the parks and field closures. Mr. Liptak confirmed that the playground equipment is taped off and closed at both the Town Park and Mill Spring Park. The Police Department should be called if a group would try to use the facilities. Council discussed with Mr. Liptak the maintaining of the fields, and pool lawn even though we cannot authorize usage at this time. **Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Moyer to continue the Tru Green service on the baseball and soccer fields. Motion carried unanimously. The pool lawn servicing will also continue.

Mr. Liptak reported that for the pool work to be done, a steady temperature of at least 59 degrees for a couple of days is needed for the material to cure. With no further questions for Mr. Liptak, he left the meeting.

SOLICITOR

Solicitor Bernecker discussed Act 15 of 2020 and meetings via teleconferencing. She also explained the proposed Resolution for adoption extending the time period for taxpayers to pay their real estate taxes without a penalty until September 30, 2020. This will co-inside with what the County has adopted. **Motion** by Mr. Fidler, second by Mr. Miller to adopt Resolution #2020-03 extending the time for taxpayers to pay their real estate taxes without a penalty until September 30, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Cable Franchise Agreement-Solicitor George reviewed the proposed Cable Franchise Agreement and recommended that Council engage the Cohen Law Group as special Counsel who specializes in these types of agreements. **Motion** by Ms. Keller, second by Mr. Miller to get a quote from the Cohen Group for the cost for them to act in our behalf with our Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEER

Rt.419/Rt.422 Traffic Light-**Motion** by Ms. Keller, second by Mr. Miller to engage Traffic Planning and Design, Inc. in the Planning Design Phase. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mrs. Hopple to authorize Mickey or Bruce to sign the PennDOT application forms. Motion carried unanimously.

2020 Road Work-Mr. McCarthy reviewed the four bids that were received. McCarthy Engineering recommended award of Options A, C, and D, to the lowest bidder, which was Ronnie C. Folk Paving, Inc. of Shoemakersville for a price of \$125,337.00. After careful review of the bidding documentation, they recommended that Council award the 2020 Road improvements to Ronnie C. Folk. **Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mrs. Hopple to award the 2020 Road Work Improvements to Ronnie C. Folk Paving, Inc. at a cost of \$125,337.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Bunker Hill Culvert-**Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Mellon to authorize Double D Construction to get the Bunker Hill Culvert repair done at a cost of \$3,500.00. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Moyer will stop and talk with the homeowner.

High Street Inlet/Emergency Repair-**Motion** by Mr. Mellon, second by Mr. Moyer to approve Option 1, North and South side, lowest bidder Ronnie C. Folk for the Emergency Repair of the High Street Inlets at a cost of \$41,600.00. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion on the curbs at the Emergency site.

Curbs-Mr. Moyer and Mr. Mellon will look at the curbs at the inlets. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Mellon to spend under \$11,000; to repair the curbs if necessary, after the Street Committee looks into this. Motion carried unanimously.

Jefferson Street-Mr. Miller agreed to do a traffic study on Jefferson Street; and will be counting vehicles from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

MAYOR

Grass/Weeds Citations-Mayor Gettle reported that citations were issued to two properties today.

- Chief Pontician reported that he interviewed applicant Christopher Miller. The interview and his background check were good. He is working well, and is able to be out on his own. **Motion** by Mr. Fidler, second by Mr. Miller to ratify the hiring of Christopher Miller on April 14, 2020 as a part time police officer at the starting wage of \$17.69 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Fidler-None

Mr. Mellon-None

Ms. Keller-None

Mrs. Hopple

- 1,000 sandwiches (hams or Italian), will be handed out on May 9th at the Engine House. The South Side of North Fifth Street is to be “No Parking” from Winding Way to W. High Street, for cars to get in line for sandwiches. No walk ups will be served, must be in a car for social distancing. Donations for the Fire Company will be accepted.

Mr. Miller

- Pool Opening or Closure: After much discussion, Council decided to wait until May 25th to see where we stand on Governor Wolf’s time table for opening things up. The Pool Committee will have a meeting to discuss this.

Mr. Moyer-None

Mr. Edwards

- The trash hauler removed all the old broken blue containers.
- The library has cancelled the July Fire and Ice Event.
- The May Workshop Meeting is cancelled.

Solicitor Bernecker offered to host a Zoom Meeting for any of the Committees that need to meet.

With no further business before Council; **Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Fidler to adjourn the Meeting. Motion carried unanimously. This Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Balistrieri
Secretary