

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 101 W. High Street on
July 6, 2020

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

PRESENT

Council Members: Jim Mellon, Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, Dave Moyer, Bruce Edwards and later, Josh Fidler. Mayor-Jen Gettle, Solicitor-Kourtney Bernecker, Engineer-Craig Bonenberger, and Secretary-Mickey Balistrieri

GUESTS

Carl Liptak, Melanie Simmons, Edward Horst and Carl Horst

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to accept the June 1, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes as resented. Motion carried. Mr. Edwards reported that although the June Minutes reported that Council would be ratifying the motions made during the Zoom Meetings at the July Meeting, this will take place at the August 3rd Meeting instead.

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Mellon to accept the list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$70,134.54. Motion carried. Question by Mr. Miller on a resident calling the Engineer, and the Borough being billed for it. Engineer Bonenberger reported that McCarthy Engineering will not take calls from residents if that is what Council wants. The Borough will contact the Engineer if they have authorized a resident to call. Residents should be calling the Borough. The Solicitor will look into any additional fees incurred by the Borough from a different matter.

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Mellon to accept the list of bills to be ratified in the amount of \$19,592.61. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to approve paying this week's payroll. Motion carried. Mr. Edwards congratulated Mr. Liptak on not needing part timers and keeping payroll down.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

A list of Communications was given to Council Members, with the following action taken:

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to accept, with regrets the resignation from Jim Gibson from the Womelsdorf Library Board of Trustees due to moving.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Resident Melanie Simmons had concerns with the many fireworks being set off over the holiday weekend, and questioned if the police were citing them. There was much discussion, and concerns with those who are not obeying the ordinance.

Mr. Edward Horst and Mr. Carl Horst were here to discuss land development with their property that is mainly situated in Heidelberg Township. This will be discussed under the Engineer's report.

EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/COMMISSIONS

Carl Liptak reported updates for the Public Works/Maintenance Department.

One coat of paint was put on the baby pool and the street sweeper will be coming out. "NO Parking" signs will be posted prior to the street sweeping so residents can have their vehicles removed. The Mayor will be posting the information on Facebook. Storm drains will be cleared of sediment. Trees will be trimmed on Rt. 422 below the ball field. Carl and Trondell went on the roof to remove a clog in the gutter. A man lift will be needed to clean it out. Mr. Liptak will get prices for the pool building roof. The pool will be filled to check for leaks and they will be checking that the filters will work properly.

Discussion on overgrown trees and whose responsibility it is for trimming them.

Mrs. Hopple was asked about the status of the Home Town Hero banners. No one is at the Elementary school yet to select the new banners for this year.

Ms. Keller would like the Maintenance Department to water the flower pots regularly.

Discussion on the pool parking lot, that it is being used by skateboarders. Our Maintenance Department is also finding toys, rocks, etc. left in the grassy area beside the parking lot.

Mrs. Hopple reported that she has \$10,000 for the pool pavilion, Mr. Fiant has not talked to Paul yet. They will need the Borough guys to help with the digging, to get it ready for concrete. Mr. Edwards will contact Mr. Fiant. Discussion on plans, and getting a permit.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Openings-Mrs. Hopple said that Alan Schaetzle may be interested in Planning Commission, he was a Council Member for many years. We need one member for Planning Commission, one for the Zoning Hearing Board and an alternate. Rec Board needs one if they want to have a board of seven.

SOLICITOR

JF Martin – Solicitor Bernecker reported that the Stormwater Management Agreement and Improvement Agreements have been recorded.

Cohen Law Group – was highly recommended by the Solicitor for the Comcast Agreement.

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Miss Keller to use the legal services of the Cohen Law Group who specializes in this area. Motion carried. Mr. Edwards reporting on the conversation that he had with Attorney Dan Cohen.

Pool Board – Solicitor Bernecker reported that the Borough Code does not provide for a Pool Board. A Borough would have a Pool Committee (of Council Members) that could have citizens participate in a conversation such feedback at the end of the season or at a workshop meeting. A Pool Board is something that could be used in a non-profit group; but not by a Borough. Pools owned and run by a non-profit are not doing very well, and haven't been for some time. Any expenditure must be approved at a Council Meeting.

Civic Plus – Mr. Edwards discussed the Civic Plus Alert System. Residents can receive messages in a phone call, text or email. They can even choose to receive the messages all three ways. We have had it for a trial period and tested it once. Mr. Edwards discussed the costs and benefits of the service. Council did not make a motion to purchase the service. The Secretary was instructed to call Civic Plus that we do not wish to purchase the service.

ENGINEER

Waiver Request – 209 W. Bunker Hill Road, for Carl Horst proposed finishing barn. Ninety-nine percent of the property is located in Heidelberg Township. There is a triangle where his existing driveway is that is in Womelsdorf Borough. A waiver is requested to defer the approval of the land development to Heidelberg Township. The traffic changes will add one tractor trailer a week up the driveway. Two daily trips of a passenger vehicle for the owner, and an occasional feed truck or pig truck when they are ready to go. Council had concerns with tractor trailer traffic since the paving of Bunker Hill Road was already approved and scheduled. J F Martin is bringing several tractor trailer trucks a day up the driveway to take fill from their project to Mr. Horst's property. After much discussion and Mr. Horst agreeing to pave his driveway twenty feet up, the following motion was made: **Motion** by Mr. Moyer, second by Mr. Miller to defer the approval process of the Carl Horst Land Development Plan for a proposed finishing barn to Heidelberg Township. The Majority were in favor, with Mrs. Hopple voting "No". Motion carried.

Traffic Light- Nothing new to report, Mr. Bonenberger will call them tomorrow.

S. 4th Street Completion-Mr. Bonenberger reported that he doesn't have a schedule or contract returned from Folk or Forino. Council has the signed change order for Folk. Mr. Bonenberger will contact Forino.

2020 Road Work

- Bunker Hill Road-CIR is scheduled for July 10th, it has to sit and cure for a couple of weeks, paving is set for July 24th. Engineer Bonenberger will check to see if the wearing course can be delayed until the J F Martin project is complete. The contractor is responsible to notify the residents. Ms. Keller discussed the apartments and driveway.
- Mulberry Alley, from Front Street to Water Street-work is scheduled for July 22-23.
- Cherry Alley, from Front Street to Second Street-work is also scheduled for July 22-23.

Emergency Repairs

- High Street Inlet-Forino will now be taking care of the curbing, Folk will be taking care of the paving.

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Mellon to ratified the three changes from Contractor Double D Construction to the following:

- Library sidewalk replacement-to Bertolet Construction for \$9,500.
- Memorial Park sidewalk replacement-to Forino for \$12,726.
- Town Square curb replacement-to Forino for \$4,030.

All were in favor of ratifying the change in contractors. Motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR

Mayor Gettle reported that the new police vehicle will be here in two weeks, and then the lettering will need to be done.

MR. FIDLER

Rec Board- Motion by Mr. Fidler, second by Mrs. Hopple to appoint Shannon Windley to the Recreation Board. Motion carried unanimously. The Rec Board will start meeting again this Wednesday.

MR. MELLON

Office Door/COVID Service window – Mr. Paul Miller was already approved to do the work, he got the half door, and then we decided to use the same door, cutting out an area for tempered glass to be inserted for COVID protection, with a small slot at the bottom for papers to be passed through, a speaker, and a small shelf for document signing. Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Fidler to spend up to \$1,700 to have both office doors converted. Motion carried unanimously. The project will start as soon as the tempered glass is ready.

Cintas-Cintas services need to be stopped; the Maintenance workers have their summer uniforms. The Secretary reported that they need a certified letter.

Codification-Mr. Mellon reported to Council that Codification on the Borough ordinances has not been done since 2006. The Solicitor suggested if we get the Codification done, make it an annual maintenance item to update every year which would be less expensive than doing several years at once. Residents can look online and see the latest ordinances. Mr. Miller requested that this be discussed at the workshop meeting.

MS. KELLER

Library-Ms. Keller reported that the Library Building is closed. Mr. Edwards also reported that you can now check books out and return books to the foyer area by making an appointment.

MR. HOPPLE

Mrs. Hopple reported that the Bridge of Hope Church parking lot has been paved.

Carnival – Mrs. Hopple reported that the Carnival is cancelled, but they still are going to have something. They are going to have a Food Truck Show next Thursday through Sunday. One ride which will be a slide; carnival foods and beverages.

MR. MILLER

Fire Company-Mr. Miller reported that the Fire Company has not been meeting.

MR. MOYER

Workshop Meetings-Mr. Moyer had a question in regards to the purpose of the Workshop Meetings. It was explained that the regular meeting should be motions; workshop meetings are also open to the public and should be used to discuss items of business for the regular meeting. Council cannot break up into committees at a workshop due to the sunshine laws that requires that the public must be able to hear the conversations at the meetings. Not all municipalities hold two meetings.

MR. EDWARDS

Mr. Edwards reported that the items under New Business have already been discussed.

Borough Opening-Mr. Edwards reported that he reached out to Wernersville and Robesonia Boroughs to see what they were doing. Wernersville had their meeting on Thursday. They have a large open area, that they installed glass in the last couple of months, the public is closed off

from the employees. They are still closed to the public. Robesonia has a large foyer area; the employees are behind glass. They have a speaker system and a pass-through slot. They opened this week. Mr. Edwards reported that we do not have a large foyer, or a set up to provide a separation of the employees from the public. Mrs. Hopple suggested setting up a table with a shield on it at the front door, so people can come in. After discussion; **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to keep the Borough door locked until the office doors are in place. Residents can make an appointment if they need assistance, those coming to pay a bill are to put them in the drop box. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Edwards reported that a buzzer can be discussed in the future at a workshop meeting.

With no further business brought before Council, **Motion** by Mr. Fidler, second by Mrs. Hopple to adjourn the Meeting. Motion carried unanimously. This Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Balistreri
Secretary