

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 101 W. High Street on
July 3, 2018

Council President Bruce Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT

Council Members: Joshua Fidler, Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, Lori Fitterling, Bruce Edwards; Andrew George, Esq. – Solicitor, Jeremy Brumbach– McCarthy Engineering, Jennifer Gettle – Mayor, John Pontician – Police Chief, Jennica Pearson – Jr. Council Member and Nan Feeg – Acting Secretary

ABSENT

Carl Liptak

GUESTS

Jason Donaldson, Ardell Hoover, Carl Hurst, Reading Eagle Reporter Geneva Aulenbach, and Jody Hoover (7:05 PM)

Council Meeting Minutes – **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Fidler to accept the June 5, 2018, Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously

Workshop Meeting Minutes – **Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to accept the June 19, 2018, Council Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills to be Paid – Mrs. Hopple questioned Bill # 10 to ESCO. Mr. Donaldson explained he looked around at prices and the camera company that he is going to recommend tonight does not monitor the alarms, fire, etc. In comparable companies, ESCO's prices are not that bad for an hourly service so as long as we do not need service and Mr. Donaldson feels the yearly contract does make sense, so for now he recommends we pay ESCO quarterly. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mrs. Fitterling to pay the ESCO, Inc. bill quarterly rather than annually. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Fitterling questioned Bill # 8 to Mrs. Dalesandro if she should be coming to the Borough for the supplies, paying sales tax and if she is checking to make sure we do not already have the supplies. Mrs. Hopple informed Council Mrs. Dalesandro and her daughter spent a good part of a day cleaning out the shed. Council agreed Mrs. Dalesandro needs to make sure the shed is in order and to inventory the shed at the end of the year. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mrs. Fitterling to approve the list of bills to be paid as listed in the amount of \$51,833.45 with the exception of the \$1,200.00 annual bill for ESCO Inc. (Bill #10). Motion carried unanimously. Discussion followed.

Dominic Rey – Mr. Edwards explained Mr. Rey is the one who did all the work to get the computer systems up and running in the Borough Offices so he should be paid. Discussion followed. Council agreed that \$250.00 would be a fair amount to pay Mr. Rey for his work on the new computers in the two offices but requested an invoice from him.

LED Sign – Mr. Donaldson was instructed to call Sign-Medic regarding fixing the burned-out panel on the LED Sign.

COMMUNICATIONS

A list of communications was given to Council Members, two requesting action.

Bernville Borough Police Department – **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Miller to allow our fire police if their schedule permits to provide assistance to Bernville Borough for their Community Day 5K Run on August 4, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Ardell H. Hoover, Autumn Ridge School – Solicitor George explained that because there was not a Letter of Credit and it was a cash escrow instead, Council can authorize him to write a letter to Jordan Seibel at Weaverland Financial saying that Council will release any rights to any money in that account for the Autumn Ridge School project since all the site improvements have been completed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mrs. Fitterling authorizing Solicitor George to write the letter authorizing release of the funds held in escrow for the Autumn Ridge School project. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Autumn Ridge School – Mr. Hurst informed Council he has provided proof of contract for trash and recycling services for the school to the Borough Office.

Payroll – **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR

Garbage Liens – Solicitor George informed Council payment of over \$3,000 was received from a resident for the four liens for delinquent trash bills for a property on North Front Street. His office will satisfy those liens once the check has cleared.

Memorandum of Understanding for 527 Lyman Avenue – Solicitor George explained to Council the Memorandum of Understanding for 527 Lyman Avenue, which came up between meetings and needed to be acted on pretty quickly because there was a contract awaiting to go. It was about a wheelchair accessibility ramp that will slightly encroach the front yard setback, which must be removed if it is no longer in use or the property is sold according to Solicitor George. He noted it is recorded with the Recorder of Deeds and permit fees will be reimbursed to the Borough. Council President Bruce Edwards has signed the Memorandum of Understanding. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mrs. Fitterling to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding for 527 Lyman Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

Fireworks Ordinance – Solicitor George asked Council to review the sample Ordinance he sent out pertaining to fireworks. Mr. Edwards informed Council he was mis-informed about the new law regarding fireworks and not being enforceable with citizens, which was inaccurate. Discussion followed. Council agreed the Police Committee should work with the Police Chief on an Ordinance.

Franklin Street Property – Solicitor George reported there has been an appeal taken from the District Justice so that is now being processed through the Court in Reading. The warrant is in process according to Solicitor George, which Council agreed to wait until the court hearing.

JASON DONALDSON-Supervisor Wastewater Treatment Plan & Borough Maintenance reported on the following:

- Pool – Mr. Donaldson explained to Council the situation regarding the paint and it failing (peeling and chalking) at certain places and informed Council the vendor is looking into it. Mr. Donaldson assured Council it is not a water quality issue and can be addressed by scraping the walls and back flushing the filters so the pool will not have to be shut down. The paint that was used in prior years is no longer made and the company is willing to give all rubber-based paint as a replacement, which is more expensive and Mr. Donaldson recommends over acrylic. Discussion followed. Mr. Donaldson will look into aqua blasting and get prices as well for new filters.
- Security Cameras – Mr. Donaldson recommended for the monitoring fees staying with ESCO and he presented quotes totaling \$7,672.66 for the cameras at the Town Park, Borough Garage and Pool from Williams Security Services. Mr. Donaldson explained they are better cameras and the monitors have been left out of the quote because they can be purchased cheaper. Mr. Donaldson verified they are good quality cameras. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Ms. Keller to approve the bid for the purchase and installation of the security cameras for at the Town Park, Borough Garage and Pool at a price of \$7,672.66. Mr. Donaldson will talk to him about a quote for Mill Spring Park. Motion carried unanimously.
- Town Park Wall – Mr. Donaldson informed Council the wall is being washed away and expressed concern. Mr. Donaldson feels the VFW, which is upstream, needs to do something about flood control because a lot of it is from the flooding from upstream and maybe either the Department of Conservation or the Army Corps or Engineers need to get involved. Both the town wall, cleaning out the creek bed and the flooding need to be addressed according to Mr. Donaldson. Discussion followed. Mrs. Hopple informed Mr. Donaldson that Ray Swope has the original plans for the wall.
- Sewer Plant – Mr. Donaldson informed Council they had divers out for one of the sludge pumps, which are 22 feet down, and is now fixed and up and running. The divers also put new rails in.
- Crack Sealing – Mr. Donaldson informed Council they had the machine for roughly two weeks at no extra charge due to the weather and that it went well.
- Summit Circle – Mr. Donaldson informed Council the issue with the rainwater needs to be addressed. Discussion followed.
- Town Tree – Mr. Donaldson informed Council the town tree at the east end of town is dying due to a boring beetle. Discussion followed about replacing it. Mrs. Hopple agreed to work on getting a replacement tree and Council agreed the tree needs to be taken down.
- Pool – Discussion followed regarding the phone being unplugged and issues with “Y” employees as well as the Occupancy Permit. Mrs. Hopple questioned if the occupancy of the pool is documented in the insurance policy.

ENGINEER

Water Street Project – Mr. Brumbach reminded Council there was only one bid and it was \$100,000.00 over the grant funding so the bid has been rejected. They are looking to rebid it and to change the construction schedule inside the pool grounds to between September 10 and May 10 and then the street work could be done all the way through next year, but probably will be done between May and October. The Water Authority is planning to do a water main replacement down Water Street to Mulberry Alley and maybe even further down to High Street and they are working with them for reimbursement from them for the cost of the permanent trench restoration for the project. They are also suggesting to an add/alternate on the bid to pave all the way to High Street from Mulberry Alley, that way if the Water Authority is going all the way to High Street and the price is good to pave from Mulberry Alley to High Street then we can decide whether or not to do that work. The Conservation District had approved the grant the first time but has not gotten back to McCarthy Engineering how they want to handle the rebid if it comes back again over what the original contract was for; they are not sure if they want to revise the original contract or will hold that contract and do another one over what the difference is. Mr. Brumbach said they are looking for authorization to rebid the project and also for authorization to negotiate with SSM, who is doing that water project, for the amount that they would pay to the Borough for that item of not having to do permanent paving for the trench. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to rebid with alternate add on. Motion carried unanimously.

Jefferson Street – Mr. Brumbach explained the traffic count was way over and according to the Conservation District there are lots of other grants that the Borough can go for through the Growing Greener Fund. The Conservation District would like to set up a meeting with their watershed specialist, McCarthy Engineering and the Borough to discuss about going for that Growing Greener Grant for that project because there is a lot more competition in the State for it. He informed Council he is looking for authorization to set up that meeting and to move forward. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Miller to authorize our Engineers to meet with the Conservation District on looking into a Growing Greener Grant for the Jefferson Street project and authorizing Secretary Mrs. Balistrieri to sign the grant application. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Fidler authorizing Mr. Donaldson to sign the grant for Water Street. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously.

MS4 Audit – Mr. Brumbach informed Council the MS4 Audit went very well; there are just a couple things to improve upon to make DEP happy. GIS GPS work is almost done according to Mr. Brumbach. Mr. Edwards commended Mr. Donaldson for all the extra work he did.

P.E. – Mr. Brumbach was congratulated by Council on receiving his P.E.

MAYOR/CHIEF PONTICIAN

Trees & Arborvitaes – Discussion followed regarding sight issues caused by overgrown trees and arborvitaes at various locations in the Borough.

July 4 – Mr. Edwards informed Council Chief Pontician volunteered to work on the evening of July 4.

NEW BUSINESS

Recycling – Mr. Edwards reminded everyone recycling pick up will be Friday, July 5 due to the July 4 Holiday on Wednesday. He also informed Council we will need new recycling cans from County Waste for replacements.

MR. FIDLER

Police Committee – Solicitor George will resend to Council the Fireworks Ordinance to be used as a sample so the Police Committee can begin working on an ordinance.

MR. LIPTAK - Absent

MS. KELLER

Flags – Ms. Keller expressed concern regarding the conditions of the flags outside the Borough Hall. Mr. Edwards has a replacement for the U.S. Flag and Mr. Fidler will look into a new State Flag.

Sidewalks – Ms. Keller questioned the condition of the sidewalk at the Horst property. Solicitor George informed Council you need to refer to the Ordinance as far as what denotes a repair. Discussion followed about Borough sidewalks and the swale at Front Street.

Library – Mr. Edwards informed Council their latest book sale was successful.

Signs at School Facilities – Ms. Keller questioned if Council agreed to advertise on a sign at the school and was informed they did not.

MRS. HOPPLE

Pool – Mrs. Hopple informed Council she approved \$100.00 to be used by Pool Manager Kirsten Lebo for activities/games at the pool on July 4 and there will not be a DJ but would like DJ Dave for another party later on at the pool. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mrs. Fitterling for DJ Dave later in the season. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Hopple requested another picnic table and lounge chairs at the pool.

Personnel – Mrs. Hopple reported she had nothing to report regarding personnel.

Carnival – Mr. Edwards reported the dumpster will be delivered for the carnival. Mrs. Hopple questioned if the dumpster could be placed on Water Street where it used to be. Discussion followed. Council agreed the dumpster could be placed on Water Street and Mr. Donaldson will put cones at the location the dumpster is to be placed on Water Street. Mrs. Hopple reminded Council the money from the dunking booth goes to the Police Department.

MR. MILLER

Flower Pots – Mr. Miller questioned and Ms. Keller agreed to look into getting something for the flower pots.

Fire Company – Mr. Miller reported the Fire Company asked him to ask the Borough to increase the fire tax by \$2.00 a house for next year. Discussion followed including budgets, them charging for calls outside of Womelsdorf and the amount of trucks responding.

Pool – Mr. Miller reviewed with Council the matters regarding a post-dated check they accepted at the pool for three pool memberships. After the person was contacted regarding no admittance until the date on the check, the instructions from the person who presented the check was he no longer wanted the memberships. Discussion followed. Council agreed since they swam using those memberships to deposit the check on July 5, the date on the check, and list them on the members list as of July 5. Mr. Miller informed Council the “Y” sent their camp list from June 20 and Mrs. Balistrieri will bill them. Mr. Miller volunteered to drop off the bill at the “Y”.

JR. COUNCILPERSON JENNICA PEARSON

Trees – Mr. Edwards requested Ms. Pearson find out why so many towns are planting sycamore trees because they are dirty and pull up the sidewalks. Ms. Pearson informed Council she does have a list of trees that would be good for Womelsdorf and sycamore is not on the list.

MRS. FITTERLING

Rec. Board – Mrs. Fitterling informed Council the Rec. Board would like to talk to the Engineer about grants for the pool. Discussion followed including a mushroom, pavilion and tying improvements into the maintenance of the pool.

Website– Mrs. Fitterling informed Council she has it on the website about recycling on Friday, July 5 and it was sent out as an alert. The Fire Company has their cookouts every other Friday, not every Friday, with the next one being July 13. Mrs. Hopple informed Council the Fire Company has a list of things they are selling for their 125th Anniversary, so maybe Mrs. Fitterling could contact them so they can be listed on the website.

MR. EDWARDS – Nothing to report.

With no further business to be brought before Council, **Motion** was moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Fidler to adjourn the meeting. Council joined in singing “God Bless America” in honor of the July 4 Holiday. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nan Feeg
Acting Secretary