

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at 101 W. High Street on
SEPTEMBER 4, 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, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, Lori Fitterling, and Bruce Edwards; Mayor-Jen Gettle, Solicitor-Kourtney Bernecker, Engineer-Jim McCarthy, Police Chief-John Pontician, and Secretary-Mickey Balistrieri

GUESTS

Jody Hoover, Christine Delp, Tim and Lynn Kreider, Nina Meister, and Jason Donaldson.

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mrs. Hopple to accept the August 8, 2018 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to accept the August 21, 2018 Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mrs. Fitterling to accept the list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$37,935.65. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mrs. Fitterling, second by Mr. Liptak to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Liptak to authorization the Womelsdorf Fire Police to assist the Tulpehocken Township Police Department during the Rehrersburg Car Show on Saturday, September 8th if their schedule permits. Motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS

Womelsdorf Community Library – Tim Kreider, Library Board Chairman reported on the status of the Library. Mr. Kreider thanked the Borough for its support of the Library, making them in the top three in the system receiving municipal funding. Womelsdorf Library is the most heavily used library in the system when you look at uses per capita. Hours of operation are Monday thru Thursday 11:00am – 8:00pm with added Friday hours of 4:00pm-8:00pm. Nina Meister, Library Director thanked Council for their support and reported that the library serves approximately eleven people per hour. Mayor Gettle thanked Nina for the wonderful programs that they run. Lynn Kreider, representing the Friends of the Library, reported that the “Garden Tour” fundraising project was well liked and brought in \$570.00. The 5K Run was very successful and is a large part of the budget. A new fundraising project in in the planning stages for the last Saturday in July of 2019, “Fire & Ice” with a chili and ice cream tasting. A beer or wine garden could be held in the library parking lot, with the vendors on N. Second Street. Also discussed

was the Use of Facilities Application for a “Spike Ball Tournament” to be held as a fundraiser for the library. The soccer field and Town Park pavilions are all in use for the September 8th date requested. Mill Spring Park is available. Suggestion to check with the VFW for availability or choosing a different date. Mr. Edwards reported that the Bridge of Hope Church has a community health day this month where 30 to 36 people will be available for two hours to do things such as pull weeds, pick up trash, etc.

Jason Donaldson-reported that Jon is back to work. He has a weight lifting restriction. Discussion on light duty work and whether the Borough wants to allow an employee to work with restrictions. Personnel approved his return to work, as he is an Assistant Sewer Plant Operator and can comply with the weight lifting restriction. The Solicitor reported that each case is different. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Ms. Keller to allow the Solicitor to look into light duty work. Motion carried.

Leaf Collection: Will need to start early, leaves are already falling.

Truck repairs: The GMC has the back end off, Jason is getting rid of the rust and will weld new plates on the bottom.

Park flooding: Jason found three major contributors behind the VFW. Most of the problems are in Heidelberg Township and coming down into the creek. The creek walls are quarantined off. Discussion on repair ideas.

Christmas tree: Mrs. Hopple and Mrs. Fitterling discussed a large lighted tree for the East End of Town, with a smaller version for in front of the Borough Hall for the holidays.

Weeds: Mrs. Hopple reported weeds in the alley between Third and Fifth Street. Two cars are sitting in the field there. Concerns about the odor coming from the business building.

Discussion on the weeds along Rt. 422.

Pool: The pool is closed and winterized. Discussion on the pool paint and repainting for next year. The pool pump motor will be pulled off, rebuilt as a backup motor, and put a new motor in. They will attempt repairing the filters. Mr. McCarthy will download a grant application for the pool.

Trees: Jason to look at purchasing the shade trees for the pool, the Women of Today are donating \$750.00 to pay for them.

OLD BUSINESS

Benecon-Solicitor George is reviewing the policy update request.

Planning Commission-There has been an opening on the Planning Commission due to Mr. Ibach's resignation. Mr. David Moyer, a former Planning Commission member is available and willing to serve on the Planning Commission again. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Fidler to appoint David Moyer to fill the vacant seat on the Planning Commission. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR

Trash Liens-Solicitor Bernecker presented a list of five properties with liens filed today. 31 N. Front Street liens were satisfied in August.

Fireworks Ordinance-Solicitor Bernecker discussed the proposed revised Fireworks Ordinance with Council. Mr. Edwards requested a revision for Section 1., No. 2 to state: In no event shall

Consumer Fireworks be set off after 11:00 p.m., except on New Year's Eve which shall be no later than 12:30 a.m. on New Year's Day (instead of 12:30 a.m. on New Year's *Eve* to avoid confusion). Discussion on "a written permit shall be obtained from the Fire Chief or Fire Official for the public display of Display Fireworks." The Solicitor reported that the State law mandates that a permit is required. The task of who determines the permit approval should be delegated to someone who understands the type of fireworks that would be used and the knowledge behind it to know what is a safe use and what is not a safe use. The definitions in the ordinance state that the Borough Council appoints the Fire Official. **Motion** by Mr. Miller, to advertise the Fire Ordinance as changed, second by Ms. Keller. Motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEER

Water Street Paving Project – BIDS: Mr. McCarthy reported that the bid opening was held on August 30, 2018 utilizing PennBID. Bids were received from three bidders.

- Construction Masters Services, LLC with a base bid of \$282,199.35
- Landis C. Deck Sons Site Contractors, a Division of H & K Group INC-bid \$287,287.00
- Bartles Construction LLC \$446,378.00

We have a grant from the Conservation District for \$132,694.56 of the project. Based on all of the revised bid numbers, we are going to ask them to provide additional funding in the amount of \$143,399.23. Bringing the total grants funds to \$276,093.79. We are proposing that the Borough would put forward \$41,105.57 for the base bid. The Committee Meeting to discuss this is on Sept. 26th at 11:00am. The Board Meeting is at 1:00pm to act on the Committee's recommendations. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mrs. Fitterling to award the bid to Construction Masters Services LLC with a low bid of \$282,199.35; contingent on receiving additional grant funds of \$143,399.23. Motion carried.

Mr. Edwards reported that the new owners of 105 Mill Road auctioned off .8 acres; which was subdivided by Cory Seaman in 2008 then sold to the Rod and Gun. This property sits on an undeveloped alley and is landlocked.

MAYOR

Chief Pontician- Officer Chris Hamilton gave his letter of resignation with his last day being Thursday, September 6th. He is moving to a larger, thirty-man department with more opportunities. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mr. Miller to accept Officer Hamilton's resignation with regrets. Motion carried.

MR. FIDLER

Police Committee: Mr. Fidler reported that Chief Pontician has an applicant for a part time police officer. Michael Jones has been with the Muhlenberg Police Department since 2003, is on the BCERT Team, and is interested in part time employment with our Borough. **Motion** by Mr. Fidler, second by Mrs. Hopple to hire Christopher Michael Jones as a part time police officer, pending approval of the Police Committee after formal interview and background checks are completed. Motion carried.

MR. LIPTAK

Nothing further to report at this time.

MS. KELLER

Ms. Keller asked Mr. Fidler if he went door to door and checked curbs and sidewalks yet.

MRS. HOPPLE

High Street Tree: Discussion on tree that needs to come down.

MR. MILLER

Fire Company: Mr. Miller reported that the Fire Company is unhappy that the Borough will not raise the fire tax rate. They want to know if J. F. Martin is paying taxes; that answer is yes, they do pay taxes. Discussion on the actions of a firefighter that were against MS4 regulations.

Pool: Mr. Miller reported that they had a meeting with Rick Wagner and Kim Johnson, the CEO of the YMCA to discuss this pool season. The "Y" will start advertising in December for lifeguards and hope to hire a teacher to manage. Discussion on the damages and items that will need to be replaced, Jason will be putting a list together. The CEO was happy that we let them know about problems with the supervision and guards.

MRS. FITTERLING

Web Site: Mrs. Fitterling did not have the opportunity to work on the web site to get the bill pay started due to illness.

Rec Board: The Rec Board is working on the paperwork for Home Town Heroes Banners. They are also looking into crosswalks, similar to Sinking Springs. The batting cage looks good. Only one baseball team will be using the field for fall ball.

MR. EDWARDS

Newsletter: The newsletter is finished. The newsletter will not be delivered door to door. It will be available on the web site; with copies available at the Borough Hall, Library, and possibly the churches.

Grant Application: Mr. Edwards reported that there is grant money available for creating an area for yard waste drop off, equipment for leaf pick/up, chippers, grinders etc. We do not have a place for our residents to dispose of yard waste. This will be a problem if the trash haulers are not able to take these items. Recycling of plastics, glass, aluminum, and corrugated cardboard is needed. The paper market is not good right now and is not being encouraged.

Council went into Executive Session at 9:05pm for possible litigation purposes. Council returned from Executive Session at 9:21pm with no action taken.

Motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mrs. Fitterling to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mickey Balistreri, Secretary