

**WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 101 W. HIGH STREET ON  
FEBRUARY 5, 2019**

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, Esq., Engineer-Jeremy Brumbach, Police Chief-John Pontician and Secretary-Mickey Balistrieri

**GUESTS**

Christine Delp, Jody Hoover, Dave Randler, Trondell Windley and Geneva Aulenbach-Reading Eagle

**Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Fidler to accept the January 2, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Ms. Keller to accept the January 15, 2019 Workshop Meeting Minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to accept the list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$54,720.43. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Miller to ratify the payment to UGI in the amount of \$510.71. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mrs. Hopple to approve paying this week's payroll. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Fidler to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A list of Communication was issued to Council Members, none requiring action.

**EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/AUTHORITIES & COMMISSIONS**

Trondell Windley-Discussion on the costs to fix the backhoe; the total bill from Plasterers to come out and fix it would cost \$2,646.00, which does not include the tires. Mr. Liptak will get another estimate. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mrs. Hopple to spend \$1,500.00 to replace the tires on the backhoe, from Keppley Tires. Motion carried.

Mr. Windley reported that the bucket truck needs a manifold and tires. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mrs. Hopple to spend \$1,500.00 to replace the tires on the bucket truck. Motion carried. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mr. Miller to send the bucket truck to West Penn Auto for repairs, not to exceed \$1,800.00. Motion carried.

A.H. Moyer was called out to the library for a clog that caused the toilet to back up. Paper towels were found in there again. The bathroom toilets do not have paper towels, air dryers were installed.

PennDOT Flagger School-Mr. Windley signed himself and Billy up for flagger school. Pesticide training is needed also.

Pool-Discussion on the pool, filter system, valves, etc. **Motion** by Ms. Keller, second by Mrs. Hopple to get an assessment of the pool filter system. Motion carried. The Engineer will need to have access to the pool filter room in order to prepare bid specs. With no further reports from or questions for him, Mr. Trondell left the meeting.

## **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mr. David P. Randler handed out subpoenas for a summary case.

**SOLICITOR**-Kourtney Bernecker, Esq.

J. F. Martin-Solicitor Bernecker reported that J. F. Martin does not want to do a land development plan for their proposed new parking lot. The Solicitor composed a letter responding to the Engineer's letter. **Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mrs. Hopple to authorize the Solicitor to send a letter to J. F. Martin's engineer. Motion carried.

**ENGINEER**-Jeremy Brumbach, P.E.

Water St. Paving Project-The engineer reported an update from John Williams that CMS is in the process of removing a pole, the Water Company work will come first, followed by UGI doing their work. UGI should get a street cut permit. Mr. Edwards reported that the street was blocked off today.

NOV-S. Linden Avenue-Discussion on the Notice of Violation that was issued. Mr. McCarthy is to send another certified letter to the property owner. Discussion on the pooling water and the large amount of rains we had this year. Mr. Liptak discussed looking into addressing the many flooding issues in the Borough.

PJ's Pizza-Mr. Brumbach explained that the Planning Commission had recommended a waiver of land development; then PJ's requested and received zoning waivers conditioned upon doing land development. If the Borough would waive land development, PJ's would be in violation of the waivers they requested and received from the Zoning Hearing Board.

419 & 422 Traffic Signal-Engineer Brumbach reported that the traffic signal used to be split faced timing. They are now receptive to consideration of going back to the split faced timing. However, the Borough would be responsible to do the traffic study and all costs of construction, (such as re-timing the light, any striping, detectors in pavement). If Penn Dot allows it, we can not go back to what is there now. After Discussion, **Motion** by Ms. Keller, second by Mr. Fidler to move forward with the study. Motion carried. Mr. McCarthy to sign the agreement for the study. Traffic Planning and Designing will present the information at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Mrs. Fitterling to put the information on the web site so the public can come to see the presentation.

## **MAYOR**

Police Applications-Mayor Gettle reported that the applications were narrowed down for interviews, and a date will be chosen to start interviewing. Mr. Fidler, Chairman of the Police Committee reported that the Police Committee met and is comfortable in recommending the

hiring of this experienced officer. **Motion** by Mr. Fidler, second by Mrs. Hopple to hire Stephen DeVore as a Part Time Police Officer at \$17.34 per hour. Motion carried.

#### **MR. FIDLER**

LED Sign-Mr. Fidler reported that a presentation and quotes of sign designs will be held at 6:00pm tomorrow at the Borough Hall.

Sewer Authority-Mr. Fidler reported that the Sewer Authority is working thru Miller Engineering at \$50.00 per hour with a one-year contract, after one year a 3% increase. The contract can be terminated by either party with a 30-day notice. Extra work or repairs will have to be handled differently. Mr. Edwards reported that at this time, we will not be accepting Mr. Moore's resignation from the Sewer Authority.

#### **MR. LIPTAK**

Buildings/Grounds/Maint. -Mr. Liptak reported that everything seems to be going well with the Maintenance Department. The first three snow incidents of the year seemed to go well. Mr. Edwards reported that Jon Claypoole and Steve Nichols came out to help with snow removal.

DEP Grant Application-Mr. Liptak and Mr. Edwards will be having a pre-application meeting with Jane Meeks and members of the DEP on February 13<sup>th</sup> to review the grant application for \$350,000 in grant funding. Discussion on ordinance updates that need to be done, we have never had a recycling ordinance before. Recycling will no longer be optional. The new ordinance will be ready for review at the Workshop Meeting, advertised and be ready to adopt at the March 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

#### **MS. KELLER**

Parking Concerns-Ms. Keller reported that there are cars in the public lot that stay parked longer than they are supposed to, and that cars are still parking on S. Pine Street. Chief Pontician reported that tickets have been issued.

Library-Mr. Edwards reported that Trondell and Billy fixed the leak on the Library roof. They will stop in once a week to check with Nina. We will need to supply a letter to the Library for approval of their summer event scheduled with liquor. Discussion on liquor licenses, event insurance, etc.

#### **MRS. HOPPLE**

Employment Applications-Mrs. Hopple reported that next week we should have the applications for the Sewer Plant positions. We are not going to move on these at this time, we just want to see what we have until we know what direction the Sewer Authority is going take.

#### **MR. MILLER**

Fire Company-The Fastnacht sale is March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for \$8.00 a dozen. There will be 30-40 people coming from Germany for the Anniversary Celebration in May of 2020. Mr. Miller also reported that the Fire Company would like a check from the Fire Tax Fund in the amount of \$30,000 to purchase a 1999 Pierce Pumper from New York for \$85,000. This will replace the 1985 Le France. **Motion** by Mrs. Hopple, second by Mr. Liptak to approve the payment to the Fire Company from their Fire Tax Account in the amount of \$30,000 for the new pumper truck.

Pool-Mr. Miller reported that everyone got a copy of the pool rules, the YMCA's rules will be combined with ours. Use of Facilities age to rent is 21 years of age. Age to come to the pool without an adult is age 12.

Pool Memberships/Walk ins-Mr. Miller recommended a \$5.00 discount on memberships purchased by May 20<sup>th</sup>. After May 20<sup>th</sup>, the rates will remain at the regular rate. By May 20<sup>th</sup>- \$65.00, after May 20<sup>th</sup>-\$70.00. Discussion on a lower rate for residents of the Borough. After much discussion, it was suggested that Womelsdorf Borough Residents could be \$75.00, Outside memberships-\$95.00 with a \$5.00 discount if paid by May 20<sup>th</sup>. Discount rate could be \$70.00 resident, & \$90.00 non-resident.

Daily rate would stay the same at \$8.00 with weekend daily rate at \$10.00.

Snack Bar-Motion by Mrs. Hopple, second by Ms. Keller to keep the snack bar lease at \$2,100.00, the same as last year. Motion carried.

YMCA-Mr. Miller reported he has the contract from the "YMCA", the cost will be \$60,000. If pool rentals run after pool hours, the YMCA will charge extra. Swim Lessons would be the same as last year: \$40.00 to be split \$30.00 Y and \$10.00 Boro. Alyssa is the Manager for the Y. There will be adult employees and office staff this year. Pool closure procedures will be posted at the pool, and information will be posted on the web site and Facebook. Mr. Edwards signed the YMCA Pool Management Contract.

## **MRS. FITTERLING**

Rec Board-Information for our next meeting, after the Rec Board Meeting.

Web Site-Mrs. Fitterling hopes to have the bill pay ready on the web site, and for the newsletter.

Question-Mrs. Fitterling had a question from an employee regarding vacation, Mrs. Hopple reported that this has already been discussed that she should have talked to her as Personnel Chairperson and not brought this question to Council. Mrs. Fitterling asked Council to look into this again. Mr. Edwards called for an Executive Session for personnel reasons. Council went into Executive Session at 9:32pm. Mrs. Hopple and Ms. Keller left the Council Meeting at this time and did not go into the Executive Session. Council returned from Executive Session at 9:50pm with the following action taken. Motion by Mr. Liptak, second by Mrs. Fitterling to pay Jon Claypoole the five days of vacation that he earned as of January 1, 2019. Motion carried.

## **MR. EDWARDS**

Handicap Parking Space-Motion by Mr. Liptak, second by Mr. Miller to approve the application for a handicap parking space in front of 309 W. High Street for Gar Shanaman. Applicant has the proper paperwork and a current handicap placard. Motion carried. There are no other handicap parking spaces designated in this area.

Municipal Officials Dinner-Will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Stokesay Castle, 5:00pm Hors d'oeuvres, 6:30 dinner, 7:15 discussion and presentation, guest speaker is Terry Madonna.

Boroughs Association Meeting-Mr. Edwards reported on the meeting he attended, the topic was about animal rescue options. How much money are municipalities willing to pay for what services they want? Giorgio is working with the Humane Society thru a grant for feral cat issues. The Humane Society can be used to house an animal, but they will not go out on a call. Only eight municipalities have agreed to a contract with ARL. The Chief didn't get prices yet, but we will need to get proper equipment such as a net/snare to capture, and a single kennel to hold a dog for up to two days.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission Meeting-Mr. Liptak reported that at their January Meeting, the Joint Planning Commission discussed adding Robesonia and North Heidelberg to the UCC Appeals Board with Heidelberg and Womelsdorf. Solicitor Bernecker reported that an intermunicipal agreement would have to be drawn up. The Secretary reported that Womelsdorf Borough joined Berks County Board of Appeals a few years ago, but we haven't paid the \$200.00 dues for 2019 yet. Mr. Randler discussed the purpose of having the joint UCC Appeals Board. **Motion** by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Liptak to allow Robesonia Borough and North Heidelberg to join. The municipality that needs a hearing, would bare the expenses of that hearing. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mr. Liptak, second by Mrs. Fitterling to adjourn the Meeting. Motion carried. With no further business brought before Council, this Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mickey Balistrieri  
Secretary