

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

Held at 101 W. High Street on

December 18, 2018

Council President Bruce Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT

Council Members: Carl Liptak, Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, Lori Fitterling (6:36 p.m.), Bruce Edwards, Mayor Jennifer Gettle, Police Chief John Pontician, Glenn Kraft and Jeff Fiant – Kraft Code Services, and Nan Feeg – Acting Secretary.

ABSENT

Council Member Joshua Fidler

GUESTS

Reading Eagle Reporter Stephen DeLucas, Allyson Boyer, Shaun Gettle and Eric Fitterling (6:36 p.m.)

Bills to be Paid – **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Liptak to approve the list of bills to be paid as listed in the amount of \$36,452.14. Motion carried unanimously.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

A list of Communications was given to Council Members, three requesting action:

- Berks County Conservation District Affiliate Membership Request – Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mr. Liptak, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to donate \$500.00 to the Berks County Conservation District, which is the “Defender of Conservation” Membership Level. Motion carried unanimously.
- Berks County Planning Commission Uniform Construction Code Countywide Appeals Board – **Motion** moved by Mr. Liptak, seconded by Mr. Miller to participate in the Countywide Board of Appeals with a yearly membership fee of \$200.00. Motion carried unanimously.
- Tomlinson Bomberger Spring Broadleaf Weed Control at Pool – **Motion** moved by Mr. Liptak, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to renew the Spring Broadleaf Weed Control contract with Tomlinson Bomberger with a 4% discount by paying \$228.41 before 02/28/19. Motion carried unanimously.

It was noted these will only be paid in 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

Road Closure Sign – Mr. Edwards informed Council Brown’s Signs gave a quote of \$229.00 for a 48-inch orange reflective sign with black lettering for the Water Street road closing. It can be reused – the black lettering can be changed. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs.

Hopple, seconded by Mr. Liptak to purchase the sign from Brown's Signs at a cost of \$229.00. Motion carried unanimously.

MR. FIANT/MR. KRAFT

Kraft Code Services reported the following:

- Rental Properties – 49 rental units have been inspected, 47 of those 49 units inspected have been issued certificates of inspection and 131 certificates of license have been issued, according to Mr. Fiant.
- 128 E. High Street – Mr. Kraft informed Council he met with the property owner at the site. She has no insurance and he is waiting to hear back from her regarding a restoration contractor. He noted the home is unsafe to enter due to the fire and must be cleaned out by a professional. The house must be secured, which is up to her to undertake herself since she has no insurance. Mr. Kraft noted that ultimately, if she doesn't take any action, they as the Borough Building Inspectors, under the Property Maintenance Code can have the building secured and then the Borough would lien the property for the money that it takes to do that. Discussion followed.
- Dogwood Lane Pool Hearing – Mr. Fiant reported at the hearing in November they were ordered to pay the Borough a fine of \$200 by December 21 and the deficiencies corrected.
- Stoudt Parking Lot – Mr. Fiant reported the contractor has patched the holes for now, but will mill them out in spring and fix the lot correctly.
- Scales Property – Mr. Fiant reported the pipe still needs to be installed.
- West High Street Signage – According to Mr. Fiant, the sign is not a zoning issue and Jim McCarthy, Gary Kraft and Glenn Kraft agree. Mr. Fiant feels this should be addressed through the Borough Code and Traffic Ordinance because the real issue is the intent of the sign.
- West Franklin Street Properties – Mrs. Hopple requested Mr. Fiant check the backyards of two properties on West Franklin Street, (both are owned by the same person; one is owner occupied, the other is a rental property), because she is receiving complaints.

OLD BUSINESS

2019 Real Estate Tax Ordinance No. 2018-02 – **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded Mr. Miller to adopt the 2019 Real Estate Tax Ordinance No. 2018-02 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

2019 Fire and Library Tax Ordinance No. 2018-03 – **Motion** moved by Mr. Liptak, seconded Mrs. Fitterling to adopt the 2019 Real Estate Tax Ordinance No. 2018-03 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Trash Ordinance No. 2018-04 - **Motion** moved by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mrs. Fitterling to adopt the Trash Ordinance No. 2018-04 as presented increasing the charge to \$284.00 per unit per year. Motion carried unanimously.

2019 Wage Resolution – **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mrs. Fitterling to adopt the Wage Resolution No. 2018-01 setting employee wages for 2019 based on the 2019 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

MR. FIDLER - Absent

MR. LIPTAK – Nothing to report.

MR. MILLER

Fire Company – Santa on the fire truck is Sunday, December 23.

MAYOR/CHIEF

Ad. – Chief Pontician reported there are applications coming in in response to the ad.

Thank You – Mayor Gettle thanked the Borough for the lovely succulent she received following her surgery.

MS. KELLER – Nothing to report.

MRS. HOPPLE

Christmas Party – Mrs. Hopple thanked everyone for what they did for the Christmas Party.

New Year's Eve – Mrs. Hopple verified with Council North Front Street road closure from High Street up to the cemetery for the New Year's Eve celebration. Trellises will be needed and they will be putting the cigar in the Borough Hall a few days before. Mr. Liptak will contact the maintenance department regarding the trellises.

Personnel – Mrs. Hopple informed Council the new hire is doing well. Mr. Edwards reported the trucks have been repaired and will have new tires on December 19. The last day for leaf pick-up is December 19. Mr. Liptak informed Council he is also looking into prices for a self-contained leaf picker.

MRS. FITTERLING

Rec. Board - Mrs. Fitterling reported the Rec. Board is recommending Marjorie O'Riordan for the Rec. Board due to Shannon Kramer's resignation. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Fitterling, seconded by Mr. Liptak to fill the vacancy on the Rec. Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Website – Mrs. Fitterling will be updating the website, including the new trash information.

MR. EDWARDS

COG – Mr. Edwards informed Council the COG website www.wrwtrashcog.org has been updated with the new trash information. He reminded Council no glass, lids or plastic bags in recycling and due to the holidays, recycling will be picked up on Friday, December 28 and Friday, January 4. Starting January 7, 2019, trash will be picked up in Womelsdorf on Tuesdays and recycling on Thursdays.

With no further business to be brought before Council, **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Liptak to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Nan Feeg/Acting Secretary