**WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**

**Held at 101 W. High Street on**

**August 20, 2019**

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, Carl Liptak, Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, David Moyer, Bruce Edwards, Mayor Jennifer Gettle, Police Chief John Pontician, Jeff Fiant – Kraft Code Services (Left at 7:54 PM) and Nan Feeg – Acting Secretary.

**ABSENT**

Council Member Wayne Miller.

**GUESTS**

Resident: Aubrey Adams, Womelsdorf Area Women of Today Treasurer

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Police Department Appreciation - Mrs. Adams presented to Police Chief Pontician gifts of appreciation for him and the officers of the Womelsdorf Police Department from the Women of Today.

Bills to be Paid – Council members reviewed the list of bills to be paid. Regarding Bill #13 McCarthy Engineering, Mrs. Hopple verified with Council bills regarding LJ’s, Martin’s and PJ’s projects will be reimbursed by LJ’s, Martins and PJ’s and questioned if this will be last bill for Linden Alley, which Mr. Edwards informed her it is not. Discussion followed regarding future bills for things such as road repairs for next year, the Mulberry Alley bridge, park walls, the situation in Country Ridge, the sinkhole at the Library, the alley at 3rd and 4th St., and Bunker Hill Road, etc. because, according to Council, we have so many projects that need to be done. **Motion** moved by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to approve the list of bills to be paid as presented in the amount of $51,592.53. Motion carried unanimously. There were no bills to be ratified.

Payroll – **Motion** moved by Mr. Liptak, seconded by Ms. Keller to pay payroll this week. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** moved by Mr. Liptak, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A list of Communications was given to Council Members, one requesting action.

Request for Fire Police Assistance – Letters from Tulpehocken Township Police Department and Womelsdorf Fire Police regarding assisting with traffic control for the Rehrersburg Car Show on September 7, 2019. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Moyer to allow the Fire Police to assist during the Rehrersburg Car Show on September 7, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Library Sinkhole – Mr. Edwards reported the engineers have looked at it and recommended Council contact the gas company and PennDOT because it is near the gas lines and goes under the road, so it may be their responsibility. Currently it is filled in temporarily with the stone recommended by the engineer according to Mr. Edwards.

South Fourth Street – Mr. McCarthy recommended to check South Fourth Street with cameras. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Liptak to have someone with a camera look under the road on South Fourth Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Bunker Hill Road – Discussion followed regarding Bunker Hill Road. Council agreed we should reach out to Heidelberg Township and to have the engineer estimate a cost to fix it so Council knows for budgeting purposes for the spring.

Boot Factory Property – It is reported the foundation is gone; the bad spot was fixed and now there’s a new spot. Mr. Fiant updated Council on his meeting with Ulises regarding this property, as well as who is taking care of the repair of the alley. Discussion followed. Council agreed the issues with the Boot Factory Building need to be fixed and either Kraft or McCarthy is to address this issue before the Borough paves the alley. Discussion followed regarding the odors.

**MR. FIANT**

Rental Registration and Inspection – Mr. Fiant reported to Council 77 properties have been inspected, 127 properties are registered, 69 properties have been issued Certificates of Inspection and one property is not yet licensed.

Property Maintenance – Mr. Fiant reviewed with Council several properties’ property maintenance and zoning issues and NOV’s issued. Discussion followed.

Kraft Code Services Report – Mr. Fiant questioned Council about changing the time period of the report by bumping it back so the period would end one week before the Workshop Meeting; he explained the report would then coincide with his report at Workshop Meeting and would be more up to date. Council agreed to Mr. Fiant’s request.

Building Permits – Mr. Fiant informed Council eight building permits were issued with an improvement value of $175,689.00.

Stoudt Parking Lot – Mrs. Hopple questioned Mr. Fiant regarding the parking lot because she wants someone responsible, either the current owner or the church who is buying the property, because it needs attention now. Mr. Fiant’s last instruction from Council was at the June Workshop Meeting when it was discussed and Council agreed they were content as long as Mr. Fiant continues to press this issue with the Pastor and gets it resolved. Discussion followed. Mr. Fiant will contact the Church and inform them Council wants it fixed as soon as LJ”s construction project is completed.

Property Maintenance – Mrs. Hopple reported she thinks the yard next to her is infested with the lantern flies because there are trees of heaven on that property and the neighborhood is becoming infested. Mrs. Hopple requested the property owner be fined every day by the Police. Discussion followed, including property values being affected due to neighbors’ lack of property maintenance.

Water Street – Discussion followed regarding Shanaman’s Water Street property and the water issue not being caused by the road per Borough Engineer Jim McCarthy.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Fiant was instructed by Council to check the properties at 214 West High Street and 321 West High Street.

With no further business for Mr. Fiant, he was dismissed at 7:54 p.m.

**MR. FIDLER**

Police Committee:

* Part-time Officers – Mr. Fidler informed Council the Police Committee would like to recommend to hire two part-time police officers: Eric Goudy & Daniel Albright. Mr. Fidler reviewed with Council their credentials. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Liptak, to hire both Eric Goudy & Daniel Albright as part-time officers per the fee schedule and the probation time listed in the book. Motion carried unanimously.
* Resignation Letter – Mayor Gettle presented to Council a resignation letter from full-time Officer Kristen Yeager. **Motion** moved by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mr. Liptak to accept Officer Yeager’s resignation effective, today, August 20, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.
* Full-time Officers – At the recommendation of the Police Committee, Mr. Fidler requested part-time officers Steve DeVore and Alex Doelp be hired as full-time officers. Mr. Fidler noted we are budgeted for two full-time officers and Alex Doelp can start October 1. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Liptak to hire both part-time officers Steve DeVore and Alex Doelp as full-time officers, with their effective full-time hire date as their start date for their probation period. Motion carried unanimously.

 Rec. Board

* Rec. Board Expenditures - Mr. Fidler informed Council the Rec. Board is requesting they be permitted to spend up to $250.00 or so using Rec. Board funds prior to Council approval. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Liptak to allow the Rec. Board to spend up to $250.00 per item out of Rec. Board funds before going through Council, as long as it is approved by the Rec. Board at a meeting, and then must be presented for approval by Borough Council at the next Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
* Trash Cans – Mr. Fidler questioned what is happening regarding the new trash cans. Mrs. Hopple informed Council Billy and Trondell of the Maintenance Department have pictures of what they would like to have. Council agreed they would like to see their choice and review the price before approving the purchase of them.
* Playground – Mr. Fidler informed Council Rec. Board President Mike Feigum spoke to playground leader Judy Dalesandro regarding extending playground two weeks to eight weeks, since parents are requesting that. Mr. Fidler inquired if the playground leader could have a credit card. Discussion followed. Council agreed to keep playground at six weeks next year and not to extend it and to not have a credit card for the playground leader.

Workshop Agenda – Mr. Fidler requested there be an agenda for Workshop meetings and name plates. Discussion followed and Council agreed this would be a good idea.

Website – Mr. Fidler informed Council he was contacted by Lori Fitterling to ask Council if she could continue to do the website, since she is willing to do it and is familiar with it. Discussion followed. Council was under the impression she only wanted to do it until we found someone. Council agreed to allow Lori Fitterling to continue to do the website pending checking with the Solicitor. Council also agreed the contacts for the website postings should be Mayor Gettle and Secretary Mickey Balistrieri. It was agreed to rescind the motion from the August Borough Council Meeting at the September Borough Council Meeting regarding Dominic Rey doing the website.

Ride for Freedom – Mr. Fidler reminded Council the Ride for Freedom is Sunday, August 25.

Active Shooter Training – Mr. Fidler informed Council Chief Pontician will be conducting active shooter training on August 28.

**MR. LIPTAK**

Use of Facilities Application – Mr. Liptak verified with Council the minimum age on the Use of Facilities application should be 21, not 25 as listed, and Council agreed this should be changed on the applications. He also questioned if we are staying with the $1,000,000.00 coverage. Discussion followed. Council agreed to check with Solicitor George regarding this since he is the one who drew up the application. Mrs. Hopple questioned if it is necessary to use the Use of Facilities application for the pool. Mr. Fidler asked Council why the Borough charges residents to use the parks and it was explained they use electric, water, supplies, etc. in addition to our maintenance department being paid overtime to check the parks before and after a rental. Mr. Moyer shared with Council pictures from another pool of a temporary pool basketball backboard. Discussion followed.

**MS. KELLER**

Newsletter – Ms. Keller reported she did not see anything in the Newsletter regarding kicking your grass cuttings into the street. She questioned if people are being ticketed. Discussion followed.

Old Farr’s Nursery Property – Mrs. Keller questioned who owns what used to be Farr’s Nursery at the east end of town and questioned if it is being cited. She noted to Council our maintenance department mistakenly cut the weeds because they thought it belonged to the Borough and this is why she feels they should have job descriptions. Discussion followed.

Sidewalks – Discussion followed regarding sidewalk inspections. Council agreed to check with the Solicitor and Kraft Code Services if sidewalk inspections could be part of the property transfer inspection.

Library – Mr. Edwards reported people are loving the “Little Free Library” project. It was suggested to move the one from the pool to the Borough Hall when the pool closes.

**MRS. HOPPLE**

Pool – Mrs. Hopple informed Council there will be a “big shindig” at the pool on Labor Day. It is being advertised and DJ Larry will be there again all day for $200 according to Mrs. Hopple. She has authorized the “Y” to spend $150-$200 for prizes, games, etc. It will be advertised as sponsored by the VFW since the funds donated by them will be used for this event. Mrs. Hopple announced she and Mr. Miller, as the Pool Committee, will be throwing quarters into the pool. She informed Council the splash party had more than 250 people attend even though it was cold and all the money went to the “Y” since they paid for the event, including a full staff of lifeguards. Mrs. Hopple praised pool manager Renee Seisler, who is planning on coming back next year, according to Mrs. Hopple. Discussion followed regarding Luke Mumma and lifeguards/members bringing food to the pool. Mr. Edwards informed Council the pool chemical feeder has been installed. Discussion followed regarding the leak and getting it fixed, which hopefully is only at the main drain, where they feel it is according to Mr. Edwards. Mrs. Hopple questioned when the pipe was put in the grass behind the diving well and where it came from. Discussion followed.

Newsletter – Mrs. Hopple requested letters go out this week to Borough Boards, Commissions, and Community Organizations stating articles for the Fall/Winter Newsletter are due by September 10 and Council agreed.

Finance Committee – Mrs. Hopple reminded the Finance Committee they will need to start working on the budget. Mrs. Hopple requested Council members to get their “wish lists” together and Mrs. Balistrieri should inform the Sewer Authority, etc.

**MR. MILLER –** Absent

**MR. MOYER**

Planning Commission – Mr. Moyer informed Council the Planning Commission met on August 19 regarding the John F. Martin project. Since they did not have current plans they worked off of old plans from E & S and post construction/stormwater management plans, but they had conflicting information according to Mr. Moyer. They were requesting three waivers, which the Planning Commission accepted: two regarding the cover on top of pipes going into the catch basin into the infiltration beds, and the third being they accept preliminary final plan review contingent upon them making all the changes on the plans that McCarthy recommended. Mr. Moyer noted they are also waiting for the PennDOT plan regarding the entrances on 422 & 419 so they can record that. Mr. Moyer explained to Council that it will come to Council next; it will not come back to the Planning Commission; however, McCarthy Engineering recommended to wait for PennDOT approval regarding 422 entrances before bringing it to Council. Ms. Keller questioned the red light and Mr. Moyer stated there is nothing on their plans regarding the red light. Discussion followed. Mr. Moyer pointed out they only had three members attend the meeting and informed Council one member, Russell Rissmiller, who he thinks his term expires January 1, has not been attending and no one has current contact information for him. Discussion followed.

Map of Streets – Mr. Moyer requested a map of the streets, which Mrs. Feeg gave to him, because he would like to take a look at the streets before the weather breaks.

War Memorial – Mr. Moyer praised the weeding at the War Memorial.

Upcoming Events – Mr. Moyer noted the following upcoming events: Ride for Freedom is Sunday, August 25 and Active Shooter Training is August 28 at 7 PM at the Lutheran Church.

**MAYOR/CHIEF**

Verizon Proposal – Chief Pontician presented to Council Verizon’s proposal on cell phones, including the Chief’s. As explained by Chief Pontician they could do seven cell phones with unlimited data at $294.90, which is $40.00 cheaper than what we are paying now, which he believes is for six phones. He explained we get $1,000.00 incentive for turning in the old I-Phones, which will be replaced with I-Phone 8’s for free and the plan includes three push to talk phones. Chief Pontician stated he will make sure there is nothing to disconnect from Sprint. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Liptak to move everything to Verizon from Sprint. Motion carried unanimously.

Security Cameras – Chief Pontician presented an estimate from Williams Security Services for three cameras and a DVR and installation for $1,904.19. Discussion followed. Mr. Edwards suggested Council wait until we have all the quotes from Williams.

New Police Vehicle -Chief Pontician informed Council he has started to collect information for a new vehicle, that being a four-door Ford F150 truck, which, according to him, is still under $30,000.00 and is the best value for now. Discussion followed.

**MR. EDWARDS**

COG – Mr. Edwards informed Council they are working on proposals for the trash and recycle contract. He explained that according to the current COG bylaws, to be one of the representatives on the COG Committee, you must be on one of the respective Borough Councils. Because of this, Mr. Edwards explained he will be the only one left because Tony Wirebach from Robesonia and Brian Clements from Wernersville are not going to be on Council. Brian Clements, who has a world of knowledge on the topic and has been very helpful, is considering staying on the COG Committee even though his term with Wernersville Borough Council expires the end of this year according to Mr. Edwards. Mr. Edwards questioned Council if anyone would object to Brian Clements staying on the COG Committee due this special circumstance and his knowledge on the subject. Mr. Edwards explained the COG Solicitor would write something up that all three boroughs would have to agree and once he left it would revert back.

Maintenance Department – Mr. Edwards informed Council our leaf machine is “basically shot” and Wyomissing has six, although they don’t use them all, so they might be willing to lend us one for the season at no charge. Council questioned Mr. Edwards because they thought the leaf machine was working fine. Mr. Edwards and Council hope they can use Wyomissing’s leaf machine this year and the grant comes through for next year. Discussion followed regarding the street sweeper working very well and two people being in it when they do the storm drains. The maintenance department will be painting the lines once the paint comes in according to Mr. Edwards. Discussion followed regarding the handicap spaces in need of painting.

Sewer Authority – Mr. Edwards informed Council he will be unable to attend this month’s Sewer Authority Meeting. Their new employee will start September 1, according to Mr. Edwards. Discussion followed regarding the sewer employee working with our crew, the mowing, etc.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Garbage Liens – Mr. Edwards informed Council there are five properties (Norton, Orth, Hancock, Norton Rental and Saltzman) that are delinquent in paying their garbage bills. **Motion** moved by Mr.Liptak, seconded by Mr. Fidler to place liens on the five properties. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to be brought before Council, **Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mr. Liptak to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 P.M.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nan Feeg/Acting Secretary