**WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**

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

**September 17, 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, Wayne Miller, David Moyer, Bruce Edwards, Jeff Fiant – Kraft Code Services and Nan Feeg – Acting Secretary.

**ABSENT**

Council Member Cindy Hopple, Mayor Jennifer Gettle and Police Chief John Pontician.

**GUESTS**

Resident: James Mellon Sr.

**BILLS TO BE PAID**

Council members reviewed the list of bills to be paid. Council questioned bill #11 – frost free hydrant at the ball field; #37 – bearings for the leaf vac over $500 amount, so Mr. Edwards will discuss this with the Maintenance Department; # 27 – traffic paint, which Mr. Edwards verified was authorized to purchase. Discussion followed regarding buying or lending a leaf box from Wyomissing. **Motion** moved by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mr. Liptak to approve the list of bills to be paid as presented in the amount of $63,802.49. Motion carried unanimously.

**BILL TO BE RATIFIED**

**Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Liptak to approve the one bill to be ratified in the amount of $74.58 for sewer plant Verizon bill. Motion carried unanimously.

**PAYROLL**

**Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mr. Miller to pay payroll this week. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mr. Miller 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 – Letter from Borough of Myerstown requesting support services within the Borough of Myerstown on November 30, 2019, (rain date December 1, 2019) for the Holiday Parade. **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Liptak to allow the Fire Police as long as the Fire Police are available to provide support services on November 1, 2019, (rain date December 1, 2019) for the Myerstown Holiday Parade. Motion carried unanimously.

**EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/AUTHORITIES/COMMISSIONS** – None

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mr. Mellon informed Council he was in attendance to observe.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Website Motion – **Motion** moved by Mr. Liptak, seconded by Mr. Moyer to rescind the motion from the August 7, 2019, regarding Dominic Rey maintaining the website. It was noted Mrs. Fitterling is still listed as the liaison to the Rec. Board on the website as well as other items on website need updating. Mr. Edwards will be contacting Mrs. Fitterling about updating the website. Motion carried unanimously.

Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Maintenance Project Completion Report – Mr. Edwards informed Council the Borough has received the Completion Report regarding the Water Street project and he would be signing it in order for the Borough to receive its final payment.

Bite of Berks, September 23 Tickets – Mr. Edwards informed Council the Borough will be receiving two free tickets and additional tickets may be purchased at a cost of $20.00 each to attend the Bite of Berks on Monday, September 23 at the Ag. Center to receive the award for the Water Street project. Ms. Keller, Mr. Liptak, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Miller volunteered to attend. **Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mr. Moyer to pay for two additional tickets at $20.00 each for the Bite of Berks. Motion carried unanimously.

**MR. FIANT**

Property Maintenance – Mr. Fiant discussed with Council the over five pages of property maintenance issues and noted that six properties have achieved compliance. It was noted the Stoudt parking lot has been patched and Mr. Fiant informed Council he did receive an email from McCarthy Engineering and the Planning Commission regarding the lighting on that parking lot. Discussion followed. Council agreed not to pursue the lighting issue until the church takes ownership of the property. Council questioned Mr. Fiant about two properties on South Front Street, so he will look into them.

Rental Registration and Inspection – Mr. Fiant reported to Council 79 properties have been inspected, 72 properties have been issued Certificates of Inspection, 127 properties have registered, and one property is not yet licensed. He noted that 126 W. Franklin Street was posted on Monday.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Fiant informed Council he is working with the property manager at the old boot factory.

With no further business for Mr. Fiant, he was dismissed at 7:25 p.m.

**MR. FIDLER**

Police Committee – Mr. Fidler informed Council according to Mayor Gettle, part-time officer Eric Goudy wants to stay at Heidelberg Township and Officer Alex Doelp will be starting full-time with the Borough shortly. Mr. Fidler requested to advertise to hire part-time officers. **Motion** moved by Mr. Liptak, seconded by Mr. Fidler to advertise to hire part-time officers. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion followed.

Rec. Board – Mr. Fidler informed Council of the following from the September Rec. Board Meeting:

* Duck Crossing Sign – They are working on getting a duck crossing sign and costs.
* Electric & Phone Bills for LED Sign – They questioned the electric and phone bills for the LED sign even though the sign is not running. Mr. Miller pointed out it would probably cost more to start them up again after shutting them off than to just keep paying them. Mr. Fidler did say the Rec. Board may be interested in paying for a portion of a new sign.
* Pool – Mrs. Hopple attended the Rec. Board Meeting and it was discussed about painting figures in the pools as a Senior Project for a high school student or perhaps Ruth Wolfe. They are looking into the type of paint that can be used and the Rec. Board would pay for the paint and supplies for painting the figures in the pools. Council reminded Mr. Fidler the pool must first be sandblasted and cracks must be fixed before the pool is painted and then they can paint the figures, if time permits before the pool must be filled for next year.
* Fall Frolic – The Rec. Board will be participating with the Women of Today in their Fall Frolic on October 5 in the Town Park. The Rec. Board will have a fundraiser such as face painting or pumpkin carving and motioned to spend $60.00 to advertise the event in the Merchandiser. The Rec. Board would also like to have a movie in the Park and use the upstairs in case of rain.
* Tree Lighting – The Rec. Board is looking into having a tree donated and motioned to spend up to $150.00 on 100 toys for the children who attend the Borough tree lighting on December 1.
* Spring Event – The Rec. Board is working on an event to be held the Saturday of Mother’s Day weekend in 2020.

Mr. Fidler stated the Rec. Board is very motivated and has a lot of things they are trying to put together for next year.

Office Security – Ms. Keller informed Mr. Fidler the gentleman she had in mind informed her he is too busy right now, so Mr. Fidler was instructed to look further into who did Marion Township’s door.

Snow Parking – Mr. Edwards reminded Mr. Fidler this needs to be done shortly.

**MR. LIPTAK**

Use of Facilities Application – Mr. Liptak informed Council the Borough has received a Use of Facilities Application from the Womelsdorf Women of Today to use the Borough Hall Front Porch on October 31, 2019, from 3 p.m.-11 p.m. for their “Witches’ Pot.” **Motion** moved by Mr. Liptak, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the Womelsdorf Women of Today to use the Borough Hall Front Porch on October 31, 2019 from 3-11 p.m. for their “Witches’ Pot.” Motion carried unanimously.

Clean-up – Mr. Liptak reported Clean-up went well; around six dumpsters were filled.

**MS. KELLER**

Brush Dump – Ms. Keller questioned a place to dump brush and was reminded when we get the grant and new equipment, it will be up at the Borough Garage.

Library – Ms. Keller informed Council the Library Board meeting is coming up later this month.

Streets & Sidewalks – Ms. Keller informed Council she and Mr. Moyer met regarding the streets and sidewalks. They familiarized themselves with the sidewalk books and Ordinance, but only checked one block due to the heat. Mr. Moyer would like to look a little closer at the Ordinance regarding sidewalks and the criteria. Ms. Keller requested they paint at the fire hydrant on South Fourth Street. She questioned the amount of parking tickets and grass and weed violations issued and the Chief’s responsibilities because she is receiving complaints all the time of the Police Department not being seen out on the streets. Discussion followed including prioritizing due to being short-staffed as well as all the required paperwork, regulations, training, and the expense of having a police department. It was suggested the Police Committee meet with the Chief.

**MRS. HOPPLE –** Absent

**MR. MILLER**

Fire Company –Council was informed the Fire Chief requires additional shoulder surgery.

Pool – Mr. Miller questioned why they are pumping water out of the pool; it’s empty. Discussion followed. Mr. Edwards will check with the Maintenance Department, but did note the audio cannot check for leaks in the middle of the pool if it is filled with water; he can only check for leaks near the edge and can hear the water running. Council agreed estimates should be gotten for sandblasting and painting of the pool before work begins on the budget.

**MR. MOYER**

Planning Commission – Mr. Moyer informed Council Mr. Richards informed him he is done with the Planning Commission. Discussion followed. It was noted Mr. Richards’ term expires the end of this year and there probably won’t be much if any activity for the Planning Commission through the end of the year.

**MAYOR/CHIEF–** Absent

**MR. EDWARDS**

COG – Mr. Edwards informed Council they are meeting on Thursday and pretty soon they should have the contract ready to put out for bids.

Sewer Authority – Mr. Edwards informed Council he will be attending this month’s Sewer Authority Meeting and informed Council their new employee does not want to plow snow. Discussion followed. Council agreed it should be a “two-way street” regarding helping each other out and if its only one-way the Borough will bill the Sewer Authority when our guys help them. Discussion followed if Sewer Authority should be totally separate from the Borough and the consequences if that should happen.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Police Department – Mrs. Keller suggested seriously looking into having someone help with the paperwork back in the Police Department, especially since we are having trouble getting police officers. It was agreed this should be discussed with the Chief and Solicitor.

Standard Stormwater Facilities Maintenance and Monitoring Agreement – J.F. Martin Project – Mr. Edwards and Mr. Moyer discussed the agreement with Council. **Motion** moved by Mr.Liptak, seconded by Mr. Moyer to have Mr. Edwards sign the Stand Stormwater Facilities Maintenance and Monitoring Agreement regarding the J.F. Martin Project. Motion carried unanimously.

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 8:11 P.M.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nan Feeg/Acting Secretary