

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
Held at 101 W. High Street on
June 19, 2018

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, Cindy Hopple, Lori Fitterling, Bruce Edwards, Mayor Jennifer Gettle, Jeff Fiant – Kraft Code Services, Police Chief John Pontician and Nan Feeg – Acting Secretary

ABSENT

Council Members: Carl Liptak, Connie Keller, and Wayne Miller, Jr. Council Member Jennica Pearson

GUESTS

Carl Hurst – Autumn Ridge School, Geneva Aulenbach – Reading Eagle

Bills to be Paid – **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Fidler to approve the list of bills to be paid as listed in the amount of \$36,398.58. Motion carried unanimously.

Payroll – **Motion** moved by Mrs. Fitterling, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Carl Hurst, Autumn Ridge School – Mr. Hurst reported the school received a letter from McCarthy Engineering (copy also sent to Borough Council – Communications #3) regarding release of funds and questioned Borough Council on the next step. Council requested Mr. Hurst submit before the July 3 Borough Council meeting an official letter requesting release of the funds and the Borough Solicitor can then advise Council at that meeting. Mr. Hurst also informed Borough Council he has contacted Lebanon Farms for a trash contract for the school and will forward a copy of the contract once he receives it. Borough Council also requested the school recycle and to forward their recycling figures to the Borough at the end of each calendar year. Mr. Hurst expressed his appreciation on working with the Borough on the school project.

MR. FIANT

26 E. Franklin Street – Mr. Fiant reported the sofa is still there in the rear yard and they were sent a Notice of Violation, but no contact from them so the property will be posted on June 20, 2018.

308 Dogwood Lane – Mr. Fiant informed Council they were also sent a Notice of Violation because they still have done nothing with the issue with the pool and no contact from them so the property will be posted on June 20, 2018.

107 S. Front Street – Mr. Fiant informed Council he left a business card twice asking them to contact him; they have done a little, but have not gotten in touch with Kraft, so a Notice of Violation will be issued.

155 N. Second Street – Mr. Fiant informed Council it is nonconforming use of the property and has discussed it with the Solicitor, who agrees that if a Notice of Violation is issued and they choose to fight it, we are not going to win since the use has been going on since the 1970's. Discussion followed. Council agreed not to pursue the issue.

510 W. Franklin Street – Mr. Fiant reported he and Solicitor George have drafted paperwork, but an appeal has been filed to the judge's decision from 5/10 fines and costs. Appeal will be at the County Court. Discussion followed regarding her using a lawnmower as a vehicle.

Rental Units – Mr. Fiant reported Kraft is pleased with the response for rental licenses and inspections and "Final" letters have been sent.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Sterling Miller Request – Mr. Miller requested a refund of his Mill Spring Park Rental Fee for use of the Mill Spring Park Pavilion on August 19, 2018, due to family health issues. Mrs. Hopple felt and Council agreed Borough Council should act on the request rather than wait for Rec. Board meeting in July since the letter came in 6/7/18. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Fidler to refund Mr. Miller's rental fee. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Fireworks – President Edwards reported he spoke to someone from the Agriculture Department at the Borough Associations Conference about the new fireworks law. According to what Mr. Edwards learned, the 150-foot and alcohol restrictions are only for sellers, there are no restrictions on citizens, there is a 12% tax on fireworks and it is hard to enforce. There are certain laws out there, but they are not specific to fireworks; you could possibly cite for disorderly conduct and only in dangerous situations can they be stopped, according to Mr. Edwards. Question was raised if it is worth spending money on an ordinance pertaining to fireworks. Discussion followed. It was suggested to look into an ordinance that is restrictive, including stating they cannot be set off after a certain time of day. It is now legal to purchase them and set them off, so you cannot say it is not legal according to Chief Pontician. Mr. Edwards referred to Dillon's Rule: Local government only has the authority that the State Legislature gives you. They give you enabling legislation, which enables you to have ordinances on fireworks, but you cannot make them so strict to outlaw them because the State says they are legal according to Mr. Edwards. Mr. Edwards suggested looking into reasonable restrictions, although there is no rush, because we cannot have an ordinance in place by July 4 and reiterated that ordinances can only be enforced by our local police, not State Police. Chief Pontician pointed out Wyomissing's Ordinance threw a lot back on the fire laws, which is something to consider. Permits and having liability insurance were also suggested. Council agreed to think about it and to continue to discuss the issue.

MR. FIDLER – Nothing to report.

MR. LIPTAK – Absent

MS. KELLER – Absent

Library – Discussion regarding all the work Carolyn Edwards has done at the library. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mrs. Fitterling to send Carolyn Edwards a letter from the Borough thanking her for all the work she has done at the library. Motion carried unanimously.

MRS. HOPPLE

Weeds – Mrs. Hopple reported to the Chief the back yards are horrible with weeds on two properties west of Mull Funeral Home.

Pool – Mrs. Hopple felt the guards should be in the chairs and a guard should not be sitting on the diving board, but on a chair. Mrs. Fitterling questioned why so many staff are on when there are not many people at the pool.

Stream Walls – Mrs. Hopple reported the last rain did a lot of damage to the stream walls. The stones are washing away from the back of the walls. Discussion followed about discussing with the engineer about getting a grant.

Personnel – Mrs. Hopple would like to come up with a new universal form listing the type of leave requested. Discussion followed. She will discuss with Mrs. Fitterling.

Fire Company – Mrs. Hopple announced the next meeting for the 125th Anniversary of the Fire Company will be on June 24. Discussion followed regarding their fundraisers such as a run and raffles.

Car Show and Fishing Rodeo – Mrs. Hopple announced both the Car Show and Fishing Rodeo were very successful.

MR. MILLER – Absent

MRS. FITTERLING

Rec. Board

- Pool Party – Mrs. Fitterling reported the Borough Resident Pool Party has been cancelled for this year. They still need the pool occupancy numbers and they may possibly have a pool party next year. The Rec. Board would like to ask the engineer about a grant for the pool.
- Ball Field – Mrs. Fitterling reported the Rec. Board is confused why they need to pay for the net at the ball field, so she was instructed to ask Council to pay for it or at least one-half of it because of safety and the liability of the Borough. The Rec. Board starting sending out letters for signage at the ball field. Suggestion was made to redo the letter. Discussion followed including different backstops and updating Use of Facilities applications, including amount of personal liability coverage and the fees charged. Discussion followed regarding baseball and concerns of it costing the Borough more because things are not done correctly with the field because they were trying to help out and then the Borough must pay our maintenance crew to fix it. Council agreed stricter

rules need to be on the contract. It was noted when volunteers sprayed the weeds at the ball field with Jason Donaldson's approval, the paperwork was filed, according to Mrs. Fitterling. Council agreed a nice letter should be sent to CW Baseball so there is something in writing codifying the conversation that took place between Tim Riegel, Jason Donaldson and Lori Fitterling regarding using any equipment or performing work on the field. **Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to send CW Baseball a very nice letter thanking them for helping at the field, but stressing not to use Borough equipment without permission. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion followed regarding Mrs. Fitterling being the liaison between Council and the Rec. Board and groups working through her instead of the groups coming to Rec. Board as they should. Discussion followed again regarding the net, cost, who should pay for it and Rec. Board funds concerning future grants. Council agreed to table the request to pay for the net since the Rec. Board has already agreed to pay for the net.

- **Movie Night** – Mrs. Fitterling informed Council Rec. Board is planning a movie night in the park sometime in August before school starts. They are borrowing the Library's license and movie and Bethany's screen and are looking for an LCD projector and popcorn machine. Mrs. Fitterling will check with the library for the projector and Chief Pontician volunteered to check with the school for the projector and with Glenn Leininger for his popcorn machine. It was suggested to contact Turkey Hill about providing beverages.
- **Use of Facilities** – Mrs. Fitterling questioned about the procedure for approval of Use of Facilities applications. Discussion followed. Mrs. Fitterling then questioned Council about having the park restrooms open from 10 am -2 pm, but was informed that unfortunately due to vandalism, this is not a possibility.
- **Rec. Board Meeting** – Mrs. Fitterling informed Council there will be no Rec. Board Meeting on July 11 due to vacation conflicts with the majority of the Rec. Board members.

Website: Discussion followed about promoting the website and using the website to promote the carnival. Mr. Fidler and Mrs. Fitterling volunteered to work on a business card that could be delivered door to door listing the borough hours, phone numbers and website. It was suggested the Borough Website be linked to the PSAB website. Mrs. Fitterling would like committee members to be doing their own updates on the website, but that is not happening.

Hometown Heroes Banners – The Rec. Board is looking at getting the Hometown Heroes banners done and will be contacting the VFW according to Mrs. Fitterling. They will cost \$100 - \$150 so they will hopefully have people sponsor the heroes. They are looking for 16 hometown heroes and 16 banners with a flag. New brackets are also needed.

NEW BUSINESS

Honors – Mr. Fidler suggested honoring Committees and Employees at the Borough Holiday Gathering because he feels it is important to recognize people. Council agreed we are too small to do something like this, although the Mayor has recognized some people and groups by giving the key to the Borough and some Council people have provided pizza and beverages to Borough employees on different occasions as a thank you to them.

MAYOR /CHIEF

National Night Out – Chief Pontician reminded Council National Night Out is August 7 from 6-9 pm. and informed Council he has a number of contributors firmed up again. He is also looking for new ideas.

MR. EDWARDS

Dumpster – Mr. Edwards verified the dates of July 14-23 for the dumpster.

Water Street Project –According to an email Mr. Edwards received Council has four options to consider for the July Borough Council Meeting regarding the Water Street project: Option 1-redo the whole grant with the Conservation District, Option 2-just go with the 20% upgrade, Option 3-pay for it all, or Option 4-do a second grant for additional monies. Jim McCarthy would advise Option 1 or 4 according to Mr. Edwards. Mr. Edwards explained if the one option is chosen, you would hold onto your current grant and then reapply for the larger amount because the project is more costly than we thought it would be and once they approve the larger amount, then the lower amount grant is withdrawn. At the July 3 meeting, Mr. Edwards requested Council be ready to make decisions. Discussion followed. Mr. Edwards explained that since we are trying to coordinate with the Water Authority they would not have been ready to go anyway, so in a way this may help this coordination. Mr. McCarthy's suggestion is because it looks like now the work will not be done until next spring, the work inside the pool has to be done and finished either before the pool opens or after the pool closes and as far as the rest of the bid, the work on Water Street could be done anytime, thus getting more people to bid and giving the bidders a bigger window to get the job done. Discussion followed regarding other possible paving projects.

With no further business to be brought before Council, **Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mrs. Fitterling to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 P.M.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nan Feeg
Acting Secretary