

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

Held at 101 W. High Street on

February 16, 2021

Council President Bruce Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Edwards noted the February 1, 2021, Borough Council Meeting was cancelled due to the snow storm.

PRESENT

Council Members: Joshua Fidler (arrived at 8:49 P.M.), James Mellon Sr., Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, David Moyer, Bruce Edwards; Mayor Jennifer Gettle (arrived at 8:10 P.M.), Engineer - Craig Bonenberger (left at 8:08 P.M.), Solicitor - Kourtney Bernecker, Esq., Police Chief - John Pontician and Acting Secretary – Nan Feeg.

GUESTS

Maintenance Manager Carl Liptak and Trista Oxenreider – Womelsdorf Library (left at 7:34 P.M.)

MINUTES

Motion moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to accept the January 4, 2021, Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Mellon to accept the January 19, 2021, Council Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Council reviewed and discussed the list of bills to be paid. Discussion followed including Bill #34, which is only the deposit to place the order for the tables at the pool and noting \$1,500.00 is coming from the Rec. Board when the final amount is paid, the price is going up in March and the tables will be delivered to the pool; AT&T bill portion for the pool; the bills for the new equipment; #10 to Hurst Repair LLC; and verifying #17 is for the Sewer Plant uniforms. Mr. Edwards requested the Solicitor send a legal letter to Cintas regarding the Borough uniforms and to contact Mrs. Balistreri regarding information pertaining to Cintas.

Motion moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to approve the list of bills to be paid as listed in the amount of \$101,535.86. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Edwards noted the extra expenses incurred for snow removal. Discussion followed regarding snow removal approval and if there will be any type governmental reimbursement.

BILLS TO BE RATIFIED

Council reviewed the list of bills to be ratified, which was due to the February 1, 2021 Meeting cancellation for the snow storm. Discussion followed regarding the zoning review fee for 109 E. High Street and if it is covered by the application fee. **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Mellon to approve the list of bills to be ratified as listed in the amount of \$38,962.39. Motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

Motion moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Moyer to pay the current payroll. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion moved by Mr. Mellon, seconded by Mr. Moyer to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

A list of communications was given to Council members, two requesting action.

- Airgas USA LLC Annual Lease Renewal – Discussion followed. Mr. Edwards requested Mr. Liptak contact them for information on possibly monthly leasing (five months) and/or purchasing the tanks for the pool.
- Womelsdorf Fire Police Assistance Request – **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Mellon to authorize the Womelsdorf Fire Police to provide assistance for the WACA Car Show on 06/20/21, on 07/21-24/21 for the WACA Carnival and on 09/12/21 for the WACA Car Show, if their schedule permits. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Trista Oxenreider, Womelsdorf Library – Ms. Oxenreider requested John Fraunfelter be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Library Board and informed Council the cleaning person was symptomatic when she cleaned the Library on Sunday, and has since tested positive for COVID, so, after contacting systems and weighing the options, the Library Board voted to close the Library until Monday, February 22. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Ms. Keller to appoint John Fraunfelter to fill the vacancy on the Library Board. Motion carried unanimously. According to Ms. Oxenreider, the Library Board hopes to make a decision regarding the fire and ice festival in the next few weeks. Mr. Edwards suggested the spaces on the Library parking lot be stenciled “Library Only” and then the police can enforce it. Discussion followed, both pros and cons, regarding people parking there, especially during snowstorms. Ms. Keller questioned why the police no longer go through the streets announcing snow emergencies. With no further business for Council, Ms. Oxenreider left the meeting at 7:34 P.M.

ENGINEER

Pool Filter Bid – Mr. Bonenberger informed Council we received a bid for the pool filters, but the numbers came in higher and said some of the things could not be done we want to do, although they are offering some options. Mr. Bonenberger said the number is way out of line with what was set out to bid so it is going to have to be rebid one way or the other. Mr. Edwards then read to Council the other idea for a possible solution to solve all the issues with the filter system replacement project. Mr. Edwards explained this is what Robesonia has and what we used to have, but it is more extensive than the sand, but will be less expensive for us because of all the alterations we need whereas if we go back to the DE, that is what the filter room was made for and we will not have all the adjustments to make and this would bring us up to total compliance. Mr. Edwards suggested Council do more research on this, refuse the bids that came in, and look at having this done next fall as soon as the pool closes. According to Mr. Liptak all he needs to do is put the sand in. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Moyer not to accept any of the bids received. Motion carried unanimously. Council agreed for the process to be started for the filtration system to be done in fall and to camera the pipes to find where they are and the condition of the pipes when the filters are repaired.

Traffic Light – Mr. Bonenberger informed Council he reached out to TELCO and they have finally received all the equipment for the traffic light, which they plan on installing within the next two weeks, weather permitting.

Water Authority Request – Mr. Edwards questioned Mr. Bonenberger regarding the Water Authority's request regarding closing a loop on the dead-end line to Mill Road, so Mr. Bonenberger explained it to Council. Mr. Edwards read the Water Authority's request to obtain approval for their proposed borough street openings. Mr. Edwards reminded Council we still want to upgrade our street opening ordinance, but since the current ordinance is what we have, that is what they will have to abide by. Mr. Edwards noted North Mill Road behind Boyer's should possibly be considered for repair. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mr. Moyer, seconded by Mr. Miller to allow the Water Authority to do the street openings in accordance with the Borough Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Edwards will notify the Water Authority.

Pool Occupancy Permit – Discussion followed and it was agreed the information should be forwarded to Kraft Code Services, LLC. According to Mr. Miller, the "Y" goes by 67 people in 1,000 square feet, so if you figure that out it comes to 623 people in our fenced in pool property at 15%. Our square footage is 62,805.

Lot 4 – Construction has begun. Correct address is 2200 Conrad Weiser Parkway.

With no further business for Mr. Bonenberger, he was excused from the meeting at 8:08 P.M.

SOLICITOR

Letter to Cintas – Ms. Bernecker will see that a letter gets sent to Cintas regarding the uniforms.

Meeting Dates – Ms. Bernecker requested the list of dates for 2021 for Council Meetings and Workshops.

EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/COMMISSIONS

Carl Liptak, Maintenance Manager – Mr. Liptak reported he received a quote from Rock Hound for the Womelsdorf Borough lettering for the four new pieces of equipment of \$60.00 per Womelsdorf Borough lettering and he would like to get eight of them for the four new pieces of equipment. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Miller to spend up to \$500.00 for lettering on the trucks. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Liptak informed Council all the grant money equipment is here and he has two more loads of salt coming. Discussion followed including the new equipment, salting of one-way streets as well as the recent snows and plowing. Mr. Moyer questioned if there were any issues that were encountered during the recent snows that could be improved. Discussion followed. It was mentioned people are throwing the snow into the streets. Council agreed more people are needed to get the snow off the roads and it is beneficial snow emergencies are called ahead of time. Mr. Edwards questioned Mr. Liptak if there should be extended warranties on the new equipment and Mr. Liptak did not feel it was necessary. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

Zoning Hearing Board Vacancies (one plus one alternate) – Council was reminded these two positions still need to be filled and should be done soon.

Fee Schedule – Mr. Edwards noted Ordinances will have to be done, and to include parking changes to save on the advertising.

MR. MELLON

Sewer Authority – Mr. Mellon reported he attended their meeting on January 16 has nothing to report there and will be attending their meeting on February 17. He has spent some time with the sewer plant operators learning the operations of the plant so he can serve the authority more effectively.

Streets/Street Lighting/Curbs-Sidewalks – Mr. Mellon distributed to Council their latest criteria for inspections and discussed their data base, plans and ideas. Discussion followed. Mr. Mellon stated the Committee will go out and collect the information and from that Council will determine what the next steps will be. Mr. Mellon informed Council an application for a handicap parking space has been received for 26 N. 2nd Street; however, after taking a look at the area, he is proposing it be declined since there are already two spaces in that block and as a follow up look at the yellow curb area at that home and Mulberry Alley. Discussion followed.

Motion moved by Mr. Mellon, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to decline the application for the handicap space for 26 N. 2nd Street due to the number of handicap spaces already on that street. Motion carried unanimously.

Online Paying – Mr. Mellon informed Council he has been working with Mrs. Balistrieri and Mrs. Feeg on online bill paying. He has talked to four companies and has received a good amount of information as far as what is available out there and costs. Mr. Mellon noted he has nothing to present currently, but will have more information for future meetings. He feels there are some possible solutions out there that are user friendly for our residents; they all mostly involve convenience fees, but they have had a good amount of success on that and hopefully more people will adopt paperless.

Earl Ibach Memorial – Mr. Mellon questioned Council if there is anything as a Borough or if Council should be thinking about some way to memorialize Mr. Ibach. Discussion followed including ideas to memorialize Mr. Ibach and rules for flag flying.

MR. FIDLER

Rec. Board – Mr. Fidler reported to Council the Rec. Board did not meet this month because they did not have a quorum.

MS. KELLER

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission – Ms. Keller informed Council they have accepted Marion Township and informed Council they want to develop what was the ski slope in North Heidelberg Township. Discussion followed.

MRS. HOPPLE

Pool Pavilion – Mrs. Hopple informed Council dedication of the pavilion at the pool is scheduled for May 22, from 11 A.M. to approximately 1 P.M. and dignitaries are being invited.

Pool Benches – She will be receiving a call when the benches are in and then maybe benches for the park can be purchased.

Trash Pick-up – Mrs. Hopple noted there were some areas the trash was not picked up on February 15 as noted on Facebook. Advanced Disposal was contacted regarding South Pine Street and Park Place Circle. Mayor Gettle requested Council not always respond to Facebook postings; residents should be calling the Borough Hall.

MR. MILLER

Fire Company – Mr. Miller had nothing to report regarding the Fire Company.

Pool – Mr. Miller distributed to Council the forms for the 2021 pool season. He noted members will not need to sign “Pool Rules”; they will be posted at the pool instead along with other rules posted by the “Y”. He also reviewed with Council the pool rental form, noting the fees cover what the “Y” will be charging the Borough and noted the use of the new pavilion will be available to be reserved for those rentals at no additional charge this year, except for a \$50.00 security deposit. It was noted they can bring in grills, just not charcoal grills and the pavilion will have electric. Council agreed to all the prices. Discussion followed, including the liability required for the Hold Harmless Agreement and the COVID-19 waiver. It was suggested two different Hold Harmless Agreements, one for organizations and businesses and one for individuals. Solicitor Bernecker suggested the Borough contact their insurance company. Mr. Miller informed Council Daryl is very interested in running the pool kitchen and he has a meeting scheduled with him to look over the kitchen and go over the lease agreement. He reviewed the contract from the “Y”, noting the only difference from the 2019 contract to the 2021 contract is “to maintain and enforce the COVID-19 Safety Plan as determined by the YMCA.” Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Fidler to go with the YMCA for the pool in the amount of \$60,000.00 and to sign the contract. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Miller informed Council the “Y” did include their Certificate of Liability Insurance with the contract. Mr. Miller noted they are still researching the health certificate. Mr. Miller requested permission to get two (2) night deposit keys at Fulton Bank for the pool to be used by the managers so they can deposit the daily receipts. He informed Council the managers will fill out the deposit slips and a form for the Borough office. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Fidler for Mr. Miller to get two (2) night deposit keys from Fulton Bank for the pool. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Miller questioned if Kraft has been contacted regarding the occupancy for the pool, so Mr. Edwards will contact them. Mr. Miller informed Council and Mr. Liptak he has been in touch with Brandon about the pool, who requested he be contacted once the pool is washed and then he will follow the recommendations of the provider of the materials. Mr. Miller also informed Council he has been contacted about someone interested in a pool party at the pool from 10 P.M. to 1 A.M. for after ELCO’s graduation. It was suggested maybe Daryl would be able to cater rentals. Mr. Miller did note the “Y” has hired a manager for the pool.

MAYOR/CHIEF PONTICIAN

Police – Mayor Gettle had Chief Pontician brief Council on the accident with the police vehicle, and no one was injured. Chief Pontician informed Council the estimate to repair the vehicle came back at \$11,000.00 and it was commented that is why we have insurance. The vehicle is repairable and should be repaired in about two weeks, according to Chief Pontician. The Police Committee agreed to decide after meeting when they will meet. Chief Pontician briefed Council on another incident involving an officer, resulting in an arrest. He informed Council the new patrol truck is in service and presented a price of \$565.00 for a spray in bedliner and \$1,060.00 for a cover for the bed of the new patrol truck. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Fidler to spend up to \$1,650.00 for a spray in bed liner and cover for the new police patrol truck. Motion carried unanimously. Chief Pontician informed Council

would like to get a police dome light for the interior yet for the patrol truck, but that is inexpensive. Discussion followed regarding snow issues.

MR. EDWARDS

COG – Mr. Edwards informed Council he has also contacted the hauler regarding the missed pick-ups from February 15.

NEW BUSINESS

Garbage Lien – Mr. Edwards had one account that is delinquent for payment of garbage bills.

Motion moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Ms. Keller to place a lien on the property with the delinquent garbage account. Motion carried unanimously.

MR. MOYER

Buildings/Grounds/Maintenance – Mr. Moyer informed Council there are special requests for Council approval that are listed on the four WACA Use of Facilities applications for their two car shows, one in June and one in September; the carnival in July and the fishing rodeo in June. Mr. Edwards stated they are the same requests they list every year. **Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mr. Moyer to approve all of the special requests listed on the four WACA Use of Facilities applications. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Edwards informed Council bids will be needed for trees at the park as well as up at the soccer field.

With no further business to be brought before Council, **Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mrs. Hopple to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nan Feeg
Acting Secretary