

## **WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**

**Held at 101 W. High Street on  
September 15, 2020**

Council President Bruce Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PRESENT**

Council Members: James Mellon Sr., Connie Keller, Wayne Miller, David Moyer, Bruce Edwards, Mayor Jennifer Gettle (arrived 7:49 P.M.), Jeff Fiant – Kraft Code Services (left 8:18 P.M.) and Nan Feeg - Acting Secretary.

### **ABSENT**

Council Members: Joshua Fidler and Cindy Hopple and Police Chief John Pontician

### **GUESTS**

Peg Marderness, Womelsdorf (left at 7:48 P.M.) and Ryan Herr, Richland (left at 7:48 P.M.)

### **BILLS TO BE PAID**

Mr. Edwards informed Council there is one bill to be added: \$2,750.00 to Dennis Unger & Son, Inc. for the library roof repair, which was already approved, but as Mr. Edwards explained, needs to be included so it can be paid, bringing the total Bills To Be Paid to \$43,841.39. Mr. Moyer questioned the cost of electricity for lights at the ball field and if the fees are covering the expense. Discussion followed. Council agreed for Mr. Moyer to look into this for next year's fee schedule. Mr. Moyer also questioned about the RVS Software bill, which Council agreed should be paid since there is nothing in place yet to replace it. **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Moyer to approve the list of bills to be paid as listed with the addition of \$2,750.00 to Dennis Unger & Son, Inc., bringing the total amount of bills to be paid to \$43,841.39. Motion carried unanimously.

### **BILLS TO BE RATIFIED - None**

### **PAYROLL**

**Motion** moved by Mr. Moyer, seconded by Ms. Keller to pay this week's payroll. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Keller to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

One communication, with no action required, was given to Council Members.

### **GUESTS/ CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Peg Marderness – Mrs. Marderness communicated to Council and Mr. Fiant the continuing property maintenance issues and shared pictures of conditions at 30 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Discussion followed. Mr. Fiant will have someone check out the property.

Ray Herr – Mr. Herr informed Council he is interested in purchasing the church on the corner of Front and Franklin Streets and inquired about uses that would be permitted and questioned the

historic overlay. Discussion followed. Mr. Edwards explained the process if there is something he wants to put there that is not conducive to the zoning. Mr. Fiant suggested Mr. Herr give him a concrete plan on paper on what he wants to do rather than try to address multiple ideas that will require quite some research. Mr. Herr questioned the position of the curb and Mr. Fiant referred that to the Engineer. Mr. Fiant stated curbing is the responsibility of the property owner. Mr. Herr then questioned putting a commercial usage there and Mr. Fiant said they would have to look if that usage is permitted in that zoning district or he would have to apply for a variance. Mr. Fiant listed a few commercial businesses that would be permitted in that zoning. Mr. Herr questioned parking and Mr. Fiant explained he would have to have off-street parking and the proper procedure to do off-street parking would be to do a land development plan, go through the Planning Commission and Council for approval. Both Mr. Herr and Mrs. Marderness left the meeting at 7:48 P.M.

#### **EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/AUTHORITIES/COMMISSIONS**

None; however, Mr. Edwards reported on behalf of Maintenance Manager Carl Liptak, both Mr. Liptak and Mr. Windley took the pesticide class today and they are set for clean-up this Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Mr. Edwards announced they will probably start picking up leaves next week; the new leaf picker is expected the second week of October. Mr. Liptak has tried the new chipper and it worked great, according to Mr. Edwards.

#### **MR. FIANT**

Mr. Fiant distributed the monthly report and invoice from Kraft Code Services LLC and apologized since they were not emailed in time for the meeting. He then reviewed with Council the various properties with property maintenance issues and their status. Mr. Fiant updated Council on 24 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. He has finally got certifications from the alarm company that hardwired smoke detectors that are tied into pull stations have been installed at 24 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, so everything is the way it should be. It is a monitored system; there is one smoke detector tied into the central system and each apartment, so every apartment will be notified if there is an issue in the building according to Mr. Fiant. Mr. Fiant said they have stopped and talked to the two property owners on West High Street regarding their tree branches after receiving the complaint from last month's Borough Council Workshop Meeting and the trees have been trimmed, although Mr. Fiant and Mayor Gettle both noted the one property owner was very unhappy because they felt they were being picked on. Mr. Fiant informed Council the rentals and property transfer inspections are provided in the report. He let Council know they have received an application for a convenience store at 142 West High Street. He then discussed with Council the old Boot Factory property and the area where the "sinkhole" formed, which is not that bad, but needs to be paved. Discussion followed including whether the Boot Factory or the Borough should fix the "sinkhole" due to the circumstances. Council agreed that alley will be put on the list of streets for repair, but in the meantime, Mr. Fiant is to ask the Boot Factory, as Mr. Fiant suggested, to order an extra ton of blacktop to patch that area, which will be a minimal cost to them, when they are doing their other repairs to the alley for the street cuts that are needed for the repairs to the building. Mr. Fiant expressed to Council they should be thankful the current owners of the old Boot Factory are responsible owners. Since Kraft Code Services LLC invoice was not received in time to be included with the Bills To Be Paid, **Motion** moved by Mr. Moyer, seconded by Mr. Mellon to approve the payment in the amount of \$3,688.95 to Kraft Code

Services LLC, as listed on their invoice. Motion carried unanimously. With no further business for Mr. Fiant, Council excused him from the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Online Bill Paying – Mr. Edwards informed Council he has discussed with Mrs. Fitterling PayPal and if Council Members have any questions, they are to call her, but for now, everything is on hold. Discussion followed.

Borough Boards/Commissions Vacancies – Council was reminded we still need to fill the following vacancies on Borough Boards and Commissions: Planning Commission (1), Zoning Hearing Board (1 plus 1 alternate), and Library Board (1).

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission – Mr. Edwards reminded Ms. Keller, the Western Berks Joint Planning Commission meets on Thursday, September 17.

**MR. FIDLER** - Absent

### **MR. MELLON**

Streets/Street Lighting/Curb-Sidewalks – Mr. Mellon questioned the sidewalk damage done during the street work. Discussion followed. Council instructed Mr. Mellon to reach out to McCarthy regarding this.

Sewer Authority – Mr. Mellon informed Council he will be attending their next meeting September 16, and has nothing to report from the Sewer Authority.

Cintas Agreement – Mr. Mellon questioned where the Borough stands with the Cintas Agreement. Mr. Edwards informed Council the letter was sent to Cintas. Discussion followed.

Phone System – Mr. Mellon questioned if we are considering a second company. Discussion followed.

Car Show – Mr. Mellon congratulated the Community Assn. for the nice car show.

### **MS. KELLER**

Personnel – Ms. Keller informed Council Mrs. Balistrieri has requested a vacation day on Friday, October 2, and Mrs. Feeg already has an approved vacation day. Council agreed to close the Borough Hall on October 2 and a sign noting so is to be placed on the door.

Police – Ms. Keller questioned police schedules and Council being informed because there is no communication. She would like to see more police coverage at certain times. She also requested the Police Committee meet to discuss coverage and wants to see job descriptions, especially since the officers are new. Mayor Gettle discussed issues in the past when Council had the schedules and they do not want the police to be called directly; they should be calling the emergency numbers. Mayor Gettle explained it is not possible to have coverage all the time due to the limited amount of police we have, but they do try to prioritize coverage times. Discussion followed. Ms. Keller questioned why they are not using the police garage at the Town Park. Discussion followed on when the new vehicle will be ready.

Library – Ms. Keller reported the library is open; however, it might be limited.

Finance Committee – Ms. Keller reported she will have Mrs. Balistrieri decide when they should start meeting to work on the budget.

**MRS. HOPPLE** – Absent

## **MR. MILLER**

Fire Company – Mr. Miller had nothing to report regarding the Fire Company; they meet next week according to Mr. Miller

Pool – Mr. Miller requested the Pool Committee meet, so he will contact his committee about setting up a meeting.

NIMS Training – Mr. Miller questioned if anyone has looked into the training.

## **MR. MOYER**

Planning Commission – Mr. Moyer had nothing to report from the Planning Commission.

Streets – Mr. Moyer informed Council a Citizen's Complaint has been received about the recently approved Handicap Parking Space. He as well as Mr. Edwards did review the area. Discussion followed. Council agreed they voted and approved the placement of the sign and it was a legitimate request, so there is nothing further to discuss.

Buildings/Grounds/Maintenance/Insurance – Mr. Moyer questioned that since we have an estimate for the pool filters, if McCarthy should write up a proposal and put it out for bids. Discussion followed. Mr. Moyer feels this project could be done over the winter. Discussion followed regarding the paint at the pool. Ms. Keller questioned if there is a lock on the chipper, so Mr. Moyer will check into the matter. Discussion followed regarding the new equipment as well as repairing the one truck and selling the other big trucks and recycling.

Streets & Sidewalks – Mr. Moyer has a lot of ideas, but has to find the time and then wants to meet with his committee.

## **MAYOR**

Police Committee – After a discussion, the Police Committee agreed to meet on Thursday, October 1 at 7:00 or 7:30 P.M. depending on Ms. Keller's schedule.

Trick or Treat – Mayor Gettle announced Trick or Treat will be Saturday, October 31 from 6-8 P.M. rain or shine. She also noted that Mr. Gehris requested no trick or treaters in Westview Terrace and if you do not want trick or treaters keep your light off and if you do not want your kids out, do not send them.

Community Events – Mayor Gettle announced there will be no Barn of Horrors. The Women of Today are sponsoring a Vendor Show fundraiser for Emma Munger Saturday, September 19 in the Town Park.

## **MR. EDWARDS**

COG – Mr. Edwards informed Council had nothing to report regarding the COG; however, once we get the equipment, the hauler will no longer be picking up branches.

TELCO Bill/Contract – Mr. Edwards reviewed with Council the updates that will be done to the traffic lights. **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Keller to sign the Telco, Inc. Contract in the amount of \$17,175.00 to update the traffic lights. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Miller questioned how soon the changes will be made, so Mr. Edwards will check with Mr. McCarthy. It was questioned if our local police have preemption for the traffic light. Discussion followed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Certification of MMO's - **Motion** moved by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the 2021 Certification for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan MMO of \$25,092.00 and the Uniform Pension Plan MMO of \$7,511.00. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to be brought before Council, **Motion** moved by Ms. Keller, seconded by Mr. Mellon to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nan Feeg  
Acting Secretary