

WOMELSDORF BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

Held at 101 W. High Street on

January 19, 2021

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, James Mellon Sr., Connie Keller, Cindy Hopple, Wayne Miller, David Moyer, Bruce Edwards, Mayor Jennifer Gettle (arrived at 7:53 P.M.), Jeff Fiant – Kraft Code Services (left 7:57 P.M.) and Nan Feeg - Acting Secretary.

ABSENT

Police Chief John Pontician

GUESTS

Maintenance Manager Carl Liptak (left 8:10 P.M.)

POOL FILTER BIDS – Council reviewed the bids received. Lengthy discussion followed. It was suggested due to the differences in the line item bid amounts to hire an independent consultant for their expertise since Council or McCarthy Engineering are not experts in this area; McCarthy Engineering was just facilitating the bids. Other suggestions included re-bid it or meet with the contractors to explain their bids. Council agreed to table it and instructed Mr. Edwards to contact McCarthy Engineering about RFP's, questions asked and answers given prior to the bids and any addendums as well as contacting the bid contractors about possibly meeting with Council.

BILLS TO BE PAID

Council reviewed and discussed the list of bills to be paid, which Mr. Edwards pointed out includes the new truck, which will be coming on Friday. Everything will be on the truck including new municipal tags according to Mr. Edwards. The stickers for the grant will need to be applied to the new equipment, so Mr. Edwards will contact Jane Meeks. Mr. Liptak informed Council he got pricing from Rock Hound to do the detailing on the new truck. Mr. Miller questioned #25 regarding the amount they previously okayed for the keys. Discussion followed. **Motion** moved by Mrs. Hopple, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the list of bills to be paid as listed in the amount of \$161,887.46. Motion carried unanimously.

BILLS TO BE RATIFIED - None

PAYROLL

Motion moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Moyer to pay the current payroll. Motion carried unanimously. **Motion** moved by Mr. Fidler, seconded by Mr. Mellon to pay payroll between meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Keystone Bonding & Surety Agency, LLC Inquiry - Council agreed for Mr. Edwards to complete, sign, date and return the inquiry since the Bunker Hill project as far as the Borough is concerned has been completed.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – None

MR. FIANT

Mr. Fiant reviewed with Council the monthly report for the period 12/13/20 – 01/09/21 from Kraft Code Services LLC., noting and explaining the new format detailing activity for property maintenance issues, which received praise from Council. He noted the report does not reflect the final inspection for 142 W. High Street to give them Certificate of Occupancy to open, which will be in the next report, and discussed with Council handicap accessibility and International Existing Building Code. Mr. Fiant updated Council on various properties with property maintenance issues and their status, including unlicensed, unregistered vehicles on properties submitted to Kraft Code Services by the Police Department. It was noted by a Council member there are grass and weed issues on Jefferson Street of properties on Seltzer Avenue, which is a police issue since the police department is responsible for grass and weed violations. Mr. Fiant reported the following regarding rental properties for 2020: 43 properties have been inspected, 38 properties have been issued Certificates on Inspections, one property is not yet licensed with the Borough and 130 properties have registered with the Borough. He noted they are continuing to schedule rental inspections, including those properties that require a re-inspection. Mr. Fiant reported on the seven building permits that were issued with a total improvement value of \$81,660.49 for the period 12/13/20 through 01/09/21. Mr. Fiant informed Council he did the footer inspection on Tuesday for the pavilion at the pool and will be back again to check on it. He reminded Council permits will be needed to complete the pavilion, with the cost of the permits being refunded. A Council member expressed concerns regarding the conditions of a property on South 2nd Street, which is going into foreclosure, as well as who would be responsible should it go into foreclosure because the property may need to be condemned. Mr. Fiant will look into the conditions of the property and informed Council should it go into foreclosure, the bank would be responsible. With no further business for Mr. Fiant, Council excused him from the meeting at 7:57 P.M.

EMPLOYEES/BOARD MEMBERS/AUTHORITIES/COMMISSIONS

Maintenance Manager Carl Liptak – Mr. Liptak reported to Council they are repairing the tables at the parks and have painted the parking lines on the Town Square. Council discussed vehicles still parking too close to the intersection as well as those parking near fire hydrants. Mr. Liptak informed Council the new sign regarding usage of the handicap parking space on N. Front Street next to the Borough Hall limiting parking for Borough business during regular business hours Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. with a fifteen-minute time limit has been installed. He also reported they will be using the street sweeper to clean up stones, etc. in the alleys as a result of the snow plowing. Mr. Liptak questioned the company the light up Christmas trees at the end of town were purchased from because parts are needed, so Mrs. Hopple agreed to look into the matter. Mr. Moyer reported his Committee met and they reviewed and prioritized the Maintenance list with Mr. Liptak. He requested Council let his Committee know if things need to be added or are critical. Mr. Moyer also informed Council Mr. Liptak has been given the curb and sidewalk map for his input on issues he might see regarding curbs and sidewalks.

Discussion followed regarding how well the chipper works, which results in less dumpsters being filled. With nothing further needed of Mr. Liptak, he was excused from the meeting and left the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS

Borough Boards/Commissions Vacancies – Council was reminded by Mr. Edwards we still need to fill the following vacancies on Borough Boards and Commissions: Zoning Hearing Board (1 plus 1 alternate), as well as one Library Board member, although he believes the Library does have someone for that position.

Townhouses at 2nd and Franklin Streets – Ms. Keller questioned the status of the proposed townhouses at 2nd and Franklin Street. Mr. Moyer informed her they submitted a sketch plan and land development plans need to be submitted. Discussion followed.

Bunker Hill Road/Mr. Horst – It was questioned if Mr. Horst did what he was going to do over at Bunker Hill. Discussion followed. It was suggested Mr. Horst be sent a letter regarding completing what he was going to do over at Bunker Hill, so Mr. Edwards will get with Mrs. Balistrieri about the contents of the letter to be sent to Mr. Horst.

Joint Zoning Hearing Board – Mr. Edwards reminded Borough Council a quorum is needed to attend the Joint Zoning Hearing Board Meeting on Thursday, January 21, at 7 p.m. at the Robesonia Borough Hall to vote on the proposed changes. Mr. Edwards, Ms. Keller, Mr. Moyer and Mr. Miller will be attending. Mr. Edwards briefly reviewed the proposed changes and stated a unanimous decision is required for the changes to go through.

NIMS Training – Discussion followed regarding the time required and it being online now.

Quotes for Universal Keys – Mr. Edwards noted Mr. Liptak had distributed to Council members quotes for universal keys and Council agreed to table making a decision until they can review the quotes. Mayor Gettle requested a master key for the Police. Discussion followed. Mr. Miller requested limiting the number of keys and that all keys be signed out because when new keys are made and received, they are being distributed and not being signed out with the Borough Office.

MR. FIDLER

Upcoming Election – Mr. Fidler announced petitions can be picked up and distribution can begin February 16 through March 9. There will be a class for those running for office at the GOP headquarters on January 23 and January 24 starting at 11 A.M.

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

Police Committee – Mr. Fidler requested the Police Committee meet.

Police Handbook – Mr. Fidler reported the Police Handbook “is in the works.”

MR. MELLON

Sewer Authority – Mr. Mellon reported he will be attending the Sewer Authority Meeting on January 20. Mrs. Feeg informed Council two gentlemen, in the spirit of the season and who wish to remain anonymous, had a good year and wanted to help others during the holiday season, paid the sewer bills for four delinquent sewer accounts. The one gentleman paid the entire bill for three accounts totaling \$725.97 and the other gentlemen paid the entire bill for one account in the amount of \$262.50 and was going to send Boyer’s gift cards to two other property owners whose sewer accounts were delinquent. One of the three recipients to have her delinquent sewer bill paid by the first gentlemen in the amount of \$297.20 in turn paid that kindness forward and

presented the Borough with a \$300.00 money order with a note stating it is to be used for someone else, although she neglected to sign the money order. Once she signs the money order the money order will be applied to another delinquent sewer account. The original four recipients were sent letters by Borough Secretary Mickey Balistrieri notifying them of the anonymous payments.

MS. KELLER

Library – Ms. Keller reported she understands they have a woman interested in serving on the Library Board, although she does not have her name.

Western Berks Joint Planning Commission – Ms. Keller informed Council she will be attending as one of Womelsdorf's representatives the Joint Planning Commission meeting on January 21.

MRS. HOPPLE

Pool Pavilion – Mrs. Hopple informed Council the pool pavilion is up and is beautiful. She is working on the dedication book. Mrs. Hopple reported the Community Association will donate the funds for benches at the pool, which she got a price of \$175 for a six-foot bench. Mrs. Hopple suggested maybe the Rec. Board would be willing to donate the funds for new benches in the Town Park. The dedication of the pavilion at the pool is scheduled for May 22, and a cold lunch will be served. It will be an "open house" for the pool.

MR. MILLER

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

Pool – Mr. Miller informed Council he has a meeting with Zach from the "Y" at the pool on Monday, January 25. He will be contacting someone possibly interested in the concession stand. Mr. Miller suggested the pool have a logo. Discussion followed. Mr. Miller would like to meet with the Pool Committee to discuss the fees, etc. for this year.

MR. MOYER

Planning Commission – Mr. Moyer reported the paperwork and checks for Lot 4 have been received and the paperwork was given to Kozloff Stoudt. They have given a cash bond, so a temporary account must be set up separately according to Mr. Edwards. Mr. Moyer stated they are waiting for the Berks County Conservation District.

Sympathy Fruit Basket/Cards – Mr. Moyer thanked Council for the fruit basket he received as well as all the cards in sympathy for the loss of his mother.

MAYOR

Police Committee – Mayor Gettle reiterated the Police Committee will be meeting.

MR. EDWARDS

COG – Mr. Edwards announced the COG will be holding their reorganization meeting here at the Womelsdorf Borough Hall next Tuesday, January 26 due to the Wernersville Borough Hall still being on lockdown. He informed Council Waste Management has acquired Advanced Disposal, but we will still have the same contacts from Advanced Disposal.

Double D Bill – Mr. Edwards informed Council the Borough has received a bill from Double D for the culvert on Bunker Hill Road and it will be listed for approval for the February 1 Borough Council Meeting.

With no further business to be brought before Council, **Motion** moved by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Keller to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Nan Feeg
Acting Secretary