

# **Richland Borough Council Meeting Minutes**

**May 5, 2020**

**(Recording A09)**

**Present:** Kelly Bricker, Jim Niethammer, Bob Rittle, Matt Johnson, Larry Hartman, Tom Harlan

**Absent:** Mark Brubaker, Travis Randler, Mayor Ray Shanaman

President Bricker called the **Richland Borough Council Meeting** to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The president asked for a motion to approve the **April 2020** minutes. Jim Niethammer made a motion to approve the April 2020 minutes, submitted by Borough Secretary Perri Shanaman; Bob Rittle seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

## **Citizen's Comments:**

There were no Citizens Comments.

## **Communications:**

PPL sent the borough a notice stating they have some resources available to assist people to pay their PPL bill. They have a website, as well as a phone number. President Bricker stated she will ask the borough secretary to upload the information to the borough website.

The Richland Legion sent the borough a letter stating Richland was to host the Memorial Day Parade this year; however, due to the pandemic, there will be reduced activities. There will be no parade, only a solemn gathering at the Richland Cemetery. The speaker will be Howard Kramer, a resident of Schaefferstown, who served in the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Jeremy Weaver, who lives close to the state game lands, near the 157 acres owned by the Borough, sent the borough an email asking permission to hike on the borough property. After discussion, because the property is already posted, the council stated no one is allowed to hike on the property. President Bricker stated she will have the borough secretary answer the email to Mr. Weaver, as such.

Keystone Collections Group sent the borough a notice re Delinquent Tax Recover COVID-19 Update. President Bricker stated the council would be passing a resolution, under new business, regarding the borough taxes.

PPL sent a notice to the borough informing municipalities, within PPL's service territory, are welcome to order free trees, from their Community Roots Program, to plant within the borough parks and properties next year. After discussion it was decided to discuss trees on the property at a later date.

Eagle Disposal sent the borough a notice they collected **6.83 Tons of Recycling** the month of March.

### **Financial Report:**

The president asked for a motion to approve the **March Financial Report**, submitted by Gift Associates. Larry Hartman made a motion to approve the March Financial Report; Jim Niethammer seconded the motion; motion was carried by all members present voting yes.

### **Invoices:**

President Bricker stated Jim Niethammer had reviewed the invoices, submitted for payment by Borough Secretary Perri Shanaman, and found them to be in order. Matt Johnson made a motion to pay all the invoices submitted for payment; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Water Committee** – Dwight Belleman submitted three quotes to install the water meters. **T.A. Duffy**, of Sinking Spring quoted **\$65.00 each**, for a total of **\$20,475.00**, to install 315 water meters by December 31, 2020; **LeRoy Schannauer Plumbing & Heating** of Sinking Spring, PA quoted **\$85.00 ea** for a total of \$26,775.00; **Berkshire Mechanical** of Leesport, PA quoted **\$98.00** per meter, for a total of \$30,870.00. After discussion, Jim Niethammer made a motion to have **T A Duffy** install as many meters as possible by December 31, for, **\$65.00 ea** – price to be negotiated after December 31, if they need to; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion carried with all members present voting yes. Dwight and John are to contact Diversified and Kamstrup to set up a conference call between them, Kelly and Jim, regarding the program.

Dwight further stated they are waiting on DEP for the pump test, for the well, and they're not working right now.

**Highway Committee** – John Johnson reported Martin's Paving is coming in, on Monday, to do the milling on Oak Street. They will be doing the Street Sweeping on Wednesday and Thursday of next week. Notice needs to be placed on the sign at the fire hall.

**Property Committee** – President Bricker stated, due to the State Order with the COVID-19, Summer Playground will have to be cancelled. She further stated she needed to correct a statement she made at last meeting regarding the playground grant. She was under the

impression the borough had already applied for the grant and it would be awarded May 31; however, the grant must only be submitted by May 31, 2020 and Jeff Steckbeck has no idea when it will actually be awarded. After discussion, Jim Niethammer made a motion to purchase and place 20 yards of mulch on the area; Bob Rittle seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

**Finance Committee** – Nothing to report

**Safety Committee** – Nothing to report

### **Reports:**

**Road Supervisor's Report** – Jim Niethammer made a motion to accept the **April Road Supervisor's Report**, submitted by Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes. President Bricker stated with the upcoming weed spraying and other duties, they need to take a look at Dwight and John coming back and working together and practicing social distancing.

**Office Report** – Jim Niethammer made a motion to approve the **April Office Report**, submitted by Borough Secretary, Perri Shanaman; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all council members present voting yes.

**Code Enforcement Report** – Bob Rittle made corrections to his report for 300 Poplar Street and 2 East Main Street. Larry Hartman made a motion to approve the **April Code Enforcement Report**, submitted by Code Enforcement Officer Robert Rittle; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes. Bob Rittle asked if the solicitor could work on a resolution changing the fines, for the remaining ordinances containing fines, which aren't covered under resolution #285.

**Police Report** – Jim Niethammer made a motion to approve the **April 2020 State Police Reports**; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

**MRJA Report** – No report submitted

**Solicitor's Report** – No report submitted

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no Old Business

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

President Bricker asked for a motion to pass **Resolution #301** extending the Borough Tax Discount, for 2020 only, until June 30, 2020 and the Flat Period to October 31, 2020, with the 10% penalty starting after October 31, 2020. This resolution follows what the County

Commissioners did for the County Tax. Matt Johnson made the motion to pass Resolution #301; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

President Bricker asked for a motion to pass **Resolution #302** designating borough secretary, Perri Shanaman, and borough engineer, Paul Lutzkanin as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between Richland Borough and the Commonwealth of PA to obtain the playground grant. Jim Niethammer made a motion to pass Resolution #302; Matt Johnson seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

President Bricker discussed the summer playground not happening, due to the COVID-19 situation. She stated perhaps something could be done, later on, in conjunction with the library, if the State would begin to open.

Water penalties were discussed. Penalties will accrue, as normal, but no water will be turned off during the COVID-19. After the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, this issue will be revisited by council.

The president reminded everyone the **Street Sweeping** will be **May 13 and May 14**.

President Bricker announced the council was going into **Executive Session at 8:08 PM** to discuss Employee Matters.

No notes were taken.

The council came out of **Executive Session at 8:48 PM**, with the president bringing the meeting to order and stating the purpose of the Executive Session was **Personnel Issues**.

The president asked if there were any comments for the good of the borough.

Since there were no other comments, Jim Niethammer made a motion to adjourn; Larry Hartman seconded the motion; motion was carried with all members present voting yes.

Notes taken by Kelly Bricker

Typed and Respectfully Submitted By:

Perri Shanaman

Borough Secretary