

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Richland Borough Building. The President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

Present were: President Kelly Bricker, Vice President James Niethammer, President Prop Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmember Matthew Johnson, Mark Brubaker, Travis Randler, Robert Rittle, Mayor Ray Shanaman, Assistant Road Supervisor John Johnson, and Interim Secretary Lisa A. Brubaker.

President Bricker called the Richland Borough Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Travis Randler read a statement in response to the matter brought forth at the August 4, 2020 meeting. I (Travis Randler) feel it is in my duty as a Richland Borough Councilmember, that the accusations towards myself presented at last months to be addressed. Unfortunately, I could not be present to clear the situation up immediately due to fact I was receiving urgent medical care. The serious allegations of any illegal misconduct presented to council are false and untrue. In order to assure these slanderous situations do not arise again I have sought legal counsel. I apologize to the Borough that I serve for any concern as these fabricated and serious accusations are simply untrue. Thank you for understanding in this matter.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 4, 2020. Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by James Niethammer, to rescind the motion from the January 6, 2020 meeting to appoint Henry and Beaver, LLC as the Richland Borough Solicitor for 2020. Motion unanimously carried.

Council may adopt Resolution 2020-02 – A Resolution to appoint a Solicitor for 2020. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Travis Randler, to adopt Resolution 2020-02 to appoint Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys as the Law Firm for the Borough for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year. Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker announced Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys will be the new Solicitor and Andrew S. George was here representing the Borough as the Borough Solicitor. Solicitor Andrew S. George stated he wanted to thank the council on behalf of himself and his firm for the opportunity to serve the community. President Bricker stated they are looking forward to working with him and thanked him for being here.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There were five (5) persons present.

Andy Kriss – 34 N. Race Street – provided information on a free family movie night being held on October 3, 2020. He also discussed a property maintenance concerns at 32 N. Race Street. President Bricker stated the Council will be looking at an Ordinance, regulations, and a Rental Property Maintenance Program. Code Enforcement Officer Robert Rittle will look at the property.

Nancy Wenger – 109 E. Main Street – asked if the streets could be cleaned more than once a year. Assistant Road Supervisor Johnson stated there is a cost per cleaning. It would be up to Council if they wanted to do another sweeping. The cleaning of storm sewer grates were discussed.

Andy Kriss asked if the Borough has a brush that could be attached to a Borough truck, Assistant Road Supervisor Johnson stated no the Borough does not. President Bricker stated the Council picked May due to earlier in the year we can still have snow. We try to go at a time when that would not happen, but we will see what we can do.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – asked if it would be cheaper to have our own street sweeping truck. The cost for that type of vehicle is \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00. Maintenance on that type of equipment is costly also. Solicitor Andrew S. George stated there are grant funds from DEP for that type of purchase. She asked what is the cost is for the company to street swipe. President Bricker stated we would have to review the bill to answer the questions.

The following Committee reports were presented to Council: Water Report, Highway Report, Property Report, Finance Report, Safety Report, and Personnel Report.

Water Committee – Assistant Road Supervisor Johnson stated all but 25 new water meters have been installed. President Bricker stated she been working with Diversified and Core and Main to input the data and convert it all over.

Highway Committee – Nothing to report.

Property Committee – President Bricker stated the Committee needs to sit down and see what they can with some of the apartments and get a list of those properties. A trip to the reservoir is needed. There are several trees that need to be removed.

Personnel Committee – President Bricker stated they do have a candidate to present to Council to hire as the new Borough Secretary. They will present that under new business.

Finance Committee – Budget workshops will be held to start the 2021 budgets.

Safety Committee – Nothing to report.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to accept the Committee Reports. Motion unanimously carried.

The following reports were presented to Council: Mayor Report, Road Supervisor Report, Office Report, Solicitor Report, Code Enforcement Report, and State Police Report.

Mayor Report – Nothing to report.

Road Supervisor's Report – There were no questions on the report.

Water Report – The delinquent list for water bills was received. Delinquent letters were sent to the property owners on the list requesting payment by September 2, 2020 so everything can be reconciled before the switch over happens for the new billing system. The Committee will meet to decide how the Borough will handle any remaining outstanding bills.

Office Report –A Workers Compensation Audit is being completed. Handling Right to Know requests from Attorney Rich Raiders. Entering the information for the new billing system. President Bricker announced to the public present, she is not taking any pay for the work she is doing here for the Borough. She does not feel that is right. If that has ever been a question, she does not receive any pay. James Niethammer thanked for her for all she has been doing. Nancy Wenger thanked President Bricker for contacting and helping the Kahl’s with their water issue. An emergency number will be implemented for calls when something happens after Borough hours. There were no questions on the report.

Solicitor’s Report – No report submitted

Code Enforcement Officer Report – There were no questions on the report.

Police Report – There were no questions on the report.

MRJA Report – Their meeting will be held September 14, 2020. There were no questions on the report.

A motion was made Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler, to accept the Officials Reports. Motion unanimously carried.

The Financial Report was submitted by Gift Associates. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by James Niethammer, to approve the Financial Report and have it on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The invoices were presented. A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to pay all the invoices submitted for payment to Gift Associates; Motion unanimously carried.

The following communications were received:

2019 904 Performance Recycling Grant funds; Lebanon County Agricultural Land Preservation Annual Pledge Request for 2021; 2019 904 Performance Recycling Grant Funds; E-mail from a resident regarding vandalism to their property; Letter of denial for the application to the PA Small Water and Sewer Program; July Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal; Zoning Permits received for Robert & Sally Schaeffer; Kevin & Kelly Bricker; Kevin & Sandra Schaeffer; and Robert & Nancy Keggereis.

President Bricker presented the applicant and proposal being recommended by the Personal Committee for the Borough Secretary/Treasurer/Office Manager. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle, to hire Rebecca Schnoke as the Borough full-time Secretary/Treasurer/Office Manager at a rate of \$19.23 for a salary compensation of \$40,000.00 per a year. Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker introduce Rebecca Schnoke to the audience and asked her if she will be accepting the position of full-time Secretary/Treasurer/Office Manager for Richland Borough. Rebecca Schnoke stated yes, she is accepting the position. President Bricker stated her first day in the office will be Monday, September 14, 2020.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler, to approve the 2021 MMO Calculation for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Mathew Johnson, to approve the 2021 MMO Calculation for the Police Pension Plan. Motion unanimously carried.

The Cable Franchise Agreement is coming up for renewal. Internet is no longer a free service only cable services is. Solicitor George will review the agreement.

President Bricker announced the Council will recess the Regular Session and enter into Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. reconvening the Regular Session.

President Bricker informed the audience the cost for the street sweeping for two days is \$3,023.21.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – asked where the water bill may be paid. President Bricker stated the water bills can be paid here at the Borough Hall, by mail, or on-line.

The President asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough.

Seeing none. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Lisa A. Brubaker,
Borough Interim Secretary