

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 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 Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmembers Travis Randler, Robert Rittle, Mark Brubaker, Mayor Ray Shanaman, Solicitor Andrew George, Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman, Water Supervisor John Johnson, and Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. Absent was councilmember Matthew Johnson.

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.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Larry Hartman, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on January 12, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There were four (4) persons present.

Jennifer & Loren Gerhart – 16 Georgie Lane – Regarding the Noise Ordinance that was advertised, Mr. Gerhart inquired about the sound levels listed on page 5 and section 7 exemptions for additional clarification. Per solicitor Andrew George, Loren Gerhart was advised that the boundaries referred to on page 5 were for industrial and that section 7 noise levels are based on the listed decibel levels on page 5. President Bricker advised that the complaint against Blue Lake Industries has been forwarded to Lebanon County Planning to be investigated. Lebanon County Planning is currently working on this, the most recent update is that Blue Lake Industries is currently not in compliance with the guidelines of the exemption previously issued by the Zoning Hearing Board, per Lebanon County Planning they will be sent a letter and if the issue is not resolved could be issued a citation.

Kyle Michael – 31 W. Main Street – Mr. Michael attended the meeting to follow up on the progress of the Noise Ordinance, he was advised that the Ordinance will be voted on this evening and once the Ordinance is executed a copy will be forwarded to him for his reference. Code enforcement Officer Robert Rittle provided his cell phone number for any violations to be reported and observed. Robert Rittle advised that anything reported during the week any time after 5:00pm he can come to observe and measure the decibel levels and during the weekend he is available.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – Inquired who is currently on the Richland Borough Zoning Hearing Board. President Bricker advised that currently the Zoning Hearing Board consists of Dale Althouse, Kerry Noll, Slade Hartranft, and alternate Kevin Schaeffer.

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

Water Committee – report from the water committee was submitted.

Highway Committee – Thank you to Dwight Belleman, John Johnson, and everyone else that helped during the previous snowstorm. Snowstorm went well and the personnel that plowed maintained the roads well and did a great job.

Property Committee – review the example copy of the rental inspection ordinance provided for future implementation.

Personnel Committee – President Bricker, Vice President James Niethammer and councilman Mark Brubaker met with the employees for a quarterly personnel meeting, in addition to currently working on revisions to the employee handbook.

Finance Committee – Nothing to report.

Safety Committee –Nothing to report.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler, 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, and State Police Report.

Mayor Report – None submitted.

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

Water Report – There were no questions on the report.

Office Report –There were no questions on the report.

Solicitor’s Report – There were no questions on the report.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – There were no questions on the report. Robert Rittle verbally reported that on Monday mornings at SWM, the dumpsters are being emptied at 4:30am. The owner of SWM was contacted again and advised Robert Rittle that he has spoken with the trash company and they are not cooperating, he will call again and if the issue persists, he will be switching vendors. John Johnson advised he has contacted GFL and they were not aware of any issues although they have been previously contacted. They will be receiving a letter and a copy of the ordinance as a final warning and if the issue continues, they will be fined going forward.

Police Report – There were no questions on the report.

MRJA Report – Report available for viewing upon request.

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

The Financial Report for January 2021 were submitted by Gift Associates. A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Larry Hartman, to approve the Financial Report and have it on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The invoices were presented. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler, to pay all the invoices submitted for payment; Motion unanimously carried.

The following communications were received:

No Zoning Permits were received for January 2021; Recycling – President Bricker and Secretary Rebecca Schnoke met with Andrew Casey from Eagle Disposal regarding complaints received. Mr. Casey advised that his attempt to help resolve some of the issues is to provide every property with a recycling tote with no charge to the Borough, future discussions will be held when the contract is up for renewal regarding refuse limits. Michelle Voydik advised they are putting trash in with the recycling, Vice President Niethammer advised that if this is observed to please contact the Borough Office with the truck number; Permit for the installation of the Richland Borough sign has been applied for with the Lebanon County Planning Department; January Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal – 4.75 tons of recycling; Blue Lake Industries fabricated, constructed, powder coated and donated the brackets to hang the Richland Borough sign.

Old Business –

Cable Franchise Contract – Joel with Cohen Law Group advised that he is in the process of finalizing the negotiated contract for submission to Comcast, including the possibility of getting new lines. He is hoping by the March meeting to have a copy of the negotiation contract sent to Comcast for us to review. Once this is received by Comcast, negotiations will begin.

Chlorine Alarm – after in depth discussion it has been decided that the purchase and installation of a Chlorine Alarm for our current facilities is not cost effective and is not needed, however for any future facilities this will be implemented.

Leaf Truck Box – the decision to sand blast and powder coat this piece is still on hold as multiple options are being researched

New Business:

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by James Niethammer to adopt Noise Ordinance #388; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by James Niethammer to approve the Speed Limit Adjustment proposal including Linden Street from Becker Engineering in the amount of \$5,000; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler to approve to hire Martin Paving for street sweeping in Richland Borough May 3rd & May 4th; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Mark Brubaker to approve the rental of a portable toilet from Tillett Toilets at \$73.66 per month; Motion unanimously carried. John Johnson and Dwight Belleman will look at the area the portable toilet will be placed to see if a platform is needed.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker to approve the purchase of the SM130DB Digital decibel reader and sound level meter type II with calibration certificate measurement device for environmental and mechanical noise monitoring in the amount of \$74.99; Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker asked council to review the provided copy of the rental registration and inspection program for review and discussion at the next meeting.

President Bricker advised that the current phone system at the Richland Brough Office is of poor quality and needs upgraded. A quote from Choice communications has been obtained and we are waiting for several other quotes to be discussed.

President Bricker advised that we are no longer using ELCO Computers and we are currently in need of IT Tech support. President Bricker advised council that they have been provided quotes from other companies to review for discussion at the March meeting.

Secretary Rebecca Schnoke advised that we were notified that we should have specific labor law posters visually posted and the company that contacted the Borough stated it would be over two hundred dollars for these posters. Solicitor Andrew George advised the posters are needed however should be able to be located and printed for free on the internet. Rebecca Schnoke will investigate and take care of this.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler to approve Salvatore Mancino of 21 E. Main Street for a Refuse Exemption; Motion unanimously carried.

Rebecca Schnoke advised council that resident Donna Ansel contacted the Borough Office to say thank you to everyone who plowed snow during the last snowstorm, that they did a great job.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by James Niethammer to approve the contract with the Millcreek-Richland Joint Sewer Authority charging them \$250.00 per quarter for the meter readings provided by the Richland Borough Water Company; Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker announced the Council will recess the Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. reconvening the Regular Session.

The President asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough, nothing stated. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary