

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 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 Matthew Johnson, 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.

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 James Neithammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on February 9, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There were three (3) persons present.

Helene Alexander – 204 N. Race Street – Helene Alexander wanted to announce her grievance against the Borough regarding towing during the last snowstorm on February 18, 2021. She stated she was treated poorly by two representatives of the Richland Borough and feels there is corruption within the council. Helene Alexander stated that she checked the Richland Borough website and there was no snow emergency posted as there was for the previous snowstorm. Around 12:00PM she heard a truck idling outside of her residence and checked to find that her vehicle was being towed, at which time she went outside and spoke with the towing company recovery pros who informed her she would need to pay \$75.00 to avoid being towed. Helene Alexander then stated she had interactions with John Johnson who was rude to her and the employees of Recovery Pros and directed her to contact the Richland Borough Council President Kelly Bricker who she stated was rude as well and hung up on her. President Bricker stated Helene Alexander called and stated she was going to sue the Richland Borough, she did not hang up on her that she instead was not going to needlessly argue over the phone to obtain no resolution and instead provided her with her name and the name of the Richland Borough Solicitor for her to contact regarding her law suit and to attend the next Richland Borough Council Meeting, President Bricker then proceeded to tell her to have a good day and ended the phone call. Solicitor Andrew George ask Helene Alexander what her goal is which she stated was to have her \$75.00 refunded. After further discussion Solicitor Andrew George informed Helene Alexander that her request will be considered by Borough Council and that the snow emergency procedures will be reviewed for improvements which was confirmed by President Bricker as well as stating there are additional resources such as a new website and swift reach 911 that are in the process of being implemented.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street - Nothing to report.

Andrew Voydik – 29 N. Race Street - Nothing to report.

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 – Nothing to Report.

Property Committee – Solicitor Andrew George is in the process of reviewing the sample rental registration and inspection program and will have a copy for council to review by the next meeting.

Personnel Committee – continued work to implement the revised employee handbook.

Finance Committee – Nothing to report.

Safety Committee – Nothing to report.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by James Niethammer, 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.

Police Report – There were no questions on the March 2021 report.

MRJA Report – Report available for viewing upon request.

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

The Financial Report for February 2021 was submitted by Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by James Niethammer, 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 Matthew Johnson, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to pay all the invoices submitted for payment; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by James Niethammer, to ratify the bills paid; Motion unanimously carried.

The following communications were received:

January Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal (4.35 Tons); NO February Zoning Permits received; Community Leader meeting with Cub Scout Pack 418 5th grade Webelos 3/16/21; Lebanon County Tire Collection April 28, 2021, A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Robert Rittle to register for the Lebanon Tire Collection on April 28,2021 sponsoring \$200.00, Motion unanimously carried.; Comcast Franchise Payment Received \$3,627.85 for the period of 10/1/20-12/31/20.

Old Business –

Rental Registration & Inspection Agreement is with Solicitor Andrew George and will be distributed for review once complete.

Sandra Orth informed us that we should know the outcome of the playground grant March 23, 2021, the outcome will be shared at the April meeting.

New Business:

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve resolution 2021-02 to set the hourly pay range for seasonal personnel to \$16.00-\$20.00 per hour; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by James Niethammer to approve the proposal from Becker Engineering for professional services regarding Well #9; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the proposal from Becker Engineering in the amount of \$14,950.00 to perform a water system evaluation for Richland Borough; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve to utilize the professional services of Kraft Code Services LLC for the purpose of Richland Borough Code Enforcement; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker to approve to employ AEGIS IT Services for IT & Tech Support; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Mark Brubaker to approve to accept the proposal from Verizon Wireless to install and provide support for a new phone system; Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker presented the Richland Borough Newsletter to be included with the first quarter 2021 Water Bills.

Blue Lake Industries noise complaint update - Lebanon County Planning advised that a letter was sent to Blue Lake Industries regarding the noise & dust violations and Blue Lake Industries as responded with the measures taken to correct this issue.

Michele Angstadt is an emotional support teacher at ELCO High School, she contacted the Borough for a map of the streets to help her students plan routes for merchandiser delivery. Additionally, Michele Angstadt is looking for community service work within the Borough for her students. Dwight Belleman will contact her to discuss options.

Dwight Belleman reported he has received multiple complaints from Richland Borough residents as well as non-residents, about Eagle Disposal regarding the trash that they drop and do not clean up. President Bricker advised that a meeting with Andrew Casey be arranged to discuss the complaints and issues.

Michele Voydik stated that there are a lot of residents that do not store their trash bags in containers and when set out for the trash cats and other animals tear open the bags. President Bricker stated she has observed this issue as well and that a reminder that trash must be bagged and placed in trash cans has been included with the Richland Borough newsletter to be distributed with the first quarter water bill. Additionally, Michele Voydik expressed her personal concerns with the future consideration of the possibility of decreasing the amount of trash allowed per property, noting that there are a lot of large families within the Borough limits that will struggle to stay with in trash amount limitations if decreased in the future. President Bricker stated that any discussions regarding this issue will not take place until the current contract expires which is in 2023, but also stated that the Brough does not necessarily want to decrease the amount but may not have a choice based on contract options.

Secretary Rebecca Schnoke advised she spoke with Joseph Kreiser the owner of the apartment building located at 100-102 S. Park Street regarding a slope in the road on Church street where the rain spouting comes out to the road via a pipe under the sidewalk. Mr. Kreiser stated that due to the slope in the road the water backs up into the pipe and over winter it froze and broke. Mr. Kresier is looking to fix his pipe but is seeking guidance on how to correctly fix the issue and what can be done to prevent this issue from being repeated in the future. Highway chairman Larry Hatman request Joseph Kreiser's phone number and stated he will check the situation out and contact him to discuss some options.

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 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary