

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, April 13, 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, Solicitor Andrew George, Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman, Water Supervisor John Johnson, and Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. Absent was councilmember Mark Brubaker, and Mayor Ray Shanaman.

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 Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 9, 2021 with the correction of the date to reflect March 9, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

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

Joseph Kreiser – 100-102 S. Park Street – presented his concern that he feels the way water is billed for a multiunit building is unfair. He stated that it is unfair that a single unit home or business would pay \$300.00 less than his building which contains 6 EDU's and has one meter. His question is why he is being billed per unit but only has one meter. President Bricker directed this question to Vice President James Niethammer as chair of the water committee, who explained that we charge per EDU and consumption and that money is then reinvested in our water system, in essence every unit is considered a customer and every customer pays to be part of our system. Dwight Belleman and John Johnson advised that multiunit buildings were not required to pay a hook up fee for each unit and therefore, this is the reason we charge the \$60.00 minimum to account for the cost of maintaining and updating our system. Despite the explanation Mr. Kreiser still feels that the way we bill is unfair. President Bricker stated that we could go back and forth on this matter for hours with no resolution, she acknowledged Mr. Kreiser's complaint and asked that he give the council time to discuss and research this matter in greater detail. Mr. Kreiser agreed that was a fair request and appreciated that council will consider this matter. President Bricker advised that the water committee, will meet to further discuss this issue and that Joseph Kreiser will be contacted regarding this matter before the June meeting. President Bricker asked if there was anything else that we can assist Mr. Kreiser with, he advised he would like to follow up with President Pro Tem Larry Hartman regarding his previous concern with his rain spouting. Larry advised Mr. Kreiser that he was out to his property to observe the issue and has a solution that will help rectify the situation and told Mr. Kreiser he will get with him to show him this idea.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – nothing to present.

Andy Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – nothing to present.

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

Water Committee – awaiting response from Becker Engineering regarding the water system evaluation and well #9 project.

Highway Committee – Larry Hartman, Dwight Belleman & John Johnson will be getting together to discuss and identify alleys that need repair.

Property Committee – continuing to finalize the Rental Registration and Inspection Program.

Personnel Committee – received the final copy of the revised employee handbook to review.

Finance Committee – Nothing to report.

Safety Committee –Nothing to report.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, 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. Reminder that weather pending street sweeping will occur May 3rd and 4th of 2021.

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 –met with Kraft Code Services to discuss ongoing issues and to get an overview of how the whole process works. The Borough and Kraft are in the process of getting everything setup to initiate their services, Kraft is planning to drive around the Borough 4/15/21.

Police Report – There were no questions on the report.

MRJA Report – Report available for viewing upon request, their next meeting will be held May 3, 2021.

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

The Financial Report for March 2021 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson, 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 Travis Randler, 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:

February Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal (4.50 Tons); Received the 2020 Zoning Administration Annual Report; Zoning Permits received, Jay Horst, Helene Alexander, Laverne & Susan Zimmerman, Titus & Martha Nolt; Thank you letters received (Library – for contribution, Fire Police – for contribution & Sally Schaeffer for including library letter with water bill); Free Lebanon County Paper Shredding Event Monday, July 12, 2021; County Liquid Fuels allocation amount announced - \$1,519.00; Received the floodplain management activities annual report form; Pennsylvania Trolley Museum Program & Store Internship available; Sunday May 2, 2021 Bells Across Pennsylvania to celebrate & honor our hometown heroes.

Old Business:

Playground Grant update → March meeting of the CFA was canceled, should know the outcome at their next scheduled meeting on 5/25/21.

Cable Franchise Update from Cohen Law Group – Per Joel Winston he is putting the final touches on the draft cable franchise agreement that will be provided to Comcast who will then provide their input regarding suggested changes.

Speed limit adjustment update from Becker Engineering → Currently gathering information and gearing up to prepare the necessary exhibits, maps, justifications, etc., to proceed with the submission of the request letter to PennDOT for reduction of their roadways within the Borough.

New Pickup Truck update → Truck has arrived in New Holland and is currently getting the bed liner installed. Once the liner is complete the truck will then be taken for the installation of the lighting followed by the installation of the plow. Could possibly receive the truck by the end of the month.

Website re-design update → Becky Woodhouse is scheduled to be at the Richland Borough Office 4/14/21 to provide training.

New Business:

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Robert Rittle to have Dwight and John move forward with pricing for alley repairs; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve resolution 2021-03 to participate in the County Liquid Fuels Aid Program; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler to approve the advertisement of the Residential Rental Unit Inspections Ordinance #389 for Enactment at the June meeting; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler to approve to accept the Glatfelter Insurance Policy proposed by Enders Insurance; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve the quote from AEGIS IT Services for the installation of a camera system at the salt she in the amount of \$2,803.70; Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker mentioned that it has been noticed that the condition of North Race Street is very poor and needs to be addressed. President Bricker advise Secretary Rebecca Schnoke to contact Lebanon County MPO John Fitzkee for guidance as to how to approach the state to resolve this issue. John Fitzkee advised that the N. Race Street Resurfacing project → Estimated let date is 6/22/2023. John Fitzkee provided the project managers name and contact information for more details, Secretary Schnoke contacted Mr. Kreiser and is awaiting a response from Project Manager Kyle Kreiser.

Update regarding meeting with Kraft Code Services. Kraft explained they are compliance driven not fee driven, their goal with residents is to achieve voluntary compliance. Kraft provided a complaint form for residents to utilize when entering any non-police type complaints, this will be added to the website once the redesign is complete. Kraft Provided a list of Items they will look for during rental inspections as well as a copy of the reports and licenses that will be provided after the inspection has been completed. Through discussion with Solicitor Andrew George and Jeff Fiant with Kraft some minor changes were made to the rental inspection and registration ordinance. Secretary Rebecca Schnoke notified Randy B. Maurer with Associated Building Inspections LLC and the Neptune Fire Company that we will be using Kraft Codes for future needs.

President Bricker announced the Council will recess the Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 7:44 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:04 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 Larry Hartman, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary