

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, May 11, 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, Mayor Ray Shanaman Solicitor Andrew George, Engineer Dan Becker, Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman, and Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. Absent was councilmember Mark 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.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Robert Rittle, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on April 13, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

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

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

Owen Landis – 509 Elm Street – attending on behalf of the Richland Beautification Committee. Owen Landis stated that the committee is comprised of four couples, three of which are over the age of 70 plus years old. Twice a year the flags in town are changed, April/May the red white and blue flags are displayed and then October/November the holiday flags are displayed. Mr. Landis stated that this task is becoming more and more difficult for their members to complete due to their age and would like to inquire if the Richland Borough employees could take over this responsibility and switch out the flags. Mr. Landis stated that this process is done twice a year and takes 2-3 hours each time for a total of 4-6 hours out of the year they would be requesting the use of the Borough Employees. Mr. Landis stated that when this task is completed Dave Binner brings his bucket truck and operates the boom while someone (Dwight or John drives the truck). A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by James Niethammer, to approve the Richland Borough employees to assist the Richland Beautification Committee in changing banners twice a year pending insurance verification of Dave Binner's bucket truck. Motion carried 5-yes and 1-abstained, President Bricker Abstained as she is a member of the Richland Beautification Committee.

Joseph Kreiser – 100-102 S. Park Street – presented his continued concern that he feels the way water is billed for a multiunit building is unfair. Mr. Kreiser wanted to clarify a statement from the previous meeting that Richland Borough Water Company billing is not similar to Womelsdorf Robesonia Joint Authority and though Myerstown is similar it is still not comparable. President Bricker expressed that we are not in comparison to either of these municipalities due to customer volume, their customer base is much larger allowing them to charge less and still be able to maintain their systems and operating costs. Joseph Kreiser stated he understands and does not disagree with the way we bill and is willing to pay his fair share however he does not see in any other municipality that multifamily units are charged so much more and still feels this is unfair.

Richland Borough Engineer Dan Becker stated that having a flat rate component in authority billing is not uncommon it allows them to facilitate and guarantee that there is revenue to cover their fixed costs and that generally an apartment is determined to be a single EDU because the capacity is there to generate wastewater or utilize water equivalent to a single-family home. Dan Becker explained the theory and thought process behind Richland Borough Water Company billing consisting of a service component accompanied by a flat rate charge to be as follows. One unit may currently have one tenant, but the number of tenants could change at any time, two months from now you could have 5 people living in an apartment which would be considered the equivalent of a single-family home. Even though the demand may not be present currently the Borough is responsible for having the water service there and available if needed and to maintain the provisions, sourcing, distribution system and storage to accommodate those needs when necessary. President Bricker asked Mr. Kreiser if we could again continue to discuss this further at a water committee meeting in the near future.

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

Water Committee – reading meters weekly to identify and contact residents regarding possible leaks.

Highway Committee – Dwight Belleman discussed and identified alleys by priority that need repair and are planned to bid out for 2021 and then 2022.

Property Committee – security cameras to be installed at the salt shed 5/18/21.

Personnel Committee – Nothing to report.

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 – Upon review of the analysis reports submitted from Kenworth, Vice President Niethammer questioned the presence of rust on the frame of the small dump truck and what actions should be taken. Dwight Belleman advised the trucks were at Kenworth for analysis , and Kenworth advised they would not touch the rust on the small dump truck due to the wiring and that the only thing noted is that the oil pan on the small dump truck should be replaced before winter. We are still waiting for the fluid analysis for the large dump truck.

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 report.

MRJA Report – Electronic copy of monthly reports on file and available for viewing upon request, next meeting will be held June 7, 2021.

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

The Financial Reports for April 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 Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler, to pay all the invoices submitted for payment; Motion unanimously carried.

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

The following communications were received:

March Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal (8.12 Tons); Zoning Permits received, Jacob & Hannah Walmer, Timothy Heagy & Caitlin Marle & Ryan Fox, Richland Borough, Clint Lessig, Kevin & Tenesha Kepley; Thank you/appreciation letter received from Sally Schaeffer for the creation and inclusion of the Richland Borough Newsletter; GLRA 2021 Refuse Report; PSAB & APPI Energy solar solutions flyer; Thank you to those who participated in Bells Across Pennsylvania.

Old Business:

Playground Grant update → Received notification that the application has been denied and Richland Borough was not awarded the playground grant. Secretary Schnoke communicated with Greg Welker from the CFA department for further clarification regarding improvements on our application to help gain future funding. Three suggestions Mr. Welker provided include, increase the dollar amount contributed to the project by the Richland Borough, soliciting and submitting a letter of legislative support and greater detail as to how the updates will increase the quality of our playground. The playground grant is an annual Application that is due by May 31.

Speed limit adjustment update from Becker Engineering → Speed Limit Request Letter mailed to PennDOT 5/6/21. Expecting PennDOT response July-August 2021, once decision received, creation and implementation of new ordinance to occur.

Website re-design update → The new website is live.

Hydrant Flushing to occur the week of May 17, 2021, this will be posted on the Richland Borough website as well as the Neptune Fire Co. sign.

New Business:

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Travis Randler to advertise and bid out Alley Maintenance to include patching and oil and chip of Pine Street, Church Alley, Apple Alley, Blackberry Alley, Apricot Alley, Strawberry Alley, Grape Alley and Rock Alley with a budgetary figure of \$35,000-\$40,000 to be completed in 2021; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by James Niethammer to approve Secretary Rebecca Schnoke to shop for Electric Suppliers with terms within 12-36 months; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the Industrial Appraisal Company to perform a full appraisal in the amount of \$3,750.00; Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised everyone has a copy of the Pension Plan Agreement for review and that a resolution to adopt the Pension Plan Agreement for Secretary Schnoke will need to be voted on at the next meeting.

President Bricker advised that Kraft Code Services recommended several changes to the rental registration and inspection ordinance to be reviewed by council before enactment at the next meeting.

For consideration by council, Dwight Belleman submitted a quote for a new backhoe. Per Plasterer Equipment, with trade in the out of pocket cost would be \$79,900.00, President Bricker requested at-least one other quote to be obtained from another dealer for comparison.

President Bricker announced the Council will recess the Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:38 p.m. reconvening the Regular Session.

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

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – Advised that the flag illumination LED light on the peak of the Borough Building is flashing like a strobe light. President Bricker and Vice President Niethammer requested Secretary Schnoke to inform Dwight Belleman and John Johnson to replace all three LED lights as they are several years old.

The President asked if there were any additional 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 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary