

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 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.

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.

President Bricker completed roll call, Present were President Kelly Bricker, Vice President Mark Brubaker, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmembers, Travis Randler, Matthew Johnson, Robert Rittle, Mayor Ray Shanaman, Solicitor Andrew George, and Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. Absent was Councilmember James Niethammer.

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 April 12, 2022. Motion unanimously carried. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Travis Randler to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous special meeting held on May 5, 2022. Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There was one (1) person present.

Michelle 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 – President Bricker requested Secretary Schnoke to provide a summary of the meeting with PennVest regarding potential financing of the upcoming water projects. Secretary Schnoke advised that PennVest financing is a very viable option, currently the interest rates for a 20-year loan are 1.743% for the first five years and 2.179% for years six through twenty. Quick cost estimates figuring on no new connections and no grant funds the customer rate increase would decrease from 70% to 40% with PennVest funding in comparison to a bank loan. Secretary Schnoke advised that PennVest funding can only be applied for with a shovel ready project, and the timing for the Well No. 9 project should work out, and the timing for the Tank project will be tight but Becker is working on keeping the project moving ahead as quickly as possible.

Highway Committee – Nothing to Report.

Property Committee – Nothing to Report.

Personnel Committee – Nothing to Report.

Finance Committee – Nothing to Report.

Safety Committee – Nothing to Report.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, 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, 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 report.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held May 2, 2022, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held June 6, 2022.

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

The Financial Reports for March 2022 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Mark Brubaker to approve the Financial Report and have it on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The Financial Reports for April 2022 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Mark Brubaker to approve the Financial Report and have it on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The invoices were presented and reviewed by Councilmember Travis Randler. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

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

The following communications were received:

- February 2022 Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal (6.20 Tons).
- 4 Zoning/Building Permits Issued
 - C & L Siding LLC (8 W. New St. Deck), Vision Solar (107 S. Race St. Solar Panels)’ A-Z Fencing LLC (213 E. Main St. Fence), Stanley Smith (134 E. Main St. Shed).
- UGI submitted HOP application for 111 Walnut Street to extend the gas main.
- Humane Society notice of stray dog surrendered.
- Lebanon County Commissioners 4/21/22 Meeting Highlights.
- Lebanon County Conservation, 2022 Tire Collection Event turn out letter.
- Approval letters from Millcreek Township & Myerstown Borough for Fire Police support for the upcoming June 18, 2022, Fireman’s Parade.
- 2022 Liquid Fuels allocation in the amount of \$43,771.21 received.

Old Business:

President Bricker provided an update regarding the Voydik Zoning Hearing Board Appeal (Case No. 2-21). The Zoning Hearing Board final decision was made on April 25, 2022 and mailed on April 26, 2022. The final decision states that the appeal of Andrew P. Voydik and Michelle A. Voydik is denied and that the appellant may file an appeal within 30 after the decisions entry date of April 26, 2022.

President Bricker advised that Dwight Belleman and John Johnson expressed concerns regarding some issues with the large dump truck frame, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman advised that the truck be taken to Kenworth to acquire an estimate for the repairs. The estimate for the repairs in the amount of \$12,291.00 to include replacing the frame with a stainless steel frame which should increase the life of the frame, sand blasting, painting, and sealing from the cab to the rear pull plate area. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded Mark Brubaker, to approve the repairs in the amount of \$12,291.00, to be complete as soon as possible in preparation for the 2022 snow plowing season; Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised that Becker Engineering has been reviewing the Richland Borough Water Company Rules and Regulations for Construction of water facilities, as they have not been reviewed in a very long time. President Bricker, Vice president Mark Brubaker, Dwight Belleman, and John Johnson met with Rob Hallman of Becker Engineering to look over and review the current rules and regulations to identify any verbiage to be updated. The revised document is complete, and if approved will be in place prior to the ELM Steet Development. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman, to approve the revised Rules & Regulations for construction of water facilities; Motion unanimously carried.

New Business:

Sealed bids received for the 2022 Alley Repairs were opened at 7:18 pm. Two bids received: Martin Paving in the amount of \$39,457.80, and Russell Standard in the amount of \$49,777.72, both bids reviewed by the solicitor. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to accept the bid from Martin Paving in the amount of \$39,457.80; Motion unanimously carried.

Sealed bids received for the 2022 Stormwater Inlet Replacement were opened at 7:21 pm. Two bids received: CPA Pavement Services Incorporated in the amount of \$98,924.00, and AH Moyer in the amount of \$69,780.00, both bids reviewed by the solicitor. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to accept the bid from AH Moyer in the amount of \$69,780.00; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Mark Brubaker to approve Resolution 2022-14 to authorize the expenditure of funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker announced that the Richland Community days is being held Saturday, May 14, 2022, and that a map of the different yard sale locations is available on Facebook.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the inclusion of the Wreaths Across America flyer as submitted with the second quarter water bill; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made regrettably by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Robert Rittle to accept the resignation of Assistant Roas Supervisor and Water Operator John Johnson as submitted; motion unanimously carried. President Bricker state that she wishes John Johnson the best of luck in his next adventure.

President Bricker stated that an insurance termination letter was provided to John Johnson to submit to his spouse's employer to be added to her insurance, the letter stated that his termination was voluntary, and he opted out of Mini Cobra offered to him. A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Larry Hartman to ratify the Insurance Termination letter provided to John Johnson; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the Termination letter and PA Mini Cobra notice to be provided to John Johnson; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised that effective May 13, 2022, the Borough needs a water operators license to continue operating the Boroughs water system and to remain compliant with government regulations. President Bricker stated that Dwight Belleman and herself reached out to our neighbors, Womelsdorf-Robesononia Joint Water Authority and Myerstown Water Authority, and Chris Strause has the exact license needed for the operation of the Richland Borough Water System. Chris Strause has been kind enough to offer to act as the Richland Borough Water Operator until a replacement for John Johnson is hired. President Bricker advised that Chris Strause will need to be added to the payroll as a part time employee while acting as the Water System Operator. President Bricker noted that Chris Strause did not want to receive any compensation and as a resident of Richland Borough he just wanted to help, however President Bricker feels that the water company needs to provide some compensation in case anything would happen in the future. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve to hire Chris Strause as the Richland Water Company's licensed water operator at a rate of \$350.00 per month; motion unanimously carried. President Bricker added that the average water operator makes greater than \$500.00 a month to hang their license, and that this is a huge help to the Richland Water Company and is thankful for the service Chris Strause is willing to provide.

President Bricker advised that Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman has vacation time coming up that was scheduled well in advance of this situation and preparing for any unexpected absence from work due to sickness or injury there should be part time help in place. President Bricker noted that to perform reservoir checks in Dwight's absence an operator is needed and that she consulted with Chris Strause for guidance on what rates should be paid in these situations. A motion was made by Mark Brubaker and seconded by Larry Hartman to approve to hire part time, as needed employees Dennis Miller & Dustin Miller of Womelsdorf-Robesononia Joint Water Authority at a rate of \$50.00 per reservoir check, \$25.00 per hour for water call outs, and \$15.00 per hour for grounds maintenance; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker announced the Council will recess the Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. after discussing personnel matters and reconvening the Regular Session.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve the gross amount of \$17,170.56 that is owed to John Johnson for accrued sick and vacation time, which is subject to all applicable payroll deductions and is to be paid on May 25, 2022; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Mark Brubaker to approve a part time grounds maintenance list to assist during times that Dwight Belleman is unavailable to perform the duties.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve a discretionary bonus for Dwight Belleman in the amount of \$2,600.00 to be paid in two installments; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to adjust the amount of Dwight Belleman's required health insurance contribution; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough. With no additional matters presented a motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Travis Randler, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary