

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, October 18, 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, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmembers, Travis Randler, Matthew Johnson, Robert Rittle, James Niethammer, Mayor Ray Shanaman, Solicitor Colin Macfarlane, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, and Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman. Absent was Vice President Mark Brubaker.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on September 13, 2022. Motion unanimously carried.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on October 11, 2022. Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There were five (5) persons present.

Patti & Pete Rowe – 12 S. Race Street – stated that every year they hold the Halloween event Light the Night which draws a large crowd and is requesting to close the street from S. Race Street to Peach Alley for the safety of the participants. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by James Niethammer to close Church Street from S. Race Street to Peach Alley for the Light the Night event. Motion unanimously carried. Pattie Rowe will place cones at either end to close the road, with the understanding that if an emergency vehicle would need to get through the cones would be moved immediately. President Bricker stated that Council is happy they can help and thanked the Rowes for what they do for the community.

Andrew Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – No Comments.

Dana Moyer – 107 Walnut Street – stated she would like to discuss with Council, the implementation of a Feral Cat Trap Neuter and Release program. President Bricker asked that this matter be discussed under new business.

Jen Wentzel – 125 Furnace Street – stated she is present on behalf of Dana Moyer.

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 advised that Dwight Belleman and herself met with Mark Homan and Dan Connolly of Becker Engineering to review the final plans for the Well No. 9 project, and that everything looked good but inquire whether the single phase to three phase convert is required and included.

Highway Committee – Dwight Belleman advised crack sealing will be addressed this year sometime in October or November and that the catch basins in the Leffler development are completed.

Property Committee – Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – President Bricker advised that she met with Rebecca Schnoke and Dwight Belleman to discuss and update current and pending business.

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 – President Bricker advised that her and Dwight Belleman will discuss and address an ongoing leak at 32-34 W. Main Street.

Office Report – 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, President Bricker stated she spoke with Kraft and the Rental Inspection program is going very well.

Police Report – September report submitted; August has not been received.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held October 3, 2022, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held November 7, 2022.

President Bricker advised that the Sewer Authority is still looking for a replacement for Maybelle Morgans Secretary and Board position.

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

The Financial Reports for September 2022 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 and reviewed by Councilmember James Niethammer. A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

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

The following communications were received:

- August 2022 Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal- 6.79 Tons.
- 3 Zoning/Building Permit Applications Received
 - Anthony & Linda Giannone (209 Oak St. – Deck)
 - Matthew Kleinfelter (100 Birch St. – Detached Garage)
 - Tammy Myers (205 E. Linden St. – Detached Garage)
- 5 Zoning/Building Permit Issued
 - Nancy Linton (1 Grape Alley – Shed)
 - John Weiant (411 Oak St – Fence)
 - Scott & Robin Smith (209 N. Race St. – Attached Garage)
 - Matthew Kleinfelter (100 Birch St. – Detached Garage)
 - Anthony & Linda Giannone (209 Oak St. – Deck)
- Lebanon County Commissioners 9/1/22 & 9/15/22 Meeting Highlights.
- PURTA Distribution received - \$505.77
- PLCB License Fees Disbursement - \$200.00
- 2022 Municipal Pension System State Aid Allocation received - \$15,541.35
- Final ARPA Distribution received - \$84,630.11
- PennDOT winter agreement disbursement received - \$18,622.06
- 2022 Fire Relief Payment received - \$8,792.88
- Notice of Estimated 2023 Liquid Fuels Allocation - \$44,215.65
- DEP Communication - tips for residential heating oil tank owners, copies available at the Borough Office.

Old Business:

N. Race Street Update – President Bricker advised that Casey Kerschner and James Kinney of Becker Engineering will be providing this update. Casey Kerschner advised he received notification from PennDOT that the original let date to bid the project to contractors is likely to be pushed back a few months to complete a survey of the utilities in the roadway before any work can be done. Casey Kerschner stated construction of this project will likely be pushed back to Summer of 2023 and they are continuing to work with PennDOT to coordinate the project and the compensation agreement. Casey Kerschner advised that PennDOT has provided a draft cost opinion for the ADA Ramps, street profile replacement and replacement of curbed entrance to the Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority, totaling approximately \$57,000.00 but that this is a draft cost opinion developed from costs of other work performed and is not a final cost amount. Casey Kerschner explained that the N. Race Street project has been split into two due to the PennDOT right of way; the first portion being the curb replacement and road resurfacing which has been primarily picked up by PennDOT with the exception of the borough improvements and the second portion being the sidewalks. Casey Kerschner stated that the Borough has explored and is submitting two multimodal state grants, one for the \$57,000.00 Borough improvements and the second for the sidewalk expenses. Casey Kerschner explained that timing may not work for the use of the grant funds if awarded to the Borough however the push back of the project may work in the Borough's favor for the grant timeline. James Kinney provided explanation of the multimodal state fund (MTF) established by Act 89, to provide financial assistance to municipalities, council of governments and boroughs to improve transportation assets, enhance communities, pedestrian safety, and transit revitalization and that previously awarded projects are consistent with the scope of work of the N. Race Street Project. James Kinney advised that there are required documents that need to be completed, signed and submitted with the application in addition to a 30% funds match or the application will not be

considered. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Robert Rittle, to authorize Becker Engineering to move forward with applying for the grant for the PennDOT ADA and sidewalks; motion unanimously carried.

James Kinney of Becker Engineering provided an update regarding the PennVEST application for funding for the Well No. 9 project. James Kinney stated the process for submitting for PennVEST funding is different than the grant process and is more streamlined. The steps for application include, narratives are submitted which is complete; engaging with an accountant that works with PennVEST, in this case Mike Rudy of RKL who currently has and is reviewing the Borough's financials; acquiring land use letters, currently waiting for land use letters from the AG Board and County, both departments have committed to sending the letters and stated that the project is conceptually consistent. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to execute the PennVEST letter of Responsibility required for the application; motion unanimously carried. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve Resolution 2022-19 authorizing the Borough to apply for funding through Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PennVEST) for improvements to the Borough Water System; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker provided an update on the amended park master plan, and that the items added included a putting green area, some fencing, several raingardens, and the environmental educational story walk panels. A motion was made by Travis Randler, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the final park master plan and to authorize Chuck Strodoski to move forward with the plan; motion unanimously carried. President Bricker advised that to apply for grant funding a Resolution authorizing the Borough to apply is required. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by James Niethammer to approve Resolution 2022-20 Authorizing the Borough to apply for Park Rehabilitation and Development Grant Funding through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the Richland Park Revitalization Project.

President Bricker advised that Casey Kerschner of Becker Engineering will provide an update regarding the Speed Limit Adjustment project. Casey Kerschner stated that previously a letter was submitted to PennDOT requesting speed limit reduction on state roads in the Borough, the response from PennDOT was delayed but the response received authorized some limited reductions, now that we have the authorization letter the next step is to make the information ordained. Casey Kerschner advised that Kelly Bricker and himself met with Solicitor Andrew George to discuss several different ordinances. Solicitor George has drafted a template ordinance to input the specifications and once complete the ordinance can be advertised and put to the Council for approval and if enacted signage can be updated and replaced.

New Business:

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler to approve Trick-Or-Treat to be held October 27, 2022, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, with a rain date of October 31, 2022 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker asked that at this time Dana Moyer share her comments. Dana Moyer introduced herself and Jennifer Wentzel who is the founder of Cornwall Community Cats. Dana Moyer shared that Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) initiatives have been successful in drastically decreasing the feral cat populations in Cornwall Borough and South Lebanon Township and that recently their was

an article that Mechanicsburg is adopting a program. Dana Moyer stated that the program provides feral cats trapped with rabies vaccination, neutering and ear clipping for identification, and though it does not remove the feral cats it removes the ability to reproduce and with overtime will decrease the population size and provides a solution to the current issue. Dana Moyer stated she would be willing to help residents trap feral cats or provide tips to reduce the negative impacts they pose to the community. Jen Wentzel stated she is a volunteer with Cornwall Community Cats and the mission of the their group is to reduce the free roaming cat population by employing TNR, where the cat is humanely trapped, alter the cat by spaying or neutering, vaccinate for rabies and distemper and clip the ear tip to know it was done and release the cat, with the hope being that the cat will not reproduce anymore but can humanely live out its life and over time the population will decline. Jen Wentzel stated that there is a lot of research supporting that high intensity TNR is the most effective solution both cost effectively and scalability. Jen Wentzel stated that their group was created in 2019 with an enacted ordinance by Cornwall Borough, currently they identify areas where free roaming cats are an issue speak with the property owners in the area assess the situation, provide traps and strategy for trapping, make appointments, transport and return the cat upon completion, and since 2019 they have altered 253 cats and placed 170 small kittens in homes; the program has had pleasant impact on the community. Jen Wentzel stated their group is completely volunteer based and through their own fundraising cover all the costs associated with the program. Jen Wentzel stated that you can implement the program in many ways for example South Lebanon Township pays for the cost of the surgery, but the resident is responsible for contacting Nobody's Cats, scheduling, trapping, transporting and releasing. Jen Wentzel stated that Nobody's Cats, Helping Hands, Gray's and Strays, and Lancaster SPCA are all wonderful resources, additionally Cornwall Community cats would assist in any way they can and that the cost for the TNR is approximately \$45.00 or less. Dana Moyer stated she would be willing to contact programs to setup a program and to provide help to residents with trapping. President Bricker stated that this sounds like a great program and asked Dana Moyer what exactly she is requesting of the Council. Dana Moyer stated she would like to do for Richland what Jen Wentzel does for Cornwall and help residents with trapping and maintaining feral cats and would like the Borough to pay for the surgeries. President Bricker stated she feels like this is a great program and would like to look into the matter further and look at the budget more closely, and thanked Dana Moyer and Jen Wentzel for their time and information.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve to execute the Disconnection Agreement for 113 N. Kalbach Road; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the Employee Health Benefits renewal for Medical Gold PPO 500/0/25 RX 250, Senior Plan, Vision 12/0 Optimal, and Dental PPO Choice Plans, with no employee contributions; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler to approve a contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Lebanon County Agricultural Preservation Board for 2023; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler to approve the Richland Borough Fire Polic to provide their services to Myerstown Borough if available for the Holiday Parade; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker stated that currently Richland Borough has a Per Capita tax and over the last couple years there have been many complaints from residents that the bills are not received, or information is not updated and the \$5.00 tax turns into 80-100 dollars due to the late fees. President Bricker stated she is bringing this to the attention of Council to discuss the continuation or elimination of this tax. After discussion a motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Travis Randler to authorize Solicitor Andrew George to prepare and advertise the necessary documents to eliminate the Per Capita tax; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised that the MS4 Waiver prepare and submitted by Becker Engineering has been approved and is effective from 2/1/2023-1/23/2028.

Dwight Belleman advised that leaf collection will begin October 19, 2022, and the end date is projected to be December 15, 2022, whether pending. If whether permits leaf collection will continue past that date if needed. James Niethammer inquired if leaves where cars are parked will be collected. Dwight Belleman advised that due to the operation and size of the machine, if the machine cannot safely reach the pile he cannot collect, he will collect what can be safely collected without causing damage to surrounding objects and will have to drive past and leave what cannot. President Bricker stated that if the property does not have the ability to put leaves in an area that can be picked that they can be bagged and put out for the trash or taken to nearby collection sites as alternative solutions.

President Bricker announced the Council will recess the Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. after discussing personnel matters and reconvening the Regular Session with no action taken.

President Bricker asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough. With no additional matters presented a motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary