

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 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 Matthew Johnson, Travis Randler, Robert Rittle, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman, and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker. Absent was Councilmember James Niethammer and Mayor Ray Shanaman.

President Bricker announced that Council will recess the Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Council returned from Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. after discussing personnel matters and reconvening the Regular Session with no action taken.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 8, 2023. Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Larry Hartman, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee meeting held on August 16, 2023. Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There were four (4) people present.

Michele Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – inquired about the September 19, 2023, boil water advisory and who is affected. Dwight Belleman advised the boil water has been rescheduled to September 25, 2023, and is only impacting N. Race Street residents between New Street & Walnut Street.

Dana Moyer – 107 Walnut Street - stated she is still focusing on feral cats, 11 cats spayed and neutered and 10 kittens taken off the street and fostered. Currently working with Lebanon County Community Cats, they will transport to Nobody's Cats for spay and neuter at a cost of \$40.00. Will have a table at the Richland Heritage Society vendor fair to help raise awareness.

Bryan Rohland & Jay E. Horst – Earth & Sky Design/JE Horst – presented Rigidply Glulam project plan, stated still working on plans for water and sewer approval. Mr. Rohland stated there is a question regarding whether the new addition is required to connect to public water or can be connected to the well and is waiting for clarification. Dwight Belleman advised that if the company serves twenty-five or more employees, they become a transient water company and are required by DEP to have a certified water operator on staff. Bryan Rohland stated he will need clarification regarding the plans to move forward, President Bricker advised that the engineer was waiting for the capacity request form and Mr. Rohland stated he would like to speak with the engineer regarding specifications. President Bricker stated she will check in with the engineer to keep things moving.

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

Water Committee – Dwight Belleman advised about the water main break and gave special thanks to President Kelly Bricker and Councilmember Matthew Johnson for their help and support during the crisis, and that President Bricker was present those 48 hours supporting and assisting, and her dedication is greatly appreciated. Dwight Belleman provided details regarding the severity of the leak and the events that took place to facilitate resolution. President Bricker and Dwight Belleman expressed gratitude to those who helped and advised that thank you letters will be sent. President Bricker expressed gratitude and appreciation for the positive calls and feedback received from water customers, and for the cooperation of the water customers in conserving water and understanding the severity of the issue. President Bricker advised that Senator Gebhard’s office reached out to during the crisis as well as Becker Engineering, and she was grateful for their support.

Highway Committee – Nothing to Report.

Property Committee – President Bricker stated still working on one easement for the Well No. 9 Project.

Personnel Committee – President Bricker stated she met with Dwight Belleman, Benjamin Becker and Rebecca Schnoke this week to recap events and get caught up on ongoing matters.

Finance Committee – President Bricker advised we are working on items for PennVest Funding.

Safety Committee – Nothing to Report.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to accept the Committee Reports. Motion unanimously carried.

The following reports were presented to the Council: Mayor Report, Road Supervisor Report, Office Report, Solicitor Report, Code Enforcement, and State Police Report.

Mayor Report – None submitted.

Road Supervisor’s Report – No questions about the report.

Water Report – No questions about the report.

Office Report – No questions about the report.

Solicitor’s Report – No questions about the report.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – President Bricker advised she carefully reviewed the report and advised Secretary Schnoke to contact Kraft to set deadlines for remediation of some long-standing items on the report. President Bricker advised there is a house without water, it has been posted uninhabitable, but the grass needs to be mowed and there is a shed on the property that needs to be removed. Solicitor George stated the Borough can do the work but be sure to take pictures, be careful, and document hours and time. President Bricker advised further discussion will need to take place on this matter.

Police Report – August 2023 report submitted.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held September 11, 2023, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held October 2, 2023.

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

The Financial Reports for August 2023 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the Financial Report, and have it placed on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

The invoices were presented and reviewed by Councilmember Mark Brubaker. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Travis Randler, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to ratify the bills paid; Motion unanimously carried.

The following communications were received:

- President Bricker stated she received questions from residents stating they heard that the trash day was changed, President Bricker advised that the trash collection day has not changed and is Tuesday, however considering ongoing collection issues if trash is not picked, please leave it curbside.
- June 2023 Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal- 5.81 Tons.
- July 2023 Monthly Municipal Report from Eagle Disposal- 5.55 Tons
- 3 Zoning/Building Permit Applications Received
  - 307 Millbach Rd (Detached Garage)
  - 23 N. Park Street (Remodel)
  - 107 S. Race Street (Pole Shed)
- 3 Zoning/Building Permits Issued
  - 307 Millbach Rd (Detached Garage)
  - 307 Millbach Rd (Window)
  - 113 S. Race St (Fence)
- New Zoning Ordinance Draft – Public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 20, 2023, at the Neptune Fire Company, Charlie Schmehl from Urban Research Development will be present to answer questions.

Old Business:

Playground Update – President Bricker advised the project kickoff meeting with YSM Landscape Architects and Becker Engineering took place and we are waiting for design proposals for the playground equipment. The project should start after June 2024 baseball season and be completed in November 2024.

Water Project Update – President Bricker stated she has been in contact with Senator Meuser’s office, and they are sending forms to get authorization to go to HUD to answer the project questions to ensure all funding guidelines are followed. President Bricker stated that Becker Engineering is

locating different tank designs and setting up site visits so that the design options can be explored. President Bricker advised that the Borough will be pursuing the next round of LSA grant funds for the water tank project.

N. Race Street Update – Dwight Belleman advised a preconstruction meeting was held in Harrisburg, they are moving forward with the project and are boring holes to locate service lines, and the last hydrant replacement will take place September 25, 2023. The project start date and completion date is not known.

President Bricker advised that she strongly encourage anyone who is not on the alert system to provide their contact information to Secretary Schnoke so that they can be added for future communications and alerts.

New Business:

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the advertisement of Ordinance #393 for curb, sidewalk, and driveway specifications; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve Resolution 2023-14 authorizing Richland Borough to apply for Keystone grants for public library facilities funding through the department of education and the office of commonwealth libraries to fund improvements to the Richland Borough Community Library and designating signing author to President Kelly Bricker; motion unanimously carried.

ODB Leaf Picker – Benjamin Becker advised that the old tow behind ODB leaf picker was listed for sale on municibid and the final bid amount is \$11,700.00. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Mark Brubaker to accept the bid in the amount of \$11,700.00 and sell the ODB leaf picker; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve, pending availability, the Richland Fire Police to provide services to the Borough of Myerstown to assist with the Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with the rain date being Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the Wreaths Across America Flyer to be included with the third quarter 2023 water billing; 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 Larry Hartman, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,  
Richland Borough Secretary