

A public meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the banquet hall at the Neptune Fire Company located at 20-22 E. Main Street.

The Public Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present were President Kelly Bricker, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmember James Niethammer, Mayor Owen Landes, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, Zoning Officer Glenn Bertolet, and Urban Research & Development Consultant Charlie Schmehl.

There were 12 residents in attendance.

President Bricker advised this is the second and final public meeting regarding the new zoning ordinance before the ordinance is considered for adoption at the December 12, 2023, regularly schedule Council meeting, and expressed thanks to those attending the meeting. President Bricker introduced and turned the meeting over to Charlie Schmehl from Urban Research & Development.

Charlie Schmehl summarized the major policies of the zoning ordinance draft, following the summary memo provided to all attendees, which is also available for review at [richlandborough.org](http://richlandborough.org). Charlie Schmehl advised that there are no proposed changes to the zoning map.

President Bricker opened the floor for visitor comments.

Loren Gerhart – 16 Georgie Lane – Inquired about group homes. Charlie Schmehl confirmed a home of 4 residents and one supervisor per federal law is permitted in any district.

A question was posed when trash will be picked up. President Bricker advised trash day is Tuesday, however whether Eagle Disposal will collect Tuesday is unfortunately unknown, the new contract with Weidle begins January 1, 2024, and a summary letter will be included with the next water bill. Additional discussion regarding the current and new three-year refuse contracts occurred.

A concern was voiced regarding speeding on Oak Street. President Bricker advised the traffic ordinance will lower the speed limit of Borough's roadways to 25mph will be put forward for adoption at the January 2, 2024, regularly scheduled meeting. President Bricker mentioned that Council is looking into grant money for digital speed signs.

Jay Wenger – 109 E. Main Street – Inquired about conversion of two-unit home to a one unit. Charlie Schmehl advised deconversions are allowable and would require permitting.

Gary Althouse – 26 N. Race Street – Inquired about blue historical marks and if they are allowed. Charlie Schmehl advised official signs are not regulated, historical markers are ok.

Jay Wenger – 109 E. Main Street – expressed that residents were upset about not knowing there are upgrades to the water system planned. President Bricker advised updates concerning ongoing projects are provided at council meetings and encourages residents to attend meetings to stay informed.

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President Bricker asked if there were any additional questions or comments, with non-presented she thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,  
Richland Borough Secretary