

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Richland Borough Office. 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 Matthew Johnson, James, Niethammer, and Robert Rittle, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker. Absent was Vice-President Mark, Councilmember Travis Randler, and Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman.

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 January 2, 2024; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous workshop meeting held on January 23, 2024; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There were two (2) persons present.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – No comments presented.

Jason Firestone – Vice President of ELCO Youth Baseball – Introduced himself and requested permission to use Moehlmann Field for the 2024 6U & 8U youth baseball season. Council granted permission to ELCO Youth Baseball to utilize the field for the spring 2024 season. President Bricker stated that once the spring baseball season is complete, the baseball field will be removed in preparation for the construction of the new park, and suggested contacting the Legion to use their ballfield since softball is no longer utilizing the field, Secretary Schnoke will provide contact information for a Legion representative. Jason Firestone will email Secretary Schnoke the contact information for himself and Matt Auker in case there are any questions or concerns during the season.

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

Water Committee – Kelly Bricker advised herself, Dwight Belleman, and Benjamin Becker attended a constituent meeting with Russ Diamond, to address concerns with regulations regarding PFAS and the Lead & Copper Rule Revision. The meeting was good but not the right setting for this matter, the matter is on a federal level. February 27, 2024, multiple municipalities are going to attend a meeting with Congressman Meuser. The appraisal of the land needed for the water tank project has been completed, an agreement of sale and a copy of the appraisal have been sent to the land owner. Kelly Bricker, Matthew Johnson, Dwight Belleman, and Benjamin Becker completed site visits of different tank designs; Becker Engineering is working on the Boroughs project design

based on the site visit feedback. Preliminary project timelines have been provided, the dates are not set in stone but projected completion of Well No. 9 is July 2025 and the tank in November 2025. Surveyors will be marking the Well No. 9 easement area for maintenance and clearing. Becker Engineering hired an outside source to complete the Environmental study required for the HUD grant, hope to have environmental study completed by April 2024.

Highway Committee – Nothing to Report.

Property Committee – Nothing to Report.

Personnel Committee – Recap meeting with employees the second Monday of the month.

Finance Committee – Nothing to Report.

Safety Committee – Nothing to Report.

Recreation Committee – Playground equipment was removed by Borough Employees. Cost estimates for phase one of the park revitalization project have been received. Playground building expected to be removed in April 2024. Drainage testing has been completed for the required NPDES permit. Construction planned to start mid to late June 2024 after spring baseball season and completion of phase one in November 2024.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle, 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.

Engineer's Report – Per Borough Council's request, Becker Engineering will provide a monthly report going forward summarizing ongoing projects, to provide detail on what has been completed, what is ongoing, and projected project timelines. Becker Engineering is preparing and will provide maps of current water facilities. Council requested flow data on a second water supply line being utilized on the new tank so that there are two sources feeding water to the Borough, in the event of a water main break, there would always be a source of water from the tank to Borough residents.

Road Supervisor's Report – No questions about the report. President Bricker thanked Dwight Belleman and Benjamin Becker for a great job done with snow removal.

Water Report – No questions about the report. President Bricker thanked Dwight Belleman and Benjamin Becker for removing the playground equipment, completing this task resulted in a cost savings of \$10,000.00 on the playground project.

Office Report – No questions about the report.

Solicitor's Report – Cable franchise agreement is in the final stages of approval with Comcast.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – No questions about the report.

Police Report – January 2024.

MRJA Report – Next meeting will be held March 4, 2024.

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

The Financial Reports for January 2024 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, 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 James Niethammer. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve to ratify the bills paid; motion unanimously carried.

The following communications were received:

- November 2023 Monthly Municipal Recycling Report from Eagle Disposal- 6.356 Tons.
- December 2023 Monthly Municipal Recycling Report from Eagle Disposal – 6.28 Tons.
- 4 Zoning/Building Permit Applications Received
- 1 Zoning/Building Permits Issued
- Lebanon County Commissioner Meeting Highlights → 1/18/24 & 2/2/24
 - President Bricker noted the Lebanon County Courthouse mail in drop box has been removed.
- Richland Fire Police – 2023 Financial Report
- Neptune Fire Company – 2023 Report – noted they have added a breakdown of hours to help track time spent on various activities.
- Richland Heritage Society – Thank You Letter
- Isaac Meier Homestead – Winter Giving Fence → Jan 7th – March 12th for anyone in need. The Winter Giving Fence will have hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens.
- Lebanon County – County Liquid Fuels funding allocation changes, no longer a set annual allocation amount, project funding requests must be submitted to a committee for review, selection, and approval.
- Visit Lebanon County – Fourth quarter 2023 report
- Conrad Siegel – Numbers Matter Scholarship Opportunity, deadline is March 15, 2024.

Old Business:

Water Project Update given under reports. President Bricker advised that discussion has occurred during Council workshop regarding water rate increases, due to financing the ongoing water projects and system upgrades. A motion was made Robert Rittle, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve to increase the minimum from \$60.00 to \$75.00 effective second quarter 2024; motion unanimously carried.

Playground Update given under reports.

N. Race Street Project – nothing new to report, JVI Group expects to begin work early 2024 and the projected completion date is July 26, 2024.

New Business:

Quality of Life Ordinance – Solicitor Andrew George advised this ordinance adopts the 2021 international property maintenance code, and a quality-of-life ticket, this makes matters enforceable by a public officer which will result in cost savings to the Borough by avoiding the district court and makes general issues such as property maintenance and unregistered vehicles more enforceable by the Borough. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, to adopt Ordinance No. 396 Quality-of-Life Ordinance; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve 2024 street sweeping to be performed by Martin Paving on Thursday, April 11th, and Friday, April 12th; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve the inclusion of the Fire Police thank you letter with the first quarter 2024 water billing; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve Resolution 2024-14 Implementing the National Incident Management System; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve Resolution 2024-15 Adopting the Lebanon County 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve to advertise the Conrad Siegel Pension amendment ordinance; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve to advertise the Conrad Siegel Pension Compliance amendment ordinance; motion unanimously carried.

Current Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor John Enck from the firm of Spitler, Kilgore, and Enck is retiring effective, March 31, 2024. President Bricker advised Secretary Schnoke to send a thank you letter to Solicitor Enck for all of his years of service and dedication to Richland Borough's Zoning Hearing Board. President Bricker advised as the Borough's solicitor, Kozloff Stoudt cannot be the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor due to conflict of interest, but Solicitor Andrew George provided the name of two firms, Masano Bradley and Gross McGinley. Masano Bradley has worked with Kraft Municipal Group previously, President Bricker stated she would like to reach out to get pricing, Council agreed.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve to update the depository information for all tax, fines, penalties, and allocation payments received by ACH from Jonestown Bank and Trust to PLGIT; motion unanimously carried.

Millcreek-Richland Joint Authority is currently billed a trash bill for each pump station and office building. The Authority submitted a letter requesting exemption from the Borough's contracted refuse service for the pump stations, and is requesting to only be invoiced for the office location. The letter states they understand the need for refuse removal but feel it is only necessary at the office location. President Bricker expressed concerns with this request regarding implications with

other commercial customers, Solicitor George advised the difference is that they are a governmental authority. This matter was tabled for further discussion.

President Bricker announced that Council will recess the Regular Session to enter Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. reconvening the Regular Session after discussing personnel matters with no action taken.

President Bricker asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough, Michelle Voydik clarified for the Isaac Meier Homestead Winter Giving Fence, anyone in need should go to the Homestead to get the items and if anyone would like to donate items for the giving fence a donation box is located in the Myerstown Library. With no additional matters presented, a motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary