

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 12, 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 presented and read a letter of resignation from Borough Council submitted by Travis Randler. A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Robert Rittle to accept the resignation of Councilmember Travis Randler; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to appoint Richard Strickler to the Richland Borough Council to fill the vacancy; motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Owen Landes administered the oath of office to swear in Richard Strickler as a member of Borough Council.

President Bricker completed roll call, Present were President Kelly Bricker, Vice President Mark Brubaker, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmembers Matthew Johnson, James Niethammer, Robert Rittle, Richard Strickler, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman, and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on February 13, 2024; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous workshop meeting held on February 27, 2024; motion unanimously carried.

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

Andrew Kriss – 34 N. Race Street – The Richland Community Association is having a movie night May 18, 2024, it will be the kid's movie Migration. Mr. Kriss requested an exemption from the noise ordinance. A motion was made by Larry Hatman, seconded by James Niethammer to grant an exception to the 9:00 PM noise ordinance for the showing of the movie Migration on May 18, 2024; motion unanimously carried. Mr. Kriss stated they are hoping to have three movie nights this summer, and he will contact the Borough prior to meetings if a future noise ordinance exemption is needed. Mr. Kriss informed the Council that the box in front of the building was hit and the front corner is busted. Dwight Belleman stated it was for the pools old drain field and the hydrant has no purpose. Andrew Kriss approved Dwight Belleman to remove the hydrant, Mr. Kriss will provide written permission to enter the property and remove the hydrant. Mr. Kriss inquired about the millings from N. Race Street, President Bricker advised there is an upcoming meeting with the construction company and this inquiry can be presented. Mr. Kriss inquired how to file complaints going forward, President Bricker advised to complete and submit a complaint form, which are available at the Borough office or online on the Borough's website.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – Stated the Isaac Meier Homestead Winter Giving Fence was a success, 144 items donated, and 86 items taken.

Dana Moyer – 107 Walnut Street - Stated she is still actively encouraging and working on the feral cat TNR program. Stated some private donations were received and money gather through an apple dumpling fundraiser. Cornwall Borough gave Cornwall Community Cats \$1,500.00 and requested the Borough consider contributing some funds in the future.

Michele Dinyon – 404 W. Linden Street – Requested an update on the digital speed limit signs. President Bricker advised that Council is continuing to work on this matter, currently looking for grant funding and gathering information. Secretary Schnoke advised that the signs on stated roads will need to be permitted and purchased through state approved vendor and she acquired a PennDOT contact that can assist with this process going forward.

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 marked the water main for the Well No. 9 easement clearing, hope to be cleared early April 2024. Well No. 9 plans need to be reviewed and plans discussed, engineers will design, and Borough will propose any desired changes. March 5, 2024, Multiple water authorities met with Congressman Meuser’s office regarding overregulation and expenses associated with PFAS and lead & copper testing, Congressman Meuser’s office is looking into the issue and how to help. President Bricker received username and password for HUD grant, will meet with Environmental engineer to finalizing and submit the environmental portion, all other grant paperwork has been submitted.

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 – Fire Hydrant on the 100 block of E. Main Street is currently out of service, and the fire company has been notified.

Recreation Committee – Nothing to Report.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, 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 – No questions about the report.

Road Supervisor’s Report – President Bricker advised some residents of S. Race Street are parking on Pine Street right in front of the Borough office entrance where the handicap parking spot is, and requested Dwight Belleman and Benjamin Becker to put up a handicap parking sign.

Water Report – Dwight Belleman advised in the previous week a water leak was detected, 26 hours were spent looking for the leak. The leak was not an actual leak but instead the usage of water by the mulch business who was filling a 30,000-gallon fracking tank overnight. This business is currently paying one EDU, which does not cover the current consumption, engineers calculated the business should be paying approximately 15.5 total EDU’s. Dwight Belleman expressed concerns about the ability to supply this water demand. Discussion occurred regarding the current business uses of this property and previous approvals made by Lebanon County. The business owner is currently contacting Dwight to notify him of high consumption to avoid unnecessarily looking for water leaks. This matter will be looked into by the water committee, solicitor, and engineer.

Office Report – No questions about the report.

Solicitor’s Report – No questions about the report.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – President Bricker highlighted a couple items to follow up on.

Police Report – February 2024 report.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held March 4, 2024, electronic copies of reports are on file for review by request. Next meeting will be held April 1, 2024.

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

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

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

The following communications were received:

- January 2024 Monthly Municipal Recycling Report from Weidle – 7.14 Tons.
- 5 Zoning/Building Permit Applications Received
- 2 Zoning/Building Permits Issued
- Lebanon County Commissioner Meeting Highlights → 2/15/24 & 3/7/24
  - Presidential Primary Election Day – April 23, 2024
  - Mail-in Ballots – drop off location, a shed in the County building parking lot, drop off will start April 1, 2024, and operate through Election Day, Tuesday, April 23, 2024, from 8:30am - 4:30pm Monday through Friday with extended hours of 7am-8pm on Election Day.

- Millcreek Township – Notice of ZHB public hearing March 25, 2024.
- Lebanon County Association of Realtors – Municipal managers roundtable meeting May 16, 2024
- PSAB March 2024 Update
- PENNVEST Information Exchange → April 11, 2024
- PennDOT Memo → 2024 Traffic Counting on Municipality Owned Roads March 4, 2024, through November 21, 2024, on Park Street & Mill Street.

Old Business:

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve Resolutions 2024-16, increasing the minimum water bill amount from \$60.00 to \$75.00, effective April 1, 2024; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve Resolution 2024-17 authorizing the filing of a declaration of taking pursuant to the Pennsylvania Eminent Domain Code for the acquisition of a portion of the property located at 309 Millbach Road, Richland Borough, Lebanon County Pennsylvania; motion unanimously carried. Discussion occurred regarding the steps leading up to this point and this being the last resort after not being able to reach and agreement on the land with the current owner.

Playground Update - working on permit for stormwater drainage and looking to bid the project in April 2024.

N. Race Street Project – nothing new to report, JVI Group expects to begin work within the next few weeks and the tentative completion date is July 26, 2024. The Borough received Notification that the two multimodal grant applications submitted were denied. The Borough will contact the Lebanon County Development Authority to see if there are any funding options through them.

New Business:

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Mark Brubaker to adopt Ordinance No. 397 enacting amendments to the non-uniformed employee pension plan to: clarify the entry date of pension plan participants, set the contribution formula for 2024, 2025, 2026, and following years, and comply with the SECURE Act, CARES Act, and SECURE 2.0 Act; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve the inclusion of the Richland Community Library Donation letter with the first quarter 2024 water billing; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve to advertise the 2024 road and alley tar and chip and patching bid; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor John Enck is retiring March 31, 2024. President Bricker expressed gratitude for all his years of service and wished him a happy retirement. A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve appointing

Michael Gombar with the firm of Masano Bradley as the Richland Borough Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor effective April 1, 2024; motion unanimously carried.

No Executive Session Needed.

President Bricker asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough. Dwight Belleman provided a reminder that street sweeping will be performed by Martin Paving on Thursday, April 11, 2024, and Friday, April 12, 2024, due to construction N. Race Street and New Street will not be included in street sweeping. President Bricker advised that in previous years as a courtesy Borough employees would blow off sidewalks, however with all of the current projects and work load there may not be time for them to do this, she is requesting residents to clean and sweep their sidewalks prior to street sweeping. 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 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,  
Richland Borough Secretary