

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 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 7:02 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, Robert Rittle, Richard Strickler, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker. Absent was Vice President Mark Brubaker, Councilmember James Niethammer, and Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Robert Rittle, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on May 14, 2024; Motion unanimously carried.

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

Dana Moyer – 107 Walnut Street – Dana Moyer provided an update on the Feral Cat TNR program, she shared that she had a table at the vendor fair held by the Richland Historical Society, three more cats have been fixed, she has been fundraising with Cornwall Community Cats who is letting her keep the funds from what she sells to support the TNR program. Dana Moyer thanked Cornwall Community Cats for allowing her to participate in their fundraisers and keep the funds to support the program. Since Dana has started the TNR program, she has altered thirteen cats and is continuing to work on catching and altering more.

Ronald Johnson – 201 Walnut Street – Mr. Johnson stated that a couple years ago UGI dug up in front of his driveway to extend the gas line to his neighbor's house, and since then they have come out and painted lines however pavement restoration has not been completed and asked who he can contact to have this matter resolved and finalized. Secretary Schnoke advised she will get a contact number for UGI and follow up with Mr. Johnson.

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 she has been working with Becker Engineering and the environmental engineer to finalize documents for the release of HUD funds, everything has been sent to the Philadelphia office for review which can take up to 120 days. The Borough is working to schedule a date with PennVest for settlement so project bids can be put out. Skid loader work will be finished at Well No. 9 easement area and property owners have been notified that until further notice activity will be occurring within the easement area. Matthew Johnson advised Becker Engineering is working with Dwight Belleman and Benjamin Becker to finalize the water facilities map and that Casey Kerschner from Becker Engineering is working with Solicitor Andrew George to finalize easement projects for the water tank, and a copy of the Well No. 9 plans were provided to Millcreek Township for their records.

Recreation Committee – Nothing to report.

Highway Committee – President Bricker advised Martin Paving will be in next week to tar and chip.

Property Committee – Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – President Bricker advised she met with the Borough employees on 6/10/24 to review ongoing matters and everything is going well.

Finance Committee – Nothing to Report.

Safety Committee – Nothing to Report.

A motion was made by Robert Rittle, 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 – No report submitted.

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

Water Report – No questions about the report, President Bricker advised there were 18 properties posted for nonpayment of water bill, all paid, and no properties were shut off. The number of shutoffs was high in comparison to previous quarters. Mayor Owen Landes thanked Dwight Belleman and Benjamin Becker for addressing the pothole at Elm Street and Chestnut Street so quickly. Mayor Owen Landes advised several residents called him regarding issues with their vehicles bottoming out upon entry and exit of their driveways after N. Race Street was paved, and that Dwight, Ben, and Becky, addressed, explained and forwarded the issues to be resolved and that residents were very happy with their interactions with the employees, Owen Landes thanked the Borough employees. Benjamin Becker stated that Dwight Belleman spoke with Kohl Brothers regarding a reservoir level sensor, Kohl Brothers explained this can be done with a dialer system with either a landline or cell service. President Bricker advised Benjamin Becker to get more details and prices for this system.

Office Report – No questions about the report.

Engineer's Report – No questions about the report.

Solicitor's Report – No report submitted.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – No questions about the report.

Police Report – No report submitted.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held June 3, 2024, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held July 1, 2024.

A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to accept the Officials Reports; motion unanimously carried.

The Financial Reports for May 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 Matthew Johnson. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Robert Rittle, to pay all the invoices submitted; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by Larry Hartman, to ratify the bills paid; motion unanimously carried.

The following communications were received:

- 5 Zoning/Building Permit Applications Received
- 3 Zoning/Building Permits Issued
- Lebanon County Commissioner Meeting Highlights → 5/15/24, 5/30/24, & 6/6/24
- Q1 2024 Comcast Franchise Fee Payment Received → \$6,416.38
- Office of Open Records → FOIA Buddy anonymous RTK requests memo.
- GLRA → Free Paper Shredding Event, Friday, July 12th, 2024.
- DCED → May 2024 Newsletter.
- Senator Gebhard's License Plate Replacement Event → July 9, 2024.

Old Business:

Water Project Update – Doug Rauch who is an attorney who specializes in the local government unit debt act (LGUDA) introduced, summarized, and explained the requirements of LGUDA. Mr. Rauch presented and explained the ordinance to incur general obligation debt that is required under LGUDA for the PennVest funding for Well No. 9. Mr. Rauch stated the four main purposes of the ordinance are to accept the PennVest proposal, authorize the issuance of debt obligation, authorize and certify officials to execute documents, and pledge taxing ability for repayment. Mr. Rauch summarized the next steps if the ordinance is enacted tonight; the next steps upon enactment of the ordinance include ancillary documents would be filed with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, they will have a twenty-day review period to approve the loan and upon the Commonwealth's approval, Solicitor Andrew George and Mr. Rauch will work with PennVest to close on July 25th, 2024. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to enact Ordinance No. 399 to incur general obligation debt; motion unanimously carried.

Playground Project Update – President Bricker advised that Mr. Eshelman is tearing down the playground building. Secretary Schnoke received an email from ELCO Youth Baseball confirming that the 2024 baseball season is complete and thanking the Borough for allowing use of the field for so many years, Benjamin Becker advised they have removed the backstop and footers, and will be removing the basketball court and concrete pads next week. President Bricker advised June 4th, 2024, the Lebanon County Conservancy District deemed the park revitalization project to be administratively complete, and that the Borough will be meeting with YSM and Becker Engineering to finalize the project bid specifications.

N. Race Street Project Update – President Bricker advised that Dwight Belleman has noted some issues with the work completed on N. Race Street such as a catch basin that is already broken, some miscellaneous items not done, some busted and chipped curbing and some of the reveals are off.

Dwight Belleman has told PennDOT and JVI engineers that the Borough would be part of the final walk-through inspection. President Bricker advised no payment will not be remitted until the Borough is satisfied with the pieces of the project that the Borough is responsible for. President Bricker advised upon completion of the final walk through and, Becker Engineering will mark areas of sidewalk to be replaced and a meeting will be held for the residents of N. Race Street.

2024 Alley Repair and Tar & Chip Project – Residents along the roads and alleys that will be tarred and chipped will be notified in advance of the project that there is no on street parking. Council discussed the action to be taken if any vehicles are not moved. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve towing vehicles not moved for the tar and chip project; motion unanimously carried. Secretary Schnoke will send a Rave alert to notify these residents, and borough employees will post door hangers.

ELM Street Development Update – President Bricker advised she spoke with Mr. Hess and for a couple reasons the Elm Street Development will not begin until 2025.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve to grant the Richland Community Association an exemption from the Noise Ordinance for their movie nights scheduled on June 15th, 2024, and July 4th, 2024; motion unanimously carried.

New Business:

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve the inclusion of the Annual Richland Community Outreach Day flyer with the second quarter 2024 water billing; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve the inclusion of the Historical Society's Wreath's Across America Flyer with the second quarter 2024 water billing; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve to assign the address of 108 Church Street to the lot on the corner of Oak Street and Church Street, pending Lebanon County Department of Emergency Services approval; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve the ELCO Book Mobile to park along Pine Street on Wednesday, June 19th, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker advised the weeds in the Borough along the curbs and asphalt will be sprayed and provided a reminder that weeds on sidewalks are the homeowner's responsibility. President Bricker requested any Council member to report any issues to Secretary Schnoke so they can be addressed by Kraft.

Benjamin Becker asked Council what should be done with the baseball bleachers and benches, he advised he investigated what these items are being sold for on municibid. These items being sold individually appear to be selling for a higher price rather than being sold as a group. Currently on municibid similar bleachers are going for around \$1,500.00. Discussion occurred regarding the sale of baseball bleachers and benches. Matthew Johnson suggested asking the Neptune Fire Company if

they would like the bleachers and benches for the field at the carnival grounds, and if the Fire Company does not want them to place them on municibid. Benjamin Becker will ask Taylor Smith if the Fire Company would like the bleachers.

Larry Hartman expressed displeasure with the way spectators park along Strawberry Alley to watch baseball games and that several residents complained because they have difficulty or cannot get out of their driveways. President Bricker requested Richard Strickler to ask the legion to put no parking signs in this area along the alley. President Bricker was going to contact ELCO softball to ask them to resolve the issue.

President Bricker advised she discussed listing the 2015 Kenworth dump truck for sale on municibid with Dwight Belleman and Benjamin Becker. Benjamin Becker advised through investigation of sale options they suggest listing the truck on municibid with a reserve price of \$65,000.00, and that the final bid must be voted on and accepted by Council. Further discussion occurred regarding the sale of the dump truck and what reserve price to set. Benjamin Becker advised a sale price is hard to determine due to the unique nature of the truck and a lack of similar trucks being sold. Owen Landes requested Benjamin Becker to contact Bobby Gerhart for a price. This matter was tabled to allow for further investigation.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the Library/Borough kids end of summer party to be held August 24th, 2024; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker announced that Council will recess the Regular Session to enter Executive Session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss legal matters. The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. reconvening the Regular Session after discussing legal matters with no action taken.

President Bricker asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough. Benjamin Becker advised that he texted Taylor Smith and received a response that the Fire Company would like the baseball bleachers. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Larry Hartman to donate the bleachers to the Fire Company; motion unanimously carried.

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 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary