

Richland Borough Council – Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, August 13, 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 7:00 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, Robert Rittle, Richard Strickler, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman, and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker. Absent was Vice President Mark Brubaker.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Richard Strickler, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on July 9, 2024; Motion unanimously carried.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months workshop minutes. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by James Niethammer, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous workshop meeting held on July 23, 2024; Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There were no (0) people present.

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

Water Committee – Matthew Johnson reported geological testing is complete and Becker Engineering was notified the Borough will be moving forward with the composite tank design. President Bricker advised that the HUD funding has been approved and is awaiting final signature. Once final signature is received, they have 15 days to release funds, and the Well No. 9 project can be bid.

Recreation Committee – Nothing to Report.

Highway Committee – President Bricker advised storm water management infrastructure issues were identified on Main Street and are a priority concern, the pipes are basically disintegrated and have not been touched since the sixties when they were installed. A.H. Moyer provided approximate cost estimates for budgetary figures, to replace the stormwater infrastructure on W. Main Street is approximately \$272,596.00. and \$700,000.00 for E. Main Street. The Borough is requesting proposals for financing to complete this project, with the intention of completing W. Main Street first and Becker Engineering will be talking to the state and looking into grant funding for this matter.

Property Committee – President Bricker advised she spoke with Randy Hess regarding the Elm Street Development; they are moving forward but are having issues with water design approval. A meeting will be arranged with Becker Engineering to work through the issues to help move this process along.

Personnel Committee – President Kelly Bricker met with the Borough employees regarding any concerns and ongoing matters 8/13/24.

Finance Committee – Nothing to Report.

Safety 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 – No report submitted.

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

Water Report – No questions about the report.

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. President Bricker advised 25 notices of violation were issued by Kraft Municipal Group.

Police Report – No questions about the report.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held August 5, 2024, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held September 9, 2024.

A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Larry Hartman, to accept the Officials Reports; motion unanimously carried.

The Financial Reports for July 2024 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Richard Strickler 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 Robert Rittle, to pay all the invoices submitted; motion unanimously carried.

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

The following communications were received:

- 5 Zoning/Building Permit Applications Received
- 2 Zoning/Building Permits Issued
- Comcast Cable Franchise Fee Received → \$6,270.46
- Comcast Notice → Legal Entity adjustment notice of internal name change.

- Ford Recall Notice → 2017 Ford Interceptor for the rear control arm, Keller Brothers is backed up for the parts currently.
- East Bradford Township Public Works Department → email commending Richland Borough on their vehicle maintenance after viewing the 2015 Kenworth for sale.

Old Business:

Small Dump Truck – Benjamin Becker advised there was a lot of interest in the truck and the highest bid received on municibid for the 2015 Kenworth was from Brian Blair Corporation in the amount of \$85,300.00. Dwight Belleman advised when the truck was purchased new it was \$127,000. The Council discussed the offer received. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Richard Strickler to accept the bid received from Brian Blair Corporation in the amount of \$85,300.00 for the 2015 Kenworth; motion unanimously carried.

Water Project Update – Solicitor Andrew George advised that the perpetual maintenance easement agreement and the perpetual agricultural access easement agreement for 309 Millbach Road at the site of the new water tank as previously granted have been prepared for review and signature. Additionally the final sale price for the property needed for the water tank has been settled with the property owner.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve to execute the perpetual maintenance easement agreement for 309 Millbach Road; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve to execute the perpetual agricultural access easement agreement for 309 Millbach Road, pending the resolution of final payment; motion unanimously carried.

Playground Project Update – President Bricker advised there was an optional pre-bid meeting held, only one contractor attended. There were 5 bids received, bids will be reviewed by YSM and the Borough Solicitor, and the contract will be awarded at the August 27, 2024, workshop meeting. Bids received were higher than anticipated, President Bricker is going to solicit local business for sponsorships of benches and tables, and Rigidply has agreed to provide the three pavilions at cost

N. Race Street Project Update – President Bricker advised a meeting was held with N. Race Street residents on 8/1/24 regarding sidewalk replacement, the deadline for this project is October 31, 2025. The meeting went well, Becker Engineering presented the information, Lebanon Federal Credit Union attended to present special financing options, and the Borough provided a list of potential contractors that residents could contact. Sidewalk permit applications and copies of the ordinance are available at the Borough office.

Concord Public Finance – President Bricker advised Daryl Peck with Concord Public Finance has requested financing proposals, the proposals are due August 29, 2024.

New Business:

Council reviewed and discussed the PennDOT winter maintenance agreement. Dwight Belleman advised he spoke with Jay from PennDOT and he stated the areas of concern on Millardsvilld Road will be addressed this year and the areas of concern on Millbach Road will be next on the list to

Richland Borough Council – Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

address. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by James Niethammer to approve to execute the PennDOT winter maintenance agreement, pending solicitor’s review; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker announced that Council will recess the Regular Session to enter Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. to discuss legal matters. The Council returned from Executive Session at 8:09 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.

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 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary