

Richland Borough Council – Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, October 8, 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, Vice President Mark Brubaker, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmembers, Robert Rittle, James Niethammer, Richard Strickler, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker. Absent were Councilmember Matthew Johnson 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 Mark Brubaker, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on September 10, 2024. Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Richard Strickler, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the workshop meeting held on September 24, 2024. Motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There was one (1) person present.

Ashley Belleman – 122 S. Race Street - no comments presented.

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 provided the following updates, she attended a PennVEST meeting two weeks ago, the interest rate will be 1.725% for the first 3 years and 2.24% for the remaining years 4-20, we are unable to get a 25-year loan; There is a site visit for all interested bidders for the Well No. 9 project on 10/10/24, bids are due by 10/24/24.

Recreation Committee – President Bricker provided the following updates, the colors have been chosen for the pickleball courts and poured in place rubber safety surface; two quotes were received for each item; the anticipated completion date is May 2, 2024.

Highway Committee – Nothing to report.

Property Committee – Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – President Bricker advised she met with Borough employees 10/7/24 regarding on going projects and any concerns; Leaf Collection will start Monday 10/14/24.

Finance Committee – Working on budget.

Safety Committee – Nothing to report.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker, 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.

Road Supervisor’s Report – Benjamin Becker advised there is a sinkhole in the area of the water main running through the Hogeland field, A.H. Moyer is going to dig the sinkhole open to ensure the safety of the water main.

Water Report – No questions about the report.

Office Report – No questions about the report.

Engineer’s Report – President Bricker noted that page 9 of the engineer’s report states that the Well No. 9 project bidding was delayed but the bidding was not delayed, and that there is a PennVEST call schedule for 11/5/24.

Solicitor’s Report – No questions about the report.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – No questions about the report.

Police Report – September 2024 report submitted.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held October 7, 2024, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held November 5, 2024.

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

The Financial Reports for September 2024 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, 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 Robert Rittle, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to ratify the bills paid; Motion unanimously carried.

The following communications were received:

- July Monthly Municipal Report from Weidle – 4.7 Tons of recycling.
- 2 Zoning/Building Permit Applications Received
  - 25 Georgie Lane (Curb/Sidewalk Permit)
  - 305 E. Linden Street (Electrical)
- 7 Zoning/Building Permits Issued
  - 8 N. Park Street (Garage) - Zoning
  - 8 N. Park Street (Garage) – Building
  - 8 N. Park Street (Garage Demolition)
  - 202 S. Park Street (Shed Demolition)

- 405 N. Millbach Road (Shed)
  - 23 N. Race Street (Garage) – Building
  - 23 N. Race Street (Garage) – Zoning
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- Enders Insurance → Policy deductible update.
  - Lebanon County Commissioner meeting highlights → 9/5/24
  - Lebanon County Conservation District → 2024 adult & larval mosquito surveillance complete, no positive test for West Nile Virus.

Old Business:

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve Resolution 2024-20 authorizing the Borough to apply for funding through PennVEST for improvements to the Borough Water System; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by James Niethammer to approve to execute the letter of responsibility for the PennVEST water storage tank financing; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by Mark Brubaker to approve the 2025 employee health benefits renewal of the Capital Blue Cross medical Gold PPO 500/0/25 RX 250, Senior Plan, Vision 12/0 Optimal, and Dental PPO Choice plans with no employee contribution; motion unanimously carried.

New Business:

Water Conservation – President Bricker advised that Council is requesting voluntary water conservation. Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker advised there is very little output from the spring, the ground is very dry, and we are pumping every gallon of water that we are using.

Borough Emergency Management Coordinator Position – This matter was tabled for further investigation.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Robert Rittle to approve Trick-or-Treat to be held October 31, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., rain or shine; motion unanimously carried.

Solicitor Andrew George advised that a Right To Know Request was received requesting the complainant information from a code violation complaint that was investigated and enforced by Kraft Municipal Group, the Right To Know Request was denied based on the Right To Know Law. The denial has been appealed and is going through the appeal process.

President Bricker advised the drawings were received for the installation of the additional receptacle in the area of the town Christmas tree, the proposed work has been reviewed and looks good, the Borough is in the process of getting the required permit.

President Bricker advised that the construction of Well No. 9 will be overseen, inspected, and signed off on by Becker Engineering to limit Borough's liability.

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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 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,  
Richland Borough Secretary