

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 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 Matthew Johnson, Robert Rittle, James Niethammer, Richard Strickler, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker. Absent was 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 December 10, 2024; motion unanimously carried.

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

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. 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 – Matthew Johnson provided the following updates; DRGR action plan approved for water tank funding, Well No. 9 - Becker Engineering transmitted notice to proceed letters to Kinsley Construction & Garden Spot Electric the start date is 1/6/25 with final completion 10/31/24, Post settlement information received from PennVEST for ACH setup, bank verification, 7 post settlement call, zoom call setup up with Becker Engineering next week for project updates; there have been several water leaks the last couple weeks due to the weather, this is occurring in all surrounding areas and is not isolated to the Borough's water system. Water Storage Tank - Kelly Bricker advised water storage tank bids could potentially be pushed back by a couple weeks pending PennVEST settlement date.

Recreation Committee – Regarding the Park Project James Niethammer provided summaries of the electric panel quotes received from Blatt & Myers \$3,850 and Stardust Electric \$2,950 with the only difference between the quotes being that Stardust would like to use aluminum wire coated with corrosive compound it would be \$500 more for copper. For all the conduit and boxes from FROMM will cost \$4,042.36. A quote for lighting was received from FROMM, a second quote will be obtained from Stardust Electric. A motion was made by Mark Brubaker seconded Matthew Johnson to approve the purchase of the conduit and associated electrical work from FROMM electric, not to exceed 4,045.00; motion unanimously carried. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to approve the purchase of the electric panel from Stardust Electric, not to exceed \$3,000.00; motion unanimously carried.

Highway Committee – Benjamin Becker provided the following updates, crack sealing was not completed this year due to weather, will try to do crack sealing in the spring, two tires and battery

switch were replaced on the Large dump truck, the salt spreader on the large dump truck is bent and will need to be repaired, a hydraulic line blew on the pickup plow and has been repaired.

Property Committee – Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee – Nothing to report.

Finance Committee – Nothing to report.

Safety Committee – Nothing to report.

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. Mayor Owen Landes on behalf of the Richland Beautification Committee expressed gratitude to the Council for taking care of the installation of the additional electrical outlet for the Christmas lights and stated it was a great turnout for the Tree Lighting Ceremony and 100 bags given out by Santa.

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 questions about the report.

Code Enforcement Officer Report – No questions about the report.

Police Report – No questions about the report.

MRJA Report – Meeting was held January 6, 2025, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held February 3, 2025.

President Bricker and James Niethammer will be attending the sewer authority meeting to discuss shut off procedures for water and sewer in an attempt to align shut offs.

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

The Financial Reports for December 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 Mark Brubaker, seconded by Richard Strickler, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

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

The following communications were received:

- December Monthly Municipal Report from Weidle – 5.02 Tons.
- 1 Zoning/Building Permit Applications Received
  - 17 Judy Lane (Solar Panels)
- 3 Zoning/Building Permits Issued
  - 23 Chestnut Street (Solar Panels)
  - 675 E. Linden Street (Change of Use)
  - 17 Judy Lane (Solar Panels)
- Richland Heritage Society → Thank you letter for the use of the shed in 2024 and the Cigar drop will be turning 18 years in 2025.
- DEP Notice → Stream segments & stream basins evaluation.
- Neptune Fire Company → List of 2025 events.

Old Business:

Water Projects

Playground Project Update – President Bricker advised park donation letters were mailed late December to local businesses, contributions have been received from Richland American Legion Post 880, Richland Railroad Diner, Vernon Shirk, Comfort Plus Heating & Air Conditioning, Becker Engineering, A.H. Moyer, Kraft Municipal Group, and Concord Public Financial Advisors. Additionally Rigidply Rafters provided pavilion materials at cost and Blue Lake Industries contributed powder coating services at no charge. Secretary Schnoke mailed donor acknowledgement letters to each donor and thank you cards will be signed and sent by Council.

Elm Street Development Update – President Bricker advised revised plans were received yesterday, copies were provided to Becker Engineering and Kraft Municipal Group for review. Secretary Schnoke will send the electronic file to Solicitor George.

New Business:

Solicitor Andrew George advised Tax Ordinance 402 was advertised for consideration, the ordinance sets the tax rate for general purposes at 2.99 mills and 0.30 mills for fire protection. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve to enact Ordinance 402 Tax Ordinance; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-01 appointing Becker Engineering as the Borough's engineering firm for 2025; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-02 appointing Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys as the Borough's Solicitor for 2025; motion unanimously carried. Solicitor Andrew George expressed gratitude for the appointment.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-03 appointing Kraft Municipal Group as the Borough's zoning & property code enforcement & building code official for 2025; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-04 appointing Stanilla, Seigel & Maser as the Borough's independent auditor for 2025; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-05 to approve to participate in Liquid Fuels Aid in 2025; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-06 to set the 2025 Act 511 Taxation Rate; Real Estate Transfer Tax 1%, Earned Income Tax 0.5%, and Local Services Tax \$52.00 per person; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-07 appointing the President, Vice President, President Pro Tem, Secretary, Road Supervisor, & Road Laborer/Water Technician to execute documents for 2025; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-08 authorizing the President, Vice President, President Pro Tem, & Secretary to sign checks for 2025; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-09 for record deposition for 2025; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Mark Brubaker, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-10 escalation clause for 2025; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Richard Strickler, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-11 establishing salary/wage rates for 2025; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by James Niethammer, to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-12 appointing Justin Yeiser to the zoning hearing board for a 3-year term; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by mark Brubaker, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to approve to execute the Municipal Solid Waste Processing/Disposal and Tipping Fee Rebate Agreement with the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority; motion unanimously carried.

The Council tabled the purchase of a 2025 Wright 61" zero turn riding mower.

President Bricker advised no Executive Session was needed.

Michelle Voydik – inquired if the Elm Street Development is moving forward, President Bricker advised it is, plans were just received and will be reviewed. Michelle Voydik expressed gratitude to

Richland Borough Council – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

the Borough for sharing the information on the Isaac Myer Homestead Winter Giving Fence in the Borough newsletter. Michelle Voydik thanked Councilmember Matthew Johnson for the jackets he donated, and stated a large donation of blankets is going to be received as well, the jackets and blankets are in totes inside the fence.

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 Larry Hartman, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,  
Richland Borough Secretary