

Richland Borough Council – Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, February 11, 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 asked everyone to stand and observe a moment of silence in memory of former Solicitor Tom Harlan, and LGUDA Attorney Douglas Rauch.

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, Robert Rittle, James Niethammer, Richard Strickler, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Julia Adams, 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 Larry Hartman, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on January 14, 2025, with the correction of capitalizing Mark under in the roll call; 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 Richard Strickler, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous workshop held on January 28, 2025; 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 – Thanked Councilmember Matthew Johnson for the jackets he donated to the giving fence.

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 a PennVEST call is scheduled for Thursday 2/13/25, Peter Edleman of Stevens & Lee will be the Borough's LGUDA council. Councilmember Matthew Johnson advised a meeting with Becker Engineering is scheduled for Friday 2/14/25 to review and discuss water project plans, and Well No. 9 project is expected to start in April and should be complete in October 2025.

Recreation Committee – Councilmember James Niethammer advised Stardust Electric installed the electric panel, FROMM account is setup. President Bricker advised a meeting occurred with SLC excavating to address park project concerns they will extend the warranty from one year to three years for the blacktop & concrete surfaces.

Highway Committee – Nothing to report.

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 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. Council discussed the salt contract and current salt shortages and the Borough's contingency plans, PEMA assistance is available, the Borough should have enough salt until March.

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 February 3, 2025, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held March 3, 2025.

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

The Financial Reports for January 2025 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve the Financial Report, and have it placed on file for Audit. Motion unanimously carried.

Secretary Schnoke advised two bank accounts have been opened; a noninterest bearing checking account has been opened with Fulton Bank for the purpose of receiving PennVEST funding for the Well No. 9 project; and an interest bearing checking account with PLGIT for the purpose of receiving DCNR grant funds for the Playground revitalization project.

The invoices were presented and reviewed by Councilmember James Niethammer. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Richard Strickler, to pay all the invoices submitted; Motion unanimously carried.

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

The following communications were received:

- Lebanon County Conservation District → Tire Collection Event 4/30/2025
- Neptune Fire Company → 2024 Call Response Report.
- Representative Russ Diamond Newsletter → Highlighted Richland Borough's PennVEST low interest loan award.
- Lebanon County Net EIT Collections Report
- Visit Lebanon Valley → fourth quarter 2024 report.
- Lebanon County Voter Registration Office → Campaign Planning 101 flyer.

Old Business:

#### Water Projects

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve to accept and sign the PennVest funding offer for the Elevated Water Storage Tank; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve to advertise the PA LGUDA Ordinance No. 403 and required associated documents for the Elevated Water Storage Tank Financing; motion unanimously carried.

#### Playground Project

Park donations from JBT and Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys were received since the previous meeting.

Park maintenance bond amendment is being prepared.

Looking into playground signs.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by James Niethammer to approve to set the date of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, for the Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony; motion unanimously carried. Will have food trucks and are looking to involve the Richland Community Library, Representative Diamond, and Senator Gebhard. Additional details to follow.

#### ELM Street Development

Meeting scheduled Friday 2/14/25 with Becker Engineering to review recent plan submission.

New Business:

902 Grant Agreement was received from DEP and was reviewed by Solicitor Andrew George before execution. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to ratify the execution of the 902 Grant Agreement; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve 2025 street sweeping to be performed by Martin Paving Inc. on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, between the hours of 6:00AM and 5:00PM; motion unanimously carried.

Employee Handbook – revisions are being drafted by the Borough Solicitor.

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Water Rules, Rates, and Regulations – the water committee is working to review and update the Borough’s water rules, rates, and regulations.

A proposal for pest control services was received from Pest Pirates, LLC. A motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by Matthew Johnson to accept the proposal and hire Pest Pirates, LLC to provide internal and external pest control services for the Municipal Building, Park, and Playground Equipment at an annual cost of \$600.00; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker announced that Council will recess the Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

The Council returned from the Executive Session at 7:53 p.m. after discussing legal matters and reconvening the Regular Session with no action taken.

President Bricker advised sidewalks are not being cleared within 24 hours after snowfall. Per the Quality-of-Life Ordinance Kraft Municipal Group can provide door hangers for the Public Works employees to post. A list of posted properties will be provided to Kraft, Kraft will inspect after the allotted correction time has passed and issue fines if the issue has not been resolved, and the Borough will clear the sidewalks at the property owner’s expense. Discussion occurred regarding this course of action. Council agreed with this course of action however if a resident has health issues preventing their ability to clear their sidewalks, they should contact the Borough Office.

Mayor Owen Landes commented on the great job Richland Borough does with snow removal and keeping the Borough streets clear.

President Bricker asked if there were any comments for the good of the Borough. With no additional matters presented, a motion was made by Robert Rittle, seconded by James Niethammer, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,  
Richland Borough Secretary