

Richland Borough Council – Workshop Meeting

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

A workshop meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:30 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 workshop Meeting to order at 6:30 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, Richard Strickler, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman, Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker and James Kinney of Becker Engineering. Absent was Vice President Mark Brubaker, Councilmember Robert Rittle, and Mayor Owen Landes.

Old Business:

Water Projects – James Kinney from Becker Engineering provided the following updates.

Well No. 9 – currently reviewing shop drawings, project set to begin early to mid-April.

Water Storage Tank – Will have conference call #2 with PennVEST soon.

Millbach Water Line Extension – getting pricing from Kinsley Construction to complete at the same time as Well No. 9 and looking into potential grant funding. This line extension will provide a contingent water supply from the storage tank to town if there is a water main break and boost water pressure in town.

Water Rules, Rates, and Regulations – working to revise and updated the water rules, rates, and regulations. Information from surrounding water companies has been gathered for comparison and review.

Water Usage/Review letters – business water usage history was reviewed by the Borough's engineer; multiple businesses were identified as requiring additional EDU's (water capacity). Letters were sent to these businesses identifying the issue and the cost and number of additional EDU's that are required to be purchased. Two businesses are requesting relief from purchasing the additional EDU's at the current rate of \$8,200.00 per EDU. Council discussed this matter in detail and agreed to move forward with requiring the purchase of the additional EDU's and denying relief requests. The businesses are long standing businesses, Council is willing to work with these businesses regarding payment options and charging the previous rate of \$5,800.00 per EDU, pending review by the Borough solicitor follow up letters will be sent.

Employee Handbook – revisions were presented to employees, discussion pertaining to the handbook revisions occurred between Council and employees. Revisions to be further reviewed prior to approval.

Playground Project – project is moving forward and on track for completion in early May. The Borough will be applying for grant funding for Phase two of the park revitalization project.

An exemption request was received from 675 E. Linden Street requesting additional time to process remaining mulch material onsite, the original agreement deadline is March 1, 2025. Council discussed this matter. A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Richard Strickler to

approve the extension, setting March 22, 2025, as the deadline to process all material onsite; motion unanimously carried.

New Business:

PUC – Solicitor Andrew George had a conference call with the PUC regarding the Borough's PUC regulatory status and filing regulations. Solicitor George advised the Borough to hire special council to advise and handle this matter and provided two recommendations. Council reviewed the recommendations. President Bricker advised Ken Stark of McNees, Wallace, and Nurick LLC previously worked as council for the PUC. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve hiring special Council Ken Stark from McNees, Wallace, and Nurick LLC to handle PUC matters and execute the engagement letter; motion unanimously carried.

Discussion occurred regarding the current road salt supply and the salt contract for next year.

Code enforcement – a resident requested additional time from Kraft Municipal Group to resolve their code enforcement issue, he is requesting to have until the end of Spring 2025. Council discussed the matter and agreed to grant the resident the additional time.

Council discussed purchasing a smart tv for the purposes of displaying project plans, documents, budgets, etc. for the purposes of viewing and discussing materials. A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to purchase a smart tv and wall mount brackets not to exceed a total of \$500.00; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker announced that Council will recess the workshop Session and enter Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Council returned from the Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. after discussing personnel matters and reconvening the workshop Session 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 Larry Hartman, to adjourn. Motion unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,  
Richland Borough Secretary