

Richland Borough Council – Regular Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 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 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, James Niethammer, Richard Strickler, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman, and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker. Absent was Councilmember Robert Rittle.

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 February 11, 2025, with the correction of Solicitor present being Julia Adams under roll call; motion unanimously carried.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months workshop minutes. A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by Matthew Johnson, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous workshop held on February 25, 2025; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker opened the floor for citizens' and visitors' comments. There were two (2) persons present.

Michelle Voydik – 29 N. Race Street – no comments presented.

Kevin Maxwell (Shady Oaks Campground) – 40 Round Barn Road – Inquiry about water usage letter received. President Bricker advised this matter could be explained and discussed in a meeting; President Bricker and Mr. Maxwell agreed to meet regarding this matter March 14th, 2025.

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; Water usage letters were mailed, and customers are calling as requested; All letters giving notice of Well No. 9 start date have been mailed to the Well No. 9 easement owners and Woods Lane residents.

Recreation Committee – James Niethammer advised; The conduit has arrived, but quantity is incorrect due to miss communication during ordering; Still working to obtain security camera quote. President Bricker advised; Dwight Belleman & Benjamin Becker found cracked concrete during visual inspection of park which will be addressed; Installation of poured in place rubber expected to start the week of 4/7/25, weather pending.

Highway Committee – Dwight Belleman advised Martin Paving is completing the 2024 crack sealing.

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 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 – No report submitted. Mayor Owen Landes gave commendations and expressed gratitude to the Council on behalf of the community for the park revitalization project and the benefit it will have for the community.

Road Supervisor's Report – No questions about the report. Dwight Belleman provided the following comments: the top-soil pile will be moved as soon as possible; the ruts in the field will need to be addressed during final inspection; and DEP inspection to occur April 3rd.

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 March 3, 2025, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held April 7, 2025.

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

The Financial Reports for February 2025 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 Mark Brubaker, seconded by Matthew Johnson, 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:

- Weidle January 2025 Monthly Municipal Recycling Report → 7.98 Tons
- Weidle February 2025 Monthly Municipal Recycling Report → 6.39 Tons
- 1 Zoning/Building Permit Application Received

- 1 Zoning/Building Permit Issued.
- Richland Special Fire Police → Thank you letter.
- PA State Police Fire Marshall Unit → Flyer for Fire & Arson awareness for the community.
- Diversified Technology → Q1 2025 Services Update.
- Myerstown Church of the Brethren → List of Upcoming Events.
- First Aid & Safety Patrol → Offering Free educational courses for fire, police, public works, and municipal employees in Lebanon County.

Old Business:

Water Projects

Peter Edleman introduced himself and gave summary of LGUDA requirements for PennVEST funding of the water storage tank. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve to adopt and execute Resolution 2025-13 PennVEST reimbursement resolution for water storage tank funding; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by James Niethammer to approve to enact PA LGUDA Ordinance No. 403 authorizing \$4,113,505 PennVEST Note for the Elevated Water Storage Tank; motion unanimously carried.

Playground Project

Park donations received from Lebanon Federal Credit Union and Richland Community Bible Church since the previous meeting.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Richard Stickler to approve the amended Park Maintenance Bond between Richland Borough and SLC Excavating LLC; motion unanimously carried.

Ribbon cutting ceremony to be held May 31, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.

Completion of sidewalk along Pine Street – Brief discussion occurred, Council and public works will coordinate the details of this project.

Playground Project Phase two – Includes the monument area, half-court basketball, and area next to pickle ball courts, the cost estimate is \$353,586.00. Brief discussion occurred regarding phase 2 design. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Mark Brubaker to authorize the application for a DCNR Park Rehabilitation and Development Grant for Phase 2 of the Park Revitalization Project; motion unanimously carried.

ELM Street Development – President Bricker advised public works noted concerns with the proposed plans, the Borough and Becker Engineering met with Lebanon County Planning to discuss. After meeting with Lebanon County Planning, members of Council attended a meeting with Randy Hess, and members of Becker Engineering, Chrisland Engineering, Boyd Wilson, and Lebanon County Planning to discuss the Borough's concerns. Project not expected to begin prior to late 2025, early 2026.

Employee Handbook Revisions – This matter was tabled.

2025 Street Sweeping – Council discussed actions to be taken against vehicles that remain parked on street, violating the posting of no parking. Current ordinance to be reviewed and further investigation required before consideration of this matter.

New Business:

Public Utility Commission (PUC) – Solicitor Andrew George summarized Resolution 2025-14 and stated the purpose of filing the Petition for Declaratory Order is to request an official exemption from the PUC for the water customers located in Millcreek Township. The Millcreek customers were originally connected out of necessity, there is no plan to add any new connections outside the Borough, all customers are currently charged and will continue to be charged the same rates.

A motion was made by Mark Brubaker, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve to adopt and execute Resolution 2025-14 for Petition for Declaratory Order; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve to authorize filing an Amended Petition and Waiver Request; motion unanimously carried.

2025 Road & Alley Repairs includes tar and chipping of Curtis Street, N. Park Street, Cherry Alley, and Apple Alley from Curtis Street to N. Race Street.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by James Niethammer to approve to authorize the advertisement of the 2025 Road and Alley Repairs Tar & Chip Bid; motion unanimously carried.

Refuse Exemption Request – President Bricker advised a refuse exemption requests were received from a commercial property after the submission deadline. Council discussed this matter.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve to grant the 2025 refuse exemption requests for 675 E. Linden Street; motion unanimously carried. Council directed Secretary Schnoke to advise the property owner that an exception was made to approve the exemptions, but going forward exemption requests will not be approved if not submitted prior to the submission deadline.

Chlorine Leak Detection and Alarm – Benjamin Becker advised during the previous DEP inspection the Borough was in minor violation for not having a Chlorine Leak Detection alarm and provided price quote for purchasing this system through costars. Council discussed this matter.

A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by James Niethammer to approve to purchase and install a Chlorine Leak Detection Alert System, not to exceed \$2,500.00; motion unanimously carried.

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 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,
Richland Borough Secretary