A regular meeting of the Richland Borough Council was held on Tuesday, August 12, 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, President Pro Tem Larry Hartman, Councilmembers Matthew Johnson, James Niethammer, Richard Strickler, Robert Rittle, Mayor Owen Landes, Solicitor Andrew George, Secretary Rebecca Schnoke, and Road Laborer/Water Technician Benjamin Becker. Also in attendance was James Kinney from Becker Engineering. Absent was Vice President Mark Brubaker, and Road Supervisor Dwight Belleman.

The President asked for a motion to approve the previous months minutes. A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by James Niethammer, to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on July 22, 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 – Inquired about when the Elm Street Development would start. President Bricker advised the date is unknown, no final plans have been submitted or approved, the last communication is construction possibly starting 2026.

The following Committee reports were presented to Council: Water Report, Highway Report, Property Report, Finance Report, Safety Report, and Personnel Report.

Water Committee – Matthe Johnson advised the water leak was fixed and A.H. Moyer complete the road patching from previous water leaks, 5 patches in total.

Recreation Committee – Richard Strickerler advised the committee met and provided a summary of the topics discussed and items to be completed including.

Highway Committee – Nothing to report. Benjamin Becker advised Tar & Chipping is complete and extra stones have been swept up, and they have started curb painting.

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 Larry Hartman, 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 – No questions about the report.

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. James Kineey of Becker Engineering provided the following updates for ongoing projects.

Well No. 9 – Well No. 9 Installation completed overnight August 7th into August 8th, everything went well, bacteria sampling came back negative, and boil water has been lifted. PPL is waiting for Garden Spot Electric to dig the trench, completion date for electrical work is 10/3/25, residents will not be without electricity during electrical work.

Elevated Water Storage Tank – Bids due August 18,2025.

Park Project – working on As-builts.

Millbach Water Line Extension – applied for a Small Water/Sewer Grant, grant awards are on the CFA Board’s agenda for September, should know the outcome in September unless pushed back until October.

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 August 4, 2025, electronic copies of the monthly reports are on file and available for viewing upon request, the next meeting will be held September 8, 2025.

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

The Financial Reports for July 2025 were submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Schnoke. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman 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 Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson, 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:

* Weidle July 2025 Monthly Municipal Recycling Report 🡪 7.24 Tons
* 2 Zoning/Building Permit Application Received
* 2 Zoning/Building Permit Issued.
* Stephenson Equipment, Inc. 🡪 Thank You Card.
* Lebanon Co. Conservation District 🡪 Mosquito program – West Nile Virus results, six traps set in various locations in Richland, all tested negative for W. Nile.
* Comcast 🡪 Q2 2025 Cable Franchise Fee received.
* Diversified Technology 🡪 Update of services and updates.

Old Business:

Well No. 9

Project update provided by James Kinney during engineer’s report.

PennVEST Payment Request #1 disbursement & repayment amortization schedule received. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by James Niethammer to approve to authorize and execute Kinsley Construction LLC payment application No. 3 in the amount of $250,929.00 for the Well No. 9 project; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve to authorize and execute an LSA requisition in the amount of $69,644.00 for the Well No. 9 project; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Richard Strickler to approve to authorize a PennVEST requisition in the amount of $229,097.00 for the Well No. 9 project; motion unanimously carried.

Elevated Water Storage Tank

A project update was provided by James Kinney during the engineer’s report.

Park Project

A motion was made by Richard Strickler, seconded by Larry Hartman to approve and accept the SLC Excavating proposal for emergency sinkhole repair in the amount of $10,958.15; motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Larry Hartman, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve and adopt the park operations and maintenance plan; motion unanimously carried.

President Kelly Bricker advised that Brian and Erin Horning contacted the Borough and would like to donate and install a standard stainless steel park grill for the park. Council was very thankful for the generous offer and discussed this matter in depth with the Borough Solicitor. Due to Safety and legal reasons, Council respectfully declined.

President Bricker advised she gave a presentation of the park project to the Lebanon County Commissioners for the Marcellus Shale Grant, the presentation went very well and the Commissioners were very pleased.

New Business:

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve to adopt Resolution 2025-22 Adopting Richland Green Townhouse & Apartment Development Sewage Facilities Planning Module; motion unanimously carried.

Park Utility Vehicle – President Bricker advised a utility vehicle was found for sale locally and Dwight Belleman and Benjamin Becker went to look at it. Council discussed the necessity of a utility vehicle and possible alternative options. After discussion this matter was tabled.

A motion was made by Matthew Johnson, seconded by James Niethammer to approve to authorize the Richland Fire Police to provide services to the Borough of Womelsdorf Sunday, August 24th, 2025, for their annual POW/MIA Ride for Freedom; motion unanimously carried.

President Bricker announced that Council will recess the Regular Session and enter Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. to discuss legal matters.

The Council returned from the Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. after discussing legal & personnel matters and reconvening the Regular Session with no action taken.

A motion was made by James Niethammer, seconded by Matthew Johnson to approve a legislative support letter to the PUC; motion unanimously carried.

Michelle Voydik inquired if the previous Rotary benches would be used again, that it would be nice to have a bench to sit on while waiting for executive sessions. President Bricker stated the benches would not be reused, and Benjamin Becker advised the benches were taken apart when removed due to being concreted into the ground.

Michelle Voydik inquired if the boil water advisory mentioned earlier in the meeting was only for a certain section of town. President Bricker advised the boil water advisory was only in affect for certain customers located in Millcreek Township.

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 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Rebecca Schnoke,

Richland Borough Secretary