

**WERNERSVILLE BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
January 6, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**KEEGAN WORLEY, MAYOR
STEPHEN PRICE, PRESIDENT
JIM SWARTZ, VICE PRESIDENT
LINDA DAPCIC-ANGST
DAVID LATINO
LINDA PALM
ROBERT GORDON**

ALSO, PRESENT:

**MICHAEL GOMBAR, JR., SOLICITOR
KEN FULMER, GVC
JENNIFER VELEZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MICHAEL PALM, BOROUGH EMPLOYEE**

PRESENT, VIA ZOOM:

**JIM PIERCE
DEBRA A. PIERCE, SECRETARY
CHIEF LEON GRIM, SOUTH HEIDELBERG POLICE DEPT.
GLENN KRAFT, KRAFT CODE SERVICES
JARED RENSHAW, WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC AND PRIOR NOTICE WAS GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC VIA READING EAGLE AND ONLINE SOURCES PURSUANT TO ACT 15 OF 2020.

S. Price called the Wernersville Borough Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Motion made by J. Swartz to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2020 Council Meeting and the minutes from the December 23, 2020 Special Meeting. D. Latino seconded and carried unanimously.

Visitors:

Ronald Swope, 628 Christopher Dr
Larry Schermick, Previous owner of 40 N Pine St.
Steve Bensinger, Stackhouse, Bensinger Inc., on behalf of Grande Construction for West Ridge Suites.

January 7, 2021

Page 2

Reappointments: Motion made by D. Latino to approve the following reappointments: Ron Swope/Planning Commission 4 year term, Edwin Guildin/Wernersville Municipal Authority 5 year term and Dean Baim, Wernersville/Robesonia Joint Authority 5year term, Jason Stephenson/Zoning Hearing Board 5 year term. Motion seconded by R. Gordon and carried unanimously.

Wernersville Municipal Authority Vacancy: Motion made by R. Gordon to appoint Ronald Swope, 628 Christopher Dr, to the Wernersville Municipal Authority. Motion seconded by D. Latino and carried unanimously. This was to fill the vacancy left by Jim Kellum's resignation. This term will expire on 12/31/2024.

Reappointments: Motion made by J. Swartz to approve the following reappointments: Michael J. Gombar, Jr. Esquire, Masano Bradley, as the Borough Solicitor; Andrew George Esquire, Kozloff Stoudt as the Solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board. Great Valley Consultants as the Borough Engineer; SSM as the Engineer for the Planning Commission; Kraft Code Services, Zoning and Code Enforcement. Motion seconded by L. Palm and carried unanimously.

Larry Schermick, Previous Owner of 40 N Pine St: Mr. Schermick asked Council for a Waiver from installing sidewalk at this property. He cited other neighboring properties that did receive waivers in the past, due to large trees on the properties. Council denied the request for a waiver because there are no trees on this property that would affect sidewalk installation and Mr. Schermick failed to make this request prior to the transfer of the property last year. It was noted that the current owners are willing to install sidewalk and they are seeking financial assistance (likely from Mr. Schermick) for the costs due to his failure to disclose the sidewalk installation requirement.

Steve Bensinger, West Ridge Suites: Steve spoke about the progress on West Ridge Suites following the reversal of the Zoning Hearing Board's decision. The new Sketch Plan was reviewed. No official action is needed from Council on the matter. It was noted that the alignment of the Lincoln Rd connector street to Old Furnace Road and Furnace Road should be improved for emergency and school bus traffic. Also, the connection to Columbus Street as either an open road or emergency access only should be decided by the Planning Commission in the Preliminary Plan review stage. Lastly, the developer should find out if sewer capacity is or is not available for the project.

Wernersville Public Library: None

Police Report: Written Report Submitted. 292 calls for the Month of December. 66 calls were in the Borough.

Fire Report: Written Report Submitted. 61 Calls for the month of December. 6 calls were in the Borough. Jared reported that WBFD received \$22,000 from the State for Covid-19 expenses (PPE, Overtime, etc)

Western Berks Ambulance: Written report submitted. 44 calls for the month of December. 14 calls for Phoebe Berks.

Zoning and Building Enforcement Report: Written reports were submitted for December. 5 Permits were issued. 5 Property Maintenance Issues and 4 Zoning Issues for the month of December.

2021 Building and Zoning Permit Fee Schedule: Motion made by D. Latino to adopt the 2021 Building and Zoning Permit Fee Schedule. The fees have remained the same as prior years. Motion seconded by L. Palm and carried unanimously.

Engineer Report:

Ken Fulmer suggested the Borough start looking at Streets in need of repair. He will work with Jim Swartz on this project.

Mayor's Report:

none

Council's Report:

Linda Dapcic-Angst reported that she would like her email address and phone number posted on Facebook and on the Borough Webpage so that people can contact her with questions or concerns about Feral cats in the Borough.

Solicitor's Report: Written report was submitted.

DEP Grant and Loader: Motion was made by R. Gordon to accept the offer made by Shillington Borough in the amount of \$35,000 for the loader and bucket. If Shillington Borough would like to purchase the plow, that would be an additional \$5500. Motion seconded by L. Palm and carried unanimously. Council deferred making a decision on purchasing a replacement loader.

South Heidelberg Township Yard Waste Facility Agreement: Motion made by J. Swartz to enact resolution 1-2021; New Intermunicipal Agreement with South Heidelberg Township for the use of the yard waste recycling facility by the Borough and its residents. Motion seconded by D. Latino and carried unanimously.

Caron Foundation: Michael Gombar spoke with the Attorney for Caron and they are amenable to making an annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) to the Borough as a resolution to the tax assessment appeal. Council directed Mr. Gombar to negotiate an amount of the PILOT from Caron for consideration at next month's meeting.

Old Business:

Tot Lot Playground: The Borough received 3 quotes for matting and mulch for the tot lot.

BLS Landscaping, 90 yards of state certified mulch and landscape fabric \$7,888.

Showcase Group, 60 yards of state certified mulch and matting \$5,500.

Homan Hardscaping, 85 yards of state certified mulch and matting \$13,580.

Motion made by D. Latino to (1) declare the apparent low bid from Showcase as not responsible for failure to bid to the required specifications, and (2) accept the bid from BLS Landscaping. Seconded by R. Gordon and carried unanimously.

New Business:

Borough Garage Roof and Pole Building Roof: The Borough received 2 quotes.

Bachman's Roofing, replace and install caps on garage roof, remove chimney and shingle over on garage roof, and replace 8 panels on tin roof on pole building, total \$11,260.

Homan Hardscaping and Construction, replace and install caps on garage roof, remove chimney and replace with shingles on garage roof and replace 8 panels on tin roof on the pole building, total \$5,825.

Motion made by R. Gordon to accept the bid by Homan Hardscaping and Construction.

Motion seconded by D. Latino and carried unanimously.

Monthly Bills: Motion made by J. Swartz to approve the bill list and bills previously paid to avoid penalty. D. Latino seconded and carried. J. Pierce and L. Palm abstained.

Balance Sheet: Motion made by R. Gordon to accept the Balance Sheet. J. Swartz seconded and carried. J. Pierce and L. Palm abstained.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 7pm.

Motion by J. Swartz to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 pm. D. Latino seconded and carried unanimously.

Attest:

Borough Secretary