

WERNERSVILLE BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

EDWARD EVANS, MAYOR
STEPHEN PRICE, PRESIDENT **BRIAN CLEMENTS**
DAVE LATINO **JIM PIERCE**
JIM SWARTZ

ALSO, PRESENT:

MICHAEL GOMBAR, JR., SOLICITOR
DEBRA A. PIERCE, SECRETARY
MICHAEL PALM, BOROUGH EMPLOYEE
KEN FULMER, GVC
ANTHONY TUCCI, WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE
JASON HOLMGREM, KRAFT CODE SERVICES

ABSENT:

ROBERT GORDON
WILLIAM SCHLICHTER, CHIEF WBRPD
JARED RENSHAW, Wbfd

S. Price called the Wernersville Borough Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. All stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion made by J. Swartz to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2019 Council Meeting, with the following correction: Leigh-Anne Yacovelli, Wernersville Public Library reported the Library won the STEM category for 2019 Best Practices in Youth Services Programming. Leigh-Anne Yacovelli, Director and Tara Gouldey, Youth Services Coordinator, will receive this competitive, state-wide award on behalf of the Library on October 14 at the PA Library Association's annual conference. The program submitted was T. Gouldey's Imagination Station, a STEM program for children 6-11 years old. Motion seconded by D. Latino and carried unanimously.

Visitors:

Rich Regetta, 499 Mountain Blvd.
Wendy Wenrich, 137 W. Gaul Street
Leigh-Anne Yacovelli, Wernersville Public Library
Greg & Carrie Coleman, 309 N. Reber Street (addressed under the Engineer's Report)
Linda Bean, 57 E. Wilson Ave.

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Rich Regetta, 499 Mountain Blvd., expressed his concerns about the Borough playgrounds needing mulch and regular maintenance. Council advised Mr. Regetta that the Borough is aware of the situation. Council is in the process of constructing a yard waste recycling facility near the playground site on Laurel Street that will result in some modifications to the playground. Council is waiting until that project is complete (hopefully later this year) to address the playground maintenance issues. Additionally, Council will make a concerted effort to address the playgrounds with the Public Works Department moving forward.

Wendy Wenrich, 137 W. Gaul St. expressed her concerns regarding the swale and residents who did not remove their sheds, fences and brush, etc. Council stated that action will be taken by the Borough for any residents who did not comply.

Leigh-Anne Yacovelli, Wernersville Public Library reported that the Library's Summer Reading Program was a huge success and that next year they are planning to extend it for an additional week.

Linda Bean, 57 E. Wilson Ave. expressed her concern that the pitch of E. Wilson Ave. is not correct since they repaved this in 2018. GVC will look into this.

Police Report: Written Report Submitted. 190 Calls for service in Wernersville for month of August 2019.

Fire Report: Written Report Submitted. 91 Calls for the month of August. 16 calls were in the Borough.

Western Berks Ambulance: Written Report Submitted. 43 Calls for the month of August.

Zoning and Building Enforcement Report: Written report was submitted. 11 Permits were issued. 14 Property Maintenance Issues and 1 Zoning Issue for the month of August.

Engineer Report:

309 N. Reber St.: Mr. Fulmer discussed his memorandum in more details with Council about the potential options to address the stormwater issue. Mr. Gombar also informed Council that he researched the ownership status of the unpaved portion of N. Reber Street. According to his research, the Borough did not own the property and, as a result, the area has been abandoned and a reversion to the abutting property owners occurred. As a result, the responsibility (maintenance, etc.) for that area (at least the portion of it in the Borough) now lies in the hands of the abutting property owners. Mr. and Mrs. Coleman were upset about this as it was allegedly different from information reported to them many years ago from the Borough. Council President informed Mr. and Mrs. Coleman that they need to work with the neighboring property owner and resolve the matter privately.

Gaul Street Stormwater Easement: Motion made by J. Pierce to authorize the Solicitor to file a civil action in the Berks County Court of Common Pleas against the three (3) remaining property owners (153 W Gaul St., 133 W. Gaul St. and 129 W. Gaul St.) who did not comply with removing of their sheds, fences or debris in order to force the owners to remedy the situation. D. Latino seconded and carried unanimously.

Wilson Court: Council decided that the No Parking in the Cul-de-Sac Ordinance will remain in effect.

Yard Waste Drop Off Site: The Bids for the Yard Waste Drop Off Site will be advertised on September 6th & September 9th. The opening of the Bids will take place on September 30th with possible award of a contract at the October 2, 2019 meeting

Mavor's Report:

None.

Council's Report:

B. Clements thanked Mr. Jeff Schatz of Schatz Electric for donating their time and talent for installing the Veteran Banners along Penn Avenue. The Borough Secretary will send a thank you note to them.

Following up on the public comment from Mr. Regatta, D. Latino reported that we really need to update our playgrounds with mulch and equipment.

Solicitor's Report: Written report was submitted.

Delinquent Trash Collection: Motion made by J. Pierce to (1) authorize the execution of a contract with FirstStates Financial Services to collect our delinquent trash/recycling bills, and (2) adopt a Resolution authorizing the Borough to impose a 25% collection fee as a part of the Borough Schedule of Fees. B. Clements seconded and carried unanimously.

Police: Motion made by J. Pierce to adopt the Ordinance authorizing the Borough to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with South Heidelberg Township for Police coverage services commencing January 1, 2020 subject to the final review and approval of the Agreement by the Solicitor and the Council President. B. Clements seconded and carried by a majority of the quorum. J. Swartz opposed.

Feral Cat Ordinance: Motion made by J. Pierce to advertise the Feral Cat Ordinance for enactment at the October Council Meeting. D. Latino seconded and carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

274 E. Penn Ave. Whitney Brady: GVC did the curb stakeout and Ms. Brady is in the process of obtaining quotes to hire a contractor to commence work.

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West Ridge Suites (Grande Apartment Project): Motion by J. Swartz to grant the 180 day extension for West Ridge Suites requested by the developer. B. Clements seconded and carried unanimously. The new deadline is March 2, 2020.

New Business:

Resignation: Motion made by J. Swartz to accept with regret the resignation of Robert Fischer. Mr. Fischer moved out of the Borough. D. Latino seconded and carried unanimously. Council directed the Mayor, B. Clements, J. Swartz and D. Latino as a committee of Council to informally interview potential candidates to fill the vacancy for Council's consideration for appointment at the October 2, 2019 meeting.

MMO: Motion made by J. Swartz to accept the MMO for 2020 for Non Uniform Employees for the amount of \$19,586. B. Clements seconded. J. Pierce abstained.

Handicap Parking Space: Motion made by J. Pierce to approve a Handicap Parking Space for 105 W. Penn Avenue. The space would be on N. Walnut Street. J. Swartz seconded and carried unanimously.

Tennis Court at Fairview Street: Motion made by J. Pierce to paint lines on the Tennis Court at the Playground on Fairview Street for Pickle Ball not to exceed \$500.00. D. Latino seconded and carried unanimously.

36 E. Washington Street (Vacant): Motion made by J. Pierce to have the Public Works Department maintain the yard at this property since the owner is deceased and has no family and to file municipal lien(s) against the property for the Borough's costs. B. Clements seconded and carried unanimously.

Monthly Bills: Motion made by J. Swartz to approve the bill list and bills previously paid to avoid penalty. B. Clements seconded and carried by a majority of the quorum. J. Pierce abstained.

Balance Sheet: Motion made by D. Latino to accept the Balance Sheet. J. Swartz seconded and carried by a majority of the quorum. J. Pierce abstained.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 2, 2019.

Motion by D. Latino to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. B. Clements seconded and carried unanimously.

Attest:

Borough Secretary