

**WERNERSVILLE BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
July 7, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO, PRESENT:

**MICHAEL GOMBAR, JR., SOLICITOR
DEBRA PIERCE, SECRETARY
JENNIFER VELEZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MICHAEL PALM, BOROUGH EMPLOYEE
KEN FULMER, GVC
CHIEF LEON GRIM, SOUTH HEIDELBERG POLICE DEPT.
JARED RENSHAW, WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT
GLENN KRAFT, KRAFT CODE SERVICES**

ABSENT:

STEPHEN PRICE, PRESIDENT

J. Swartz called the Wernersville Borough Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Motion made by J. Pierce to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2021 Council Meeting.
D. Latino seconded and carried unanimously.

Visitors:

Jesse Hurwitz, 311 W Penn Ave
Troy Smith, 319 W Penn Ave

Jesse Hurwitz, 311 W Penn Ave: Mr. Hurwitz requested a waiver of the sidewalk installation. He presented pictures and information/quotes for sidewalk at his property. He is in the process of trying to sell his home and feels that the cost of sidewalk installation will be a hardship. Also, trees on the property and the slope of the property will make installation difficult.

Troy Smith, 319 W Penn Ave: Mr. Smith came to support Mr. Hurwitz with regards to the sidewalk installation. He also feels that Council should grant a waiver or exception to the sidewalk at 311 W Penn Ave. He stressed that Mr. Hurwitz is under a time crunch due to putting in an offer on another home.

Council discussed the situation and decided to make a motion to grant a conditional temporary waiver. Motion made by R. Gordon to grant a waiver for the sidewalk installation conditional upon the engineer's review of the situation and confirmation that the sidewalk installation would not be feasible due to the trees and the slope of the area on the property where the sidewalk would be installed. K Fulmer said he will go out next week. Motion seconded by L. Palm and carried unanimously.

Police Report: Written Report Submitted. 428 calls for the Month of June. 96 calls were in the Borough.

Chief Grim mentioned the murder/suicide that took place in the Borough. Several Council members commended him and the South Heidelberg Police Department for the way the situation was handled.

Fire Report: Written Report Submitted. 93 Calls for the month of June. 10 calls were in the Borough.

Jared reported that on June 13th there was a structure fire in South Heidelberg Township. A Western Berks fire fighter fell through the floorboards. Due to proper protective equipment and proper training, the firefighter only sustained minor injuries.

Jared told Council about an article he published in the Firehouse magazine.

Western Berks Ambulance: Written report submitted. 53 calls for the month of June. 8 calls for Phoebe Berks.

Wernersville Public Library: Leigh-Anne told Council that the Library is still requiring masks, but they are starting to have more in person programs.

Engineer Report:

- **2021 Street Work:** Concrete work on the ADA Ramps has been completed. Milling and paving are scheduled for July 13th & 14th.
- **Stone Ridge Development:** Issued Memo on June 15, 2021 with our comments regarding the May 26, 2021 revised drawings. Received revised drawings dated 6/24/2021, which we will review prior to the Planning Commission meeting on July 21, 2021.

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Zoning and Building Enforcement Report: Written reports were submitted for June. 5 Permits were issued in the Month of June. 7 Property Maintenance issues and 8 zoning issues.

Council also directed Kraft Codes to look at 304 and 306 E. Penn Ave for possible Code violations.

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor reported that he spoke to the Wernersville Municipal Authority and they are Ok with the Borough borrowing the loader when needed.

Mayor Worley also spoke about when the Borough receives the ARPA funding if we would be willing to direct some of the money to the Municipal Authority.

He mentioned to Council about lifting the Disaster Emergency Declaration. M. Gombar said to discuss this at the next Meeting.

Council's Report:

J. Pierce told Council that the Western Berks Police matters are being finalized. There will be an Audit of the Police Pension going back 5 years by the State Auditor General's Office and funds will hopefully be dispersed in August. Approximately \$55,000 will be dispersed to Wernersville Borough.

D. Latino mentioned to Council that he received a Robo call from Waste Management about the trash pickup schedule. He suggested that we contact Waste Management about doing a Robo Call or at least notifying us about any changes to the Schedule.

D. Pierce told Council that we are working on the Sam.gov registration in order to receive our ARPA funding for the Borough.

R. Gordon told Council that Waste Management did take over for the trash contract. The trash COG will be meeting with Waste Management soon to discuss any changes.

L. Dapcic-Angst asked Council if anyone had any more feedback about the Roadmaster Job Description. L. Palm asked about the original job description written by Gary Heydt. L. Dapcic-Angst said she will forward that to all Council Members. Council agreed to discuss the salary ranges in executive session and, after that, possibly take action on this position.

R. Gordon, D. Latino and L. Dapcic-Angst will work on Questions for interviewing potential applicants. Ideally the Borough would like to hire the new Roadmaster by October.

L. Dapcic-Angst mentioned that the Feral Cat issue has lessened. There is an individual who has been picking up the cats free of charge.

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Solicitor's Report: Written report was submitted.

Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement Renewal: Borough Council recessed the General Business meeting and convened a public hearing, as required by federal law, regarding the proposed renewal of the Comcast Franchise Agreement. The Solicitor conducted the hearing and noted the highlights in the renewal Contract for the record including another 10- year term and a 5% franchise fee, among other things. There were no comments or questions from the public or Borough Council. The public hearing was then adjourned, and the Borough Council reconvened the General Business meeting. Motion made by J. Pierce to enact Ordinance No. 620-2021 authorizing the execution of the Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement. Seconded by D. Latino and carried unanimously.

South Heidelberg Township Police Contract: Motion made by D. Latino to appoint Keegan Worley, Jim Pierce and Linda Palm to a Committee for the SHT Police Contract Extension. Motion seconded by R. Gordon and carried unanimously.

Penn Werner Zoning Hearing Board Application: A hearing is scheduled for July 8th to add 20 more rooms and eliminate the bar/dining area without the required number of off-street parking space. Motion made by R. Gordon to authorize the Solicitor to attend the hearing to oppose the application on behalf of the Borough and, due to the late notice, request a continuance of the July 8th hearing. Seconded by L. Dapcic-Angst and carried unanimously.

PPL Tree Trimming: Still waiting to hear from their legal department.

Stone Ridge Development: Motion made by D. Latino to grant a time extension through August 31, 2021 for the Stone Ridge Development Plan. Seconded by L. Palm and carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Loader: Since the WMA is allowing us to borrow theirs when needed, Council decided to delay purchase of our own loader until 2022.

New Business:

JULY 4, 2026: The County is asking for all 72 Municipalities to adopt a Resolution supporting AMERICA250PA. This Resolution is to begin the process of planning and highlighting the significance of July 4, 2026. Motion made by J. Pierce to adopt Resolution 2-2021. Seconded by L. Palm and carried unanimously.

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

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

Executive Session: To discuss a Personnel issue and pending litigation.

After Executive Session a Motion was made by J. Pierce to approve the Roadmaster Job Description, as proposed and with the additions/modification noted, and advertise the opening for the position on Indeed.com. Motion seconded by R. Gordon and carried unanimously.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 7pm.

Motion by J. Pierce to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. R. Gordon seconded and carried unanimously.

Attest:

Borough Secretary