

**WERNERSVILLE BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
February 7, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**JIM PIERCE, VICE PRESIDENT
LINDA DAPCIC-ANGST
KEEGAN WORLEY
ROB GORDON
JOSH FIDLER
CARL REIDLER**

ALSO PRESENT:

**MAYOR, MELISSA DEAN
MICHAEL GOMBAR, SOLICITOR
DEBRA PIERCE, SECRETARY
JENNIFER VELEZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MATT ZERR, ROADMASTER
TIM CROUSE, PUBLIC WORKS
DET. HEIDEN, SOUTH HEIDELBERG POLICE DEPARTMENT
KEN FULMER, GVC
GLENN KRAFT, KRAFT MUNICIPAL GROUP**

PRESENT VIA PHONE:

DAVID LATINO, PRESIDENT

ABSENT:

JARED RENSHAW, WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT

J. Pierce called the Wernersville Borough Council Meeting to order at 7pm.

Motion made by R. Gordon to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2024 meeting. J. Fidler seconded and carried unanimously.

Visitors:

Kelly Thompson, 50 N Pearl St
Jeanine Schweitzer, 420 Franklin St
Chris Kapinos, 425 Franklin St
Zachary Christman, 415 Franklin St

Kelly Thompson: Ms. Thompson spoke to Council about the Handicap space at 52 N Pearl St. She was questioning Ordinance 617 and the need for the space since the resident is alleged to have available off street parking. Council explained that the off street parking was not the safest for the resident's handicap at the time of application and, because of that, they approved the space and would not be changing the decision.

Jeanine Schweitzer, Chris Kapinos and Zachary Christman: Ms. Schweitzer spoke to Council to follow up about the traffic and speeding on Furnace Rd, Franklin St and South Pearl. Council explained that the Police conducted an informal study which has initially revealed that there is an increase in reported traffic volume in the area but not speeding. As a result, there is nothing for Council to do at this point.

Police Report: Written Report Submitted. 390 calls for January and 68 in the Borough. Det. Heiden told Council that the traffic study report will be available by next Months meeting.

Fire Report: Written Report Submitted. 105 Calls for the month of January. 8 calls were in the Borough.

Western Berks Ambulance: Written report submitted. 42 calls for the month of January.

Wernersville Public Library: Written Report submitted.

Engineer Report: Written report submitted.

West Ridge Suites: Received a copy of revised Transportation Impact Study. Sent a memo to Council dated January 29, 2024. K. Fulmer indicated that the most recent traffic study did not support a traffic light at Furnace and Penn Ave. He will gather more current information, and this will have to be discussed further at a later date.

Sewer Planning Module: The Authority is recommending Borough Council's approval. The module is not correct, so this decision was tabled.

Bachman Roofing Land Development 208 W. Penn Ave.: Nothing to Report.

Stone Ridge Subdivision: Sent memo on January 30, 2024 regarding submission of revised final land development plans. Waiting for information back from Grande on the sidewalk location at Marcello Circle and other minor details.

Optimist CDL Coaching School: Nothing to Report.

Fastbridge Fiber Optic: Contractors have begun work.

Zoning and Building Enforcement Report: Written report submitted for January. 2 permits were issued. 3 property maintenance issues and 5 zoning issues.

Glenn Kraft told Council that the Zoning Hearing for Jack Keener for 23 W Penn Ave took place on 1/29/24. The usage for Indoor storage was approved and variance for parking was granted.

Public Works: Written report submitted.

M. Zerr asked Council if Public Works can purchase new tires for the 2015 F550.

Motion made by R. Gordon to approve the purchase of new tires from LS Tire, LLC for \$2,220.00 which was the lowest quote received. This expenditure is already included in the approved 2024 budget for Public Works. Motion seconded by C. Reidler and carried unanimously.

Matt also spoke to Council about the dead-end on N. Reber St being in disrepair. Matt, K. Fulmer and J. Fidler will look at this and get quotes to repair that area. Matt and Council discussed the stop signs at the ends of Gerhart St which was abandoned by the Borough and is considered a private drive. Council agreed that these signs should be removed. Matt informed Council that he will be purchasing a new chainsaw at the cost of \$494.99.

Mayor's Report: Written Report Submitted.

Council's Report:

Rob Gordon: Trash COG written report included in packets.

Rob spoke to Council about the new Trash costs and how our 2024 increase compares to other municipalities.

Keegan Worley: Keegan thanked Matt and Tim for their work on the tree that fell across North Church Rd.

Keegan also informed Council that Bob Walborn passed away recently. His son, Matt, will be the interim manager for the Municipal Authority.

Josh Fidler: Josh told Council that he contacted all the volunteers for the Rec Board. He would like to set up an informal preliminary meeting to discuss ideas. Josh will schedule the meeting which will then be posted on Facebook.

Josh asked about a 5/10/20 year plan for street work. M. Zerr told him he does have a list of streets that need work. Josh will meet with Matt and Ken Fulmer to identify what work needs to be done.

Josh also told Council about the Center for Excellence in Local Government annual Municipal Dinner in March and suggested that Council attend and pay for employees to go to the Dinner.

Linda Dapcic-Angst: Linda spoke to Council about the Grant for up to one million dollars to refurbish the mine hole area. Motion made by R. Gordon to authorize Linda to apply for this grant. Motion seconded by J. Fidler and carried unanimously. Water testing will be completed as part of this and results should be available at a future meeting.

Linda informed Council that the Grant for a speed sign was approved in the amount of \$3,551.18.

She also updated Council that the grant for the Fire Department equipment is moving forward.

Carl Reidler: Carl spoke to Council about the timing of the lights on Penn Ave and that sometimes traffic gets backed up and becomes an issue. Carl and Matt Zerr will touch base with PennDot to see if this can be fixed.

Carl addressed the Borough recycling and his concern that recyclables are not always being taken to a recycling facility. Rob Gordon explained that there are reasons why sometimes they are rerouted or not recycled due to contamination.

Dave Latino: Dave complimented Matt and Tim on the Plowing job for the recent storms. He also thanked Linda for working on the grants.

Solicitor's Report: Written report submitted.

M. Gombar spoke briefly about the \$104,000 in fire insurance proceeds that the Borough has in Escrow for the DiBiase's, for 145-147 W Penn Ave. The DiBiase's were scheduled to come to the Council meeting to discuss this and what their plans are for the property.

Old Business:

Berks County Tax Collection Committee: Motion made by R. Gordon to adopt Resolution # 1-2024 appointing Keegan Worley as the Primary delegate and Elizabeth Miller as the Alternate delegate to serve on the TCC Executive Committee for all municipalities of the Conrad Weiser School District. Motion seconded by L. Dapcic-Angst and carried unanimously.

Statewide Tax Recovery: Motion made by C. Reidler to adopt Resolution #2-2024 appointing Statewide Tax Recovery to be the collector of Delinquent Per Capita Tax. Motion seconded by K. Worley and carried unanimously.

Western Berks Ambulance: Motion made by D. Latino to adopt the Amendment to the Western Berks Ambulance Agreement stating the agreed annual rate is \$50.00 per Parcel. Motion seconded by C. Reidler and carried unanimously.

New Business:

Check Signers: Motion made by R. Gordon to remove James Swartz as a check signer on all Bank Accounts at Vist Bank and all PLGIT accounts and add Keegan Worley. Motion seconded by L. Dapcic-Angst and carried unanimously.

The signers will be David Latino, Robert Gordon, Keegan Worley and Debra Pierce.

Monthly Bills: Motion made by K. Worley to approve the bill list and bills previously paid to avoid penalty. J. Fidler seconded and carried. J. Pierce abstained.

Balance Sheet: Motion made by K. Worley to accept the Balance Sheet. J. Fidler seconded and carried. J. Pierce abstained.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 7pm.

Motion made by J. Fidler to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm. Motion seconded by L. Dapcic-Angst and carried unanimously.

Attest:

Borough Secretary