

**WERNERSVILLE BOROUGH
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
April 3, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

**MICHAEL GOMBAR, SOLICITOR
JENNIFER VELEZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MATT ZERR, ROADMASTER
CHIEF HOOK, SOUTH HEIDELBERG POLICE
KEN FULMER, GVC
GLENN KRAFT, KRAFT MUNICIPAL GROUP**

ABSENT:

**MAYOR, MELISSA DEAN
DEBRA PIERCE, SECRETARY
TIM CROUSE, PUBLIC WORKS
JARED RENSHAW, WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

D. Latino called the Wernersville Borough Council Meeting to order at 7pm.

Motion made by J. Pierce to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2024 meeting. C. Reidler seconded and carried unanimously.

Visitors:

Elizabeth Magovern, Esquire, Optimist CDL School
Zaida Guadalupe, Optimist CDL School
Pedro Rosario, Optimist CDL School
Chuck Frantz, C2C Design, for Optimist CDL School
Samir Chedid, 244 E Penn Ave

Elizabeth Magovern, Zaida Guadalupe, Pedro Rosario & Chuck Frantz: Attorney Magovern and Chuck Frantz discussed with Council that they are working with PennDot on permitting. PennDot has indicated that they may need to widen the entrance to the CDL School located at 600 E Penn Ave. They are concerned about the potential cost of this and that the cost could affect their ability to complete Phase II of the paving by the deadline of November 2024. They expect to return to the June Council meeting with an update.

Samir Chedid: Mr. Chedid brought up his concerns about the stop signs that were removed from Gerhart St. Council agreed to remove the signs during the February 2024 meeting since Gerhart St. is considered a private drive. Mr. Chedid is concerned about people cutting through and the possibility of an accident and asked if yield signs or something could be placed there. Council asked Chief Hook to put up a traffic device to count the cars that go down Gerhart and then report back to Council at the May meeting. Also, Council members agreed to look at this intersection and give their assessment.

Police Report: Written Report Submitted. 427 calls for March and 87 in the Borough.

Fire Report: Written Report Submitted. 83 Calls for the month of March. 10 calls were in the Borough.

Western Berks Ambulance: Written report submitted.

Wernersville Public Library: Written Report submitted.
Maria Gerasklis-Long Spoke to Council about upcoming events at the Library.

Engineer Report: Written report submitted.

West Ridge Suites: Sent memo regarding the Revised Transportation Impact Study on February 28th and I am awaiting a reply. I received information from Chief Hook on vehicle crash data at Penn Ave. and Furnace Rd., which I forwarded to Mr. Dimmerling on March 25th. Awaiting word from the Wernersville Municipal Authority regarding the DEP Sewer Planning Module and whether it is ready for Borough Council action.

Sewer Planning Module: Motion needed to adopt the Resolution within the planning module subject to Wernersville Municipal Authority's concurrence. Motion tabled since the Municipal Authority meeting is Next Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

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. We received a response on March 28th and we will review. The sinkhole on site in the Stormwater Management Basin had been remediated. The easement for the relocated sidewalk on the Stricker property (109 S. Reber Street) has been completed. Solicitor Gombar noted that it does not include language granting public access to the sidewalk. That will need to be fixed.

Optimist CDL Coaching School: Nothing to Report.

Fastbridge Fiber Optic: Construction is proceeding and we have been providing part time construction observation for the street crossings.

Street Paving 2024: Matt will get together with Ken next week to discuss.

Zoning and Building Enforcement Report: Written report submitted for March. 6 permits were issued. 4 property maintenance issues and 6 zoning issues. Glenn Kraft spoke briefly to Council about the possible removal of trees at the intersection of Furnace and Penn Ave. This will be discussed further at a later date. J. Pierce asked G. Kraft to see if he can find out if there are people living in the shed on the back of the property at 75 Werner St. G. Kraft has been in touch with Adrian at CE Pontz about events that they are planning and that they will need a temporary event permit. Discussion was held regarding the fire insurance escrow being held by the Borough for the DiBiase property. There are concerns that the owner will not fix the damage and the Borough may have to use the escrow money.

Public Works: Written report submitted.

Sink Hole on Hill Rd.: Work was completed on the sink hole on Hill Rd. by A. H. Moyer on March 11 & 12 in the amount of \$10,906.80.

Scag Cheetah riding mower and Scag push mower: Motion made by J. Pierce to purchase a Scag riding mower for \$12,599.00 from Eblings. Motion seconded by L. Dapcic-Angst and carried unanimously. Matt and Tim will look at push mowers at a later time.

Signs for Crosswalks: Motion made by K. Worley to purchase signs and posts for the crosswalks along Penn Ave not to exceed the amount of \$5,767.30. This is conditioned upon PENNDOT approval and would be for 24 signs and posts. Motion seconded by C. Reidler. Motion opposed by J. Pierce and R. Gordon. Motion carried by majority. Matt may opt to purchase only 12 signs, which would be 2 per crosswalk instead of 4 per crosswalk, as quoted.

2024 Ford F350: Matt discussed the possible purchase a 2024 Ford F350 from Tom Masano Ford for \$50,600 and E.M. Kutz in the amount of \$36,800 for the truck upfit. Total \$87,400 which will be paid with Liquid Fuels money. Action tabled.

Mayor's Report: Written Report Submitted.

Council's Report:

Linda Dapcic-Angst: Linda discussed with Council a friend who asked about a dog barking during the night. It was recommended that she have the friend call the non-emergency police line if this happens, as this would fall under the noise ordinance. Linda also told Council that the Borough will be receiving grant monies for the security system (for buildings and playgrounds) and also for the speed sign. Motion made by J. Pierce to give Linda permission to apply for the Greenways Grant for up to \$250,000 for park improvements. Motion seconded by K. Worley and carried unanimously.

Josh Fidler: Josh spoke to Council about the first Rec Board meeting, which was held on Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:30pm. The Rec Board meetings will be held every month on the first Tuesday at 6:30 at the Borough Hall. Josh said he will need to know about the number of members on the Board and Officers. Solicitor Gombar will review and provide info to Council.

Josh asked Council about spending for the Rec Board. Motion made by C. Reidler to allow a spending limit of \$500 per event/item by the Rec Committee without needing approval from Council provided that enough funds are budgeted by Council. Motion seconded by J. Pierce and carried unanimously.

Josh also spoke to Matt Zerr about looking into prices to possibly make a parking area at the Laurel and Fairview Playground.

Keegan Worley: Keegan reminded Council that there is still a vacancy on the Joint Authority.

He spoke to Council about the latest Newsletter that was printed in color and said that the cost of printing was about \$1200. He would like the \$1200 per Newsletter be reallocated to the Recreation Fund account. Motion made by R. Gordon to reallocate \$1200 per newsletter to the Recreation Fund. Motion seconded by J. Pierce. K. Worley abstained. Motion carried.

He also attended the meeting with the auditors and everything went smoothly. A note of appreciation to Debra Pierce and Jen Velez for their efforts.

Rob Gordon: Rob brought up the idea of hiring a Borough manager, which has been discussed in the past. Josh Fidler said that he will discuss with Paul Janssen of the Albright College Center for Excellence in Local Government who has a pool of qualified applicants and Josh will discuss with him and report back to Council.

Solicitor's Report: Written report submitted.

Stop Sign Ordinance (S. Pearl & Franklin St. Intersection): Motion made by J. Pierce to adopt the Stop Sign Ordinance. Motion seconded by R. Gordon and carried unanimously.

Railroad Quiet Zone: M. Gombar discussed this with Council as an inquiry was made by a resident to the Borough staff earlier in the month but he did not attend the meeting. This is not something that the Borough needs to be concerned with at this time.

Act 2 of 2024. M. Gombar provided a brief update to Council on recent changes to the Borough Code that were signed into law by Governor Shapiro.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Polling Place Agreement: Motion made by L. Dapcic-Angst to sign the Polling Place Agreement with the County of Berks. Motion seconded by R. Gordon and carried unanimously.

2023 Year End Audit: Herbein completed our 2023 Audit. Please see reports in your packets. Everything looked good and there were no issues. Motion made by K. Worley to accept the report. Motion seconded by R. Gordon and carried. J. Pierce abstained.

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. R. Gordon seconded and carried. J. Pierce abstained.

Executive Session held regarding a personnel matter. No action taken.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 7pm.

Motion made by L. Dapcic-Angst to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm. Motion seconded by R. Gordon and carried unanimously.

Attest:

Borough Secretary