

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 17, 2017 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council Members Present:	Joseph Peterson, Mayor	David Blank, President
	Cindy, McGee, Vice President	Richard Happel, Member
	Steve Lusky, Member	Robert Myers, Member
	Neil McCauley, Member	Peter Uhniat, Member
Staff & Professionals:	Aaron J. Durso, Manager	Terry Weiler, Solicitor
	Theodore Roth, Chief of Police	Brian Boyer, Engineer

Call to Order: President Blank called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Councilman Happel.

Robbie Yanos of Troop 555 provided a follow up report on his Eagle Scout project and showed pictures of his completed project. Council congratulated him and thanked him for doing his Eagle Scout project in the Borough.

Public Comment

Minutes–March 20, 2017 Council Meeting

A **motion** was made by Councilman Uhniat and seconded by Councilman McCauley to approve the March 20, 2017 Council Meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

Bills List and Treasurer’s Report

A **motion** was made by Councilman Lusky and seconded by Councilman Happel to approve the Bills List dated April 17, 2017 and Checks for Ratification dated March 21, 2017 – April 16, 2017. Motion carried 7-0.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman McCauley to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated April 17, 2017. Motion carried 7-0.

Manager’s Report

Speed Bumps

Manager Durso mentioned that the residents on Windsor Street were requesting speed bumps he asked Solicitor Weiler if there were any restriction on placing speed bumps on Borough streets. Council then discussed other areas where speed bumps would be a good deterrent for people speeding. President Blank and Councilman Uhniat discussed the type that can be bolted in the ground and removed for winter months. Council then discussed the difference between speeds bump and a speed humps. Councilman Happel said it would be a cost to the Borough to install speed bumps and signage. It was noted that if the speed bumps were put in certain areas other areas would request them and it could become very costly. Mayor Peterson suggested the Police Department but up the speed signs to collect data and Councilman Myers stated he would like the Police Department’s input to determine what areas would need speed bumps if the Borough decided to install them on Borough roads.

Fire Advisory Board

Manager Durso informed Council that Borough resident Frank Nefos would like to be a member of the Fire Advisory Board. Mr. Nefos is a retired Reading Fire Department Deputy Chief and Secretary to the Birdsboro Union Fire Department. A **motion** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Uhniat to appoint Frank Nefos to the Fire Advisory Board. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Lusky stated that he would like to resign from the Fire Advisory Bboard now that a replacement has been found.

Stormwater Amendments

Manager Durso asked for a motion to amend the Stormwater Management Agreement for Birdsboro Power and explained that the first amendment only had one parcel listed but there should have been two parcels listed on the Agreement. A **motion** was made by Councilman Lusky and seconded by Councilman Uhniat to amend the Stormwater Management Agreement with Birdsboro Power. Motion carried 7-0.

Recycling Contract

Manager Durso informed Council that he will be preparing the bid documents for the recycling because the current contract expires at the end of 2017. The bid should be ready for the summer months so when the decision is made there will ample time to coordinate with the successful bidder. Councilman Lusky noted he felt that the bid documents should specify Total Recycle in Exeter Township as the depository for the recycling and Councilman Lusky mentioned the public private partnership between Pioneer Land Crossing and Birdsboro Borough. Councilman Lusky said that he felt that the close proximity to the Borough would make sense and it would cost less for the recycling companies to drive their full trucks of recycling a mile to unload. Councilman Myers stated that if the receiving recycling plant's costs are lower it could be cheaper to have the recycling taken somewhere else. Councilman McCauley stated that it would be up to the individual recycling companies to determine their transportation costs and they can determine where it is more cost effective to take the recycling. A **motion** was made by Councilman Lusky and seconded by Councilman Uhniat to prepare the bid documents for the recycling contract with a breakdown of transportation expenses. Motion carried 7-0.

Birdsboro Power

Manager Durso stated that he has nothing new to report about the project but at the last Council meeting it was stated that residents could come to this meeting to ask more questions.

David Wheeler of 713 E. Main Street thanked Council for their willingness to pave the alley behind the homes on E. Main Street.

Jan Ferry of 740 E. Main thanked Manager Durso for taking care of the Right to Know request from Berks Gas Truth. Ms. Ferry had a question regarding the January special meeting and why it was illegal. Solicitor Weiler informed Ms. Ferry that it was not an illegal meeting and said she needs to watch the way that she is wording things and then explained the process and a mistake was made but then Council approved the Birdsboro Power plan at their regularly scheduled meeting in February. Ms. Ferry thanked Councilmen Myers, Happel and McCauley for voting

no and she wanted to know why the four people who voted yes voted yes. Councilman Uhniat explained to her the process and stated that he served on the Planning Commission prior to being on Council and that these plans have been before the Planning Commission for two years, he then asked Ms. Ferry what she would like to see as an outcome with Birdsboro Power now that this is her second meeting. Ms. Ferry stated that she would like to see the project not happen and Councilman Uhniat said that the project is approved and is within the zoning and the proper process was followed and that the builder is building the plant. Councilman Myers then said that he was disappointed that Emberclear Partners did not have a public meeting like DTE Energy did regarding the pipeline. He did state that there were a lot of written articles in the local papers regarding the Birdsboro Power plan so it was not a secret. He said that he was a member of the Birdsboro Power project team but it was little later in the process and felt that the representative of Emberclear Partners was not communicative with him. He then stated that he felt that they should have had a public meeting to give a good overview of the project. Councilman Lusky then discussed how the committee was formed and that Mayor Peterson, Councilman Myers, President Blank and himself were all a part of the committee. He said the committee then went to visit a plant that was being built in Oregon, Ohio and met with numerous members of PPMS, the engineering company building the power plant in Oregon, Ohio. Councilman Lusky asked Engineer Boyer if he prepared an estimate for an overlay paving of East Farmer Street, Rhode Street and the alley behind the homes on E. Main Street and Engineer Boyer noted the estimate is \$6,900.00. A **motion** was made by Councilman Lusky and seconded by Vice President McGee to use the impact fees to cover the cost of the paving and Council entered into a brief discussion. Manager Durso pointed out to Council that the interest being made off the current host fee that is in the PLGIT prime account that cannot be accessed until December will cover the costs of this project. Motion carried 7-0.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Boyer reviewed is monthly report with Council.

Mayor/Police Reports

Chief Roth reviewed his monthly report with Council.

Chief Roth stated that on April 9 a young girl was hit by a car on Hopewell Street, the young child darted out between too parked cars and the vehicle was not driving at a high rate of speed, on April 10 a resident reported an IRS phone scam and on April 16 the police dealt with a domestic issue and a motor vehicle accident on Hopewell Street and that accident resulted in a DUI arrest, then there was a house fire on Cinder Street.

Mayor Peterson stated said that the music in the parks event at Rustic Park will be held June 18 and there was a brief discussion regarding alcohol in the park. Mayor Peterson said that there would be no alcohol at this event and inquired about an amended ordinance so their event in the early fall could have alcohol. Mayor Peterson had a brief discussion with Council about an incident that happened March 29 at the high school and that he would like better communication between the State Police and the Birdsboro Police Department. He feels the State Police should notify Birdsboro Police Department when incidents happen at the school because residents

contact the Birdsboro Police Department and the Birdsboro Police Department is in close proximity to the high school and would provide a quicker response time.

Emergency Management

No new report.

Fire Department

The Fire Department Report was e-mailed to Council.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Weiler reviewed with Council his monthly activities and informed council that he is working on the alcohol in the parks amendments as well as the medical marijuana ordinance.

Municipal Services / Department Reports

Water Department: Report provided.

Wastewater Treatment Plant: Report provided.

Streets Department: Report provided.

Council/Committee Reports

Councilman Happel – Councilman Happel asked about the status of the directional sign at Borough Hall and President Blank stated he is working on the sign and he will follow up with Councilman Happel.

Councilman Lusky - Councilman Lusky stated that he had initially started a Christmas in Birdsboro discussion at the March meeting and would like to continue that discussion but make no decisions tonight but a decision would be needed by early summer so Parks and Recreation can start planning the event. Councilman Happel asked Councilman Lusky how much more does he think the Borough would need to give to the event and Councilman Lusky stated that the Borough has been able to raise the funds to cover the event but that it is getting harder to raise the funds and the event is getting larger and in order to improve the event he would like to see if the Borough was interested in contributing \$40,000 towards the event. President Blank asked from where in the budget do we get the money and Councilman Myers asked Councilman Lusky if he was thinking of taking it from Harms Benefit Funds and Councilman Lusky said he was not sure where to get funds from but would like to discuss with Council if they want to add more funds to the event and if the Borough wants to continue to do the event. Vice President McGee stated Birdsboro is a small community and this event brings together all the community groups and creates a positive experience and image for Birdsboro. Councilman Uhnat said that he's working with PA Americana, which is the tourism bureau, and that if Council wants to continue this event he can make sure the event is listed in their tourism guide. Councilman Myers said that it is a terrific event and he fully supports it but said there are a lot of projects that the Borough is looking at doing and referenced the old Route 82 bridges, the pavilions in Rustic Park, and Alice Focht. Manager Durso was asked to compile a list of upcoming projects in the Borough. Councilman Lusky stated that he would like Council to continue to discuss Christmas

in Birdsboro so a decision can be made shortly. Councilman Lusky stated that he does struggle a bit with putting \$125,000 towards the bridges over old Route 82 and he feels the Borough should do the pavilions in Rustic Park first and noted that the bridges are in Robeson Township and at this time Robeson Township does not have any funds to contribute to the project. The Birdsboro Municipality Authority has agreed to contribute \$125,000 to the bridge project. Vice President McGee asked Council if they can make a decision on the Christmas in Birdsboro issue in May or June so Parks and Recreation can plan accordingly.

Vice President McGee and Councilman Uhniat showed Council the Birdsboro vehicle stickers that sell for \$3 each.

Vice President McGee – Vice President McGee reported that Beautify Birdsboro Day and the yard sale is April 22 and 19 organizations are participating. The Birdsboro Business Chamber is also hosting a Taste of Birdsboro event on April 22. The Street Fair and Duck Race is May 13 and reminded Council that they are serving the community meal on April 25.

President Blank – President Blank informed Council that both the Teamsters and Police Unions have contacted the Borough as both contracts are up at the end of 2017 and said that Councilman Lusky, Councilman Uhniat and himself will sit with the Teamsters and bring that information back to Council at the May meeting. He will set up a committee that will sit down with the Police Union to start those negotiations.

Public Comment on Non Agenda Items

A resident of 133 N. Walnut Street asked Council for permission to block off a small portion of Rose Street on May 6 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. for children's birthday party. A **motion** was made by Vice President McGee and seconded by Councilman Lusky to allow Rose Street to be closed on May 6 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in accordance with the sketch provided. Motion carried 7-0.

Angela Irely of 528 Union Street agreed with Mayor Peterson regarding the issue with lack of State Police communication with issues at Daniel Boone and noted that cars are not stopping at the intersection of Union Street and 5th Street and asked if the Police Department would monitor that area and Chief Roth noted that the Police Department will look into the issue.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Durso
Borough Secretary