

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 19, 2018 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council Members Present: Richard Happel, President
Neil McCauley, Vice President
Robert Myers, Member
David Blank Sr., Member
Joseph Peterson, Mayor
Mary Ann Cotter, Member
Anthony Scioli, Member
Austin Peterson, Member

Staff & Professionals: Theodore Roth, Chief of Police
Aaron J. Durso, Borough Manager
Terry Weiler, Solicitor
Brian Boyer, Engineer

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

Opening prayer was led by Aaron Cassagrande.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Minutes – March 5, 2018

A **motion** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the March 5, 2018 Council meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

Bills List

A **motion** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the Bills Lists dated March 19, 2018 and checks for ratification dated March 6, 2018 – March 18, 2018. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of the March 19, 2018 Treasurer's Report is tabled until the April 2, 2018 meeting. Councilwoman Cotter inquired about the bills from Birdsboro Municipal Authority and Birdsboro Fitness and Splash being paid out of the Borough funds and suggested showing the revenues coming in from the Birdsboro Municipal Authority.

Manager's Report

Heater at Borough Hall

Manager Durso noted that the heater at Borough Hall had to be replaced.

Electronic Lock on Borough Hall Door

A **motion** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Scioli to accept the proposal from Alarm Tech Systems, Inc. for the electronic lock on the Borough Hall door for a price not to exceed \$2,500.00. Motion carried 7-0.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council. Engineer Boyer reviewed the grant for the MS4 work and the design work for the TAP grant. Councilman Myers asked a code enforcement question and referenced a recent newspaper article about a property in the Borough and Solicitor Weiler provided an update regarding the associated court case. Councilwoman Cotter thanked Engineer Boyer for his patience with the Rustic Park Pavilion project. Manager Durso will provide updates to the Council regarding code enforcement cases.

Mayor/Police Reports

Chief Roth reviewed his report with Council. Chief Roth noted that Birdsboro Police Department assisted Birdsboro Elementary Center in a lockdown drill.

Municipal Services/Department Reports

Water Department: Report is in the packet

Wastewater Treatment Department: Report is in the packet

Public Works Department: Report is in the packet

Emergency Management

No new report.

Fire Department

No new report.

Solicitor's Report

Parking Ordinance Amendments

It was brought to the attention of Council that some of the roads that were included in the original Parking Ordinance were not included in the code codifications therefore the ordinance requires amending for proper codification.

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to advertise the Parking Ordinance with amendments. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman McCauley asked if these amendments will have a negative effect and Chief Roth responded.

Supportive Concepts Facility

There was discussion regarding the group home at 353 Bird Street and it was noted there have been several complaints from residents and the police about the conduct of the individuals living at the group home. Solicitor Weiler suggested he write a letter requesting a meeting with the group home to come to a resolution.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to authorize Solicitor Weiler to send a letter to Supportive Concepts requesting a meeting to discuss the issues relating to the group home at 353 Bird Street. Motion carried 7-0.

RAWA Resolution

Ed Stock was present to discuss the RAWA Pipeline Easement Resolution. Mr. Stock provided an overview of the resolution. Council would be approving RAWA water being delivered to Birdsboro Power. Councilman Myers asked a question about an MB Investments issue and Mr. Stock responded to the best of his knowledge. Vice President McCauley had some questions regarding the resolution. It was noted that this resolution only pertains to properties involving MB Investments.

A **motion** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the RAWA resolution. Motion carried 7-0.

Borrowing Resolution for Police Car Purchase

A **motion** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the resolution authorizing the borrowing for the new police vehicle. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman McCauley asked why the Borough does not use savings for the police vehicle and Mayor Peterson and Manager Durso responded.

Borough Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 9:17 p.m. Solicitor Weiler summarized the Executive Session noting the Turkey Hill liquor license transfer was discussed. Solicitor Weiler noted that the Borough is in receipt of a memo from Turkey Hill and Turkey Hill feels they have grounds to appeal. Solicitor Weiler asked Council if they would like to revisit their decision.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Scioli to keep with the original motion to not approve the liquor license transfer for Turkey Hill. Motion carried 7-0.

Council Reports

Councilman Scioli noted the \$2,500 request from the American Legion Post 626 for a donation to the Wall that Heals.

Councilwoman Cotter asked if the American Legion Post 626 got the \$1,500 donation from the Harms Benefit and Manager Durso replied yes. Councilman Peterson asked what happens when that line item goes over in the Harms Benefit Fund budget? Manager Durso stated there is money in the Harms Benefit savings and Mayor Peterson warned that in the past this has opened up more requests for donations that were not budgeted. Councilman Scioli and President Happel noted that the Wall that Heals is a great veterans' event and it is an honor that our community has been selected. Vice President McCauley suggested a \$1,500 donation instead of the \$2,500 requested for the Wall that Heals. There was a brief discussion regarding the travel route that the wall will take on its way to Birdsboro.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the \$2,500 donation from the Harms Benefit Fund to the American Legion Post 626 for the Wall that Heals. Motion carried 6-0-1 with Councilman Myers abstaining due to his position of Financial Officer for the American Legion Post 626.

Councilwoman Cotter thanked Manager Durso for his work with the Rustic Park Pavilions. Councilwoman Cotter thanked the residents for attending council meetings. Councilwoman Cotter

asked for more transparency with the Birdsboro Power project and requested monthly reports from Birdsboro Power and the DEP and requested the reports be read at Borough meetings and be placed on the Borough website. Councilman Myers concurred with Councilwoman Cotter's suggestions.

Councilman Myers requested periodic updates on projects in the Borough, i.e., the Car Museum and Birdsboro Elementary Center. Councilman Myers suggested a committee be developed for the Birdsboro Downtown Revitalization Project. Manager Durso will contact Urban Research and get a copy of the Birdsboro Revitalization Plan and copies of such will be provided to Council. Councilman Myers suggested enhancing the Borough so it can be a destination site. President Happel, Councilmen Peterson and Myers will work together on the Furnace Street Revitalization Committee. Councilman Myers asked the status of the Motta property and Manager Durso noted it is being worked on by Solicitor Joan London who represents the Berks County Redevelopment Authority.

Public Comment

Steve Lusky, 211 Caravan Drive, asked a question of Council regarding the home that was recently in the paper. He asked Councilwoman Cotter a question regarding the Birdsboro Municipal Authority. He asked her if she felt that the Birdsboro Municipal Authority should be a separate entity and not have its expenses and operations intermingled with the Borough. Councilwoman Cotter stated that she feels that the accounts should be kept separate. Mr. Lusky stated that he thinks the Wall that Heals is a good thing coming to the community.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Secretary