

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 16, 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
Terry Weiler, Solicitor
Brian Boyer, Engineer
Bonnie L. Frisco, Administrative Assistant

Not Present: Aaron J. Durso, Borough Manager

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 Councilwoman Cotter.

Birdsboro Community Memorial Center – Jeff Sparrow

Jeff Sparrow, Director of the Birdsboro Community Memorial Center (BCMC), noted construction work that is needed at BCMC, removing existing ceilings and replacing with lighter, more efficient drop ceilings. Mr. Sparrow asked if Council would consider waiving the building permit fees for the proposed project.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to waive the building permit fees for the ceiling replacement project at the BCMC. The motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

There was no public comment on agenda items.

Minutes – April 2, 2018

A **motion** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the April 2, 2018 Council meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

Bills List

A **motion** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Bills Lists dated April 16, 2018 and checks for ratification dated April 3, 2018 – April 15, 2018. Motion carried 7-0. Councilwoman Cotter had a question about the payment to Southern Berks EMS and it was noted it was for payment of the emergency service collections and not a donation.

A **motion** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the Treasurer's Report dated April 16, 2018. Motion carried 7-0. Councilwoman Cotter noted that she reviewed the Treasurer's Report with Treasurer Yanos and Manager Durso and the corrections have been made except for one line to be filled in but that will be addressed at the meeting with the auditors

to be held tomorrow, Tuesday April 17. Vice President McCauley noted that the Water Department overtime is already at 50% and it was noted the reason for that was the snowplowing overtime.

Manager's Report

Berks County Joint Comprehensive Plan

A **motion** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve Resolution No. 2018-26 approving Birdsboro Borough's participation in the Berks County Joint Comprehensive Plan Update. Motion carried 7-0.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council. Engineer Boyer provided an overview of the status of the Birdsboro Power Combined Cycle plan and noted the preliminary/final plan is acceptable for approval contingent upon the correction of minor items. Engineer Boyer noted they have received the sewage approvals. Mayor Peterson noted it is a 2 lot subdivision. Engineer Boyer recommended the plan be given conditional approval and the waivers be approved as well. Engineer Boyer provided a brief overview of the requested waivers. Councilwoman Cotter noted concern of the building to take place in the floodplain and Engineer Boyer noted the site is on the 'fringe' of the floodplain and the area can be used at the discretion of the municipality.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the waivers requests for the Birdsboro Power Combined Cycle project as read by Engineer Boyer from Boyer Engineering correspondence dated April 12, 2018. Motion carried 7-0

A **motion** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the Birdsboro Power Combined Cycle preliminary/final plan contingent upon the changes being made to the satisfaction of Engineer Boyer. Motion carried 7-0.

Engineer Boyer provided an update of the Rustic Park pavilions and noted that construction will start Monday, April 23 and the plans are to have Pavilion #4 under roof for the May 5 Fish Rodeo. The contract states a May 18 finish date.

Councilman Myers asked Engineer Boyer the status of the Haycreek Bridge grant application and Engineer Boyer noted the grant had been denied. Councilman Myers asked Engineer Boyer to provide Council with information regarding all grant applications.

Mayor/Police Reports

Mayor Peterson noted IRS scams and stated that the IRS will not call on the phone but send written documentation so if a call is received saying they are the IRS it is a scam.

Chief Roth reviewed his report with Council. Chief Roth noted a 72-year old on E. 3rd Street was a victim of a computer scam where the scammer said they will remove the malware from the individual's computer once the person obtains Walmart gifts cards and provides the gift card numbers and PINs to the scammer. Chief Roth noted on March 28 Officer Kasopsky handled an assault case but the girlfriend did not appear at District Court for the hearing. Officer Kasopsky handled a theft case where the offenders used distraction tactics, the thefts occurred at Boyer's Market and other area markets.

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

Solicitor Weiler noted he sent a draft of the snow removal ordinance to the Borough Manager. Solicitor Weiler noted that the meeting with Supportive Concepts regarding 353 Bird Street was productive and it was noted that the troublesome resident is being removed.

Solicitor Weiler requested an Executive Session.

Council Reports

Councilman Scioli noted that the Wall that Heals is a 5013C and noted that Muhlenburg spent \$25,000 a year ago on the Wall that Heals. Councilman Scioli noted that if the donations exceed the monies needed for the Wall that Heals then the overage will be spent on veteran needs. President Happel asked if donations to the Wall that Heals can be used as a tax deduction and Councilman Scioli noted yes because it is a 5013C.

Councilwoman Cotter noted she hopes to have resumes for the Junior Council Person position for the next meeting. Councilwoman Cotter asked about the submittal of the Fire Department report and it was noted the report is provided once a month. Councilwoman Cotter thanked the public for their attendance and participation at the Council meetings.

Councilman Peterson noted that prom is next week and commencement is June 8.

Councilman Blank noted that requiring residents to park in their driveways during a snowstorm will make the plowing easier for Borough employees.

Councilman Myers thanked President Happel for creating the ADHOC Revitalization Committee. Councilman Myers noted that Council should review the Revitalization Plan to turn Birdsboro Borough into a destination community and suggested interpretive informational signs be placed in front of cultural and historical buildings like the Community Center, M&T Bank and other areas. Bruce Hoffman, local Historian, should be contacted to provide assistance with the text and pictures for the signs. An estimate showed that each sign could cost \$1,000. Councilman Myers noted he contacted Bob Folwell of the Schuylkill River trails regarding this issue. Councilman Myers will compile the sign costs and bring his findings to Council.

Councilman Myers noted a piece he read in the Borough News about a 'little free library' and noted that Union Township has one at the trailhead of the Meadows Trail. The little library is basically a box on a stake and is handled as 'give a book, take a book'. Councilman Myers recommended approaching Boone Area Library and ask if they would be willing to participate and noting Rustic Park, Vest Pocket Park and Main Bird Park would be good locations and it would make an ideal Eagle Scout Project. Councilwoman Cotter noted that individuals could donate their own books. Councilman Myers will contact Boone Area Library and Boy Scout Troop 595.

Mayor Peterson noted the Clean Up Day at Pioneer Crossing Landfill is scheduled for April 28 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 8:27 p.m. Solicitor Weiler noted the Executive Session was to discuss the Sunshine Law and the Right to Know Act and distributed to Council documents relating to such subject matter. Also, discussed was the Turkey Hill liquor license transfer and Solicitor Weiler asked for Council to provide their comments and he will draft a response to the appeal.

Public Comment

Don Wary, 511 Jefferson Street, asked about the status of the train station and Solicitor Weiler noted that the issue is still in litigation.

David Snyder, 348 Drew Court, noted concern about the proposed snow removal ordinance and noted that sometimes the plow trucks pile the snow high at the end of the driveways and noted if the plow trucks don't do their job properly the ordinance could be cause for a legal complaint.

Tom Brungard, 908 Union Street, noted that England has book drops where they utilize phone booths and thought that maybe Windstream could donate the same for advertising purposes. Mr. Brungard thanked Councilwoman Cotter and the others for their hard work.

Bonnie Poshefko, 16 Mansion Court W, referencing the proposed snow removal ordinance requiring residents to park their cars in their driveway during a snowstorm, suggested that residents be notified to park in their driveways by letter or other means in lieu of adopting an ordinance.

Steve Lusky, 211 Caravan Drive, noted that he has not received the information he asked for in his Right to Know request and asked why there was a 30-day extension. Solicitor Weiler noted he would have to confer with Manager Durso.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Administrative Assistant