

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

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

**Staff & Professionals:** Theodore Roth, Chief of Police  
Aaron J. Durso, Manager  
Terry Weiler, Solicitor

**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 Manager Durso.

**Public Comment of Agenda Items**

There was no public comment on agenda items.

**Minutes– April 16, 2018 Council Meeting**

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Blank to approve the April 16, 2018 Council Meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

**Bills List**

A **motion** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the Bills List dated May 7, 2018 and Checks for Ratification dated April 17, 2018 – May 6, 2018. Motion carried 7-0.

**Manager’s Report**

**Fish Rodeo – Tent Rental Donation**

There was a discussion regarding the tent rental donation for the Sportman’s Club Fish Rodeo. Vice President McCauley asked a question about the Harms Benefit Fund and Manager Durso responded. Councilman Blank provided the reasons why he objects to the tent rental donation to the Sportman’s Club Fish Rodeo. Mayor Peterson noted that this is the 39th or 40th consecutive year for the Fish Rodeo and it is a tremendous community event. Four hundred kids attended Friday and one hundred on Saturday. Councilwoman Cotter asked if the Sportman’s Club was told the pavilions would be ready and Manager Durso responded. Councilman Myers noted the Fish Rodeo is a good event and the Borough should help with the costs.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilman Myers to donate \$500 from the Harms Benefit Fund for the tent rental donation for the Sportsman’s Club Fish Rodeo. Motion carried 6-1.

**Pavilion Update**

Manager Durso provided an update of the progress of the Rustic Park Pavilions project.

Consumer Confidence Report (Water Quality Report)

Manager Durso noted the Consumer Confidence Report (Water Quality Report) has been completed and placed on the Borough website.

Borough Code Enforcement Update

Manager Durso provided an update of the April activity for code enforcement issues.

Summer Meeting Schedule (third Monday for June, July and August)

Manager Durso reminded Council and the public of the summer meeting schedule for Council which is the third Monday of each for the months of June, July and August.

Councilman Myers asked about the Animal Rescue League Spaying and Neutering program and Manger Durso noted that the Animal Rescue League does the spaying and neutering for \$35.00.

**Engineer's Report**

No new report.

**Mayor/Police Reports**

Mayor Peterson noted a recent police call that resulted in the injury of a Borough police officer and Chief Roth provided an overview of the incident.

**Emergency Management**

No new report.

**Fire Department**

No new report

**Parks and Recreation**

Report was e-mailed to Council.

**Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Weiler asked for an Executive Session following the meeting.

**Council/Committee Reports**

**Councilman Blank** asked about the snow ordinance and Solicitor Weiler noted he will have a draft prepared next week.

**Councilman Scioli** noted he attended the Berks County Coordinated Addressing Seminar at the Commissioner's Breakfast which occurs twice a year.

**Councilman Peterson** inquired about the policy relating to painting secondary roads and Manager Durso noted he will look into it and it was noted there are too many cars for secondary roads. Chief Roth voiced a complaint about Pear Street and Jefferson Street. Councilman Peterson noted the Maple Springs Pool will open on Memorial Day and they are looking to get sponsorships for pool repairs.

**Councilman Myers** stated he does not believe the Sunshine Law has been violated and read a few e-mails regarding the issue.

Councilman Myers noted a local artist, Carrie Kingsbury, is interested in painting a mural on the Birdsboro Steel building on Furnace Street. Councilman Myers asked Councilman Peterson if he could approach the owner of the building. It was suggested that Ms. Kinsbury contact Ms. Shriner at Daniel Boone High School.

Councilman Myers handed out to Council a sample of the historical/informational interpretative signs. Councilman Myers will contact Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman, local historians, about the interpretive signs and will discuss the little library idea with Boone Area Library and Boy Scout Troop 595.

Councilman Myers read the Parks and Recreation Ordinance and noted that Parks and Recreation can have nine members and at the present time there are only seven members. He suggested that two more members be added. An advertisement will be placed on the Borough website and digital sign. Councilman Myers asked Cindy McGee, Parks and Recreation Chair, if she would be opposed to adding additional members and Mrs. McGee noted why there are seven members and a brief discussion followed. Councilwoman Cotter felt adding two members to Parks and Recreation was a great idea and suggested someone on Council be on Parks and Recreation and she volunteered.

A **motion** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Scioli to authorize Solicitor Weiler to draw up procedures for persons entering Borough Hall. Motion carried 6-1.

Councilman Peterson noted there should no longer be concerns about unauthorized people entering Borough Hall since there will be an automatic locking door. Councilman Myers read a draft of procedures to Council.

**Councilwoman Cotter** noted that one resume was submitted for the Junior Council Person position but unfortunately the person lived in Union Township, therefore, not meeting the Borough resident requirement. Councilwoman Cotter will contact Union Township to ask if they would consider creating a Junior Council Person program in Union Township so the young man who submitted his resume could volunteer there. Councilman Peterson suggested it would be better to get candidates at the beginning of the school year and a brief discussion ensued.

Councilwoman Cotter noted that she, Councilman Scioli and Councilman Myers met with the auditor, and corrections are being made to the Treasurer's Report as a result of discussions during that meeting.

Councilwoman Cotter congratulated Councilman Myers for winning his age group in the Mission 5K run.

**Mayor Peterson** noted that on June 12, 2018 at 11:15 a.m. it is Birdsboro Elementary Center's custom to have a parade for the 5th graders to cheer them on as they go to Middle School and he encouraged Council and the public to attend.

**Public Comment**

Cindy McGee, 101 N. Spruce Street, asked why Council had a Special Meeting/Executive Session at 6:00 pm. instead of just having an Executive Session after this evening's regular meeting and Solicitor Weiler responded.

David Snyder, 348 Drew Court, noted that pursuing a local artist for a mural could save money. Mayor Peterson and Councilman Myers noted that the artist lives in the Borough.

Suzanne Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, noted that Alice Focht Church is no longer open and the building could be sold or torn down so that site would not be good for a historical/informational interpretative sign.

Don Wary, 511 Jefferson Street, provided information about a mural in Hamburg.

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m. Solicitor Weiler summarized the Executive Session concerning the appeal from Turkey Hill regarding the liquor license transfer and noted that Council is negotiating conditions.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Durso  
Borough Secretary