

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

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

Staff & Professionals: Terry Weiler, Solicitor
Aaron J. Durso, 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 Manager Durso.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- No public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the August 20, 2018 regular meeting minutes and the August 27, 2018 special meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Blank noted concern that some of his comments were not included in the minutes. No further action was taken.

BILLS LIST

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman McCauley and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the Bills List dated September 4, 2018, and the Checks for Ratification dated August 21, 2018 through September 3, 2018, as presented. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Myers inquired about the Wrigley's Office Products payment and Councilman Scioli asked a question about the street risers.

MANAGER'S REPORT

UGI Request

- There were questions regarding UGI's request to use the Borough parking lot on N. Water Street for a gas regulator facility relating to how much noise the facility would produce.

Schuylkill Road Low Volume Road Grant

- Manager Durso noted the Borough has made application for a Low Volume Road Grant for Schuylkill Road.

Christmas Lights

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman McCauley to approve the contract with Halter Landscaping for the Christmas lights for the amount of \$11,950.00. carries 7-0

Christmas in Birdsboro

- There was a discussion regarding the Christmas in Birdsboro event. Manager Durso read an e-mail from Steve Lusky of the Parks and Recreation Board and it was noted that one individual cannot decide that Christmas in Birdsboro is cancelled. Councilman Myers stated that he attended the June Parks and Recreation Board meeting and there was no discussion

regarding Christmas in Birdsboro and when asked the Parks and Recreation Board responded that they did not start planning Christmas in Birdsboro until the Fall. Council had approached Parks and Recreation in January regarding the ice sculptures and ice slide. Councilman Myers noted there will be Christmas in Birdsboro in 2018 and a number of events will be put on by various community groups. Manager Durso was requested to contact local churches and get information and once events are organized they are to be posted on the Borough website. Manager Durso was instructed to contact community organizations such as Scout Groups, Veterans' Organization, the Community Center, the Library and the Theatre group to see what they have planned for Christmas events.

Fee Schedule

- Manager Durso distributed the proposed and current fee schedules for Council's review.

Borough Hall Keys

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman McCauley to replace the locks at Borough Hall for an amount not to exceed \$100.00. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to keep a record of who is given keys to Borough Hall and ensure that keys are collected when someone terminates their relationship with the Borough. The motion carried 7-0.

Municipal Officials Breakfast

- Manager Durso noted that the Municipal Officials Breakfast will be held Friday, September 28, 2018 at Friendship Fire Company No. 1 of Geigertown at 3433 Haycreek Road at 8:00 a.m. doors open 7:40 a.m. RSVP by September 19, 2018. Councilman Blank noted he had heard that someone may have mentioned that the Borough did not want to host the Municipal Officials' breakfasts any longer and asked if someone had said that and nobody responded in the affirmative.

Recycling

- Councilman Myers asked about the recycling date this week and it was noted that it will be collected Thursday instead of Wednesday due to Monday's Labor Day holiday.

Angry Anvil Liquor License

- Manager Durso noted a letter received from MB Investments asking Council to consider providing a letter of support for their liquor license for the Angry Anvil Restaurant.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilman Blank to authorize Solicitor Weiler to prepare a letter of support for the liquor license hearing for the Angry Anvil Restaurant and authorize Manager Durso to testify at the hearing if needed. Motion carried 7-0.

Budget Meeting

- Manager Durso noted the budget meeting will be September 17, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- No new report for discussion.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES/DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Reports to be provided in Council packets

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: No new report

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No new report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman McCauley to approve Ordinance No. 476 amending the Parking Ordinance to lift parking restrictions on the East side of Jefferson Street from First Street to Apple Street as a result of the closing of the Birdsboro Elementary Center. Motion carried 7-0.
- Solicitor Weiler provided an update of the Police Chief interviews.
- Councilman Myers asked for an update of the Motta's property and Solicitor Weiler responded.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Myers said he saw in the Borough News publication a grant opportunity for volunteer fire departments and asked Manager Durso to forward such to the Birdsboro Union Fire Department. Councilman Myers asked Manager Durso to make Engineer Boyer aware of Parks and Recreation grant opportunities. Councilman Myers noted that the Birdsboro Rotary awarded two grants for the interpretive sign program both for \$1,500.00. One grant is for the sign at the Bird Mansion (BCMC) and other grant for the sign that is in the design phase.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman McCauley to accept the \$1,500.00 grants one to go towards the Bird Mansion interpretive sign and move forward with the sign installation and send a thank you letter to the Rotary Club. Motion carried 7-0.
- Councilman Blank noted erosion damage to the bank near the ADA ramp at the Police Department and asked if Council would approve repair of such at a cost of \$300.00 for pavers and \$350.00 for gutters. Councilman Myers asked if anyone has conferred with Engineer Boyer regarding the repair and Councilwoman Cotter asked what the consequences would be if the repair was not done and Councilman Blank noted that left as is the bank would continue to erode. Motion carried 7-0.
- Councilman McCauley requested an update of the parking issue complaint on Orange Street. Manager Durso gave an update
- Councilman Scioli stated that Council needs to move on and have grace moving forward.
- Councilwoman Cotter stated that Council should have more respect for each other. Councilwoman Cotter inquired about the car loan and Manager Durso noted he spoke to the auditors and the item is being addressed. Councilwoman Cotter complimented the job that was done on the roads. Councilwoman Cotter thanked the public for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, asked a question about the Gateway sign and Councilman Blank responded.
- Don Wary, 511 Jefferson Street, noted a weed issue at 138 S. Spruce Street and also asked if the Council made a commitment to purchase ice sculptures and it was noted that no commitment was made for the purchase of ice sculptures.
- Cindy McGee disputed the earlier comment voiced about the Parks and Recreation Board planning timeline of Christmas in Birdsboro and did note that the Parks and Recreation Board had looked into another ice sculpture company.
- Cindy McGee asked what was discussed at the August 27, 2018 special meeting. Solicitor Weiler noted a Right to Know matter and employment matters.
- David Snyder, 348 Drew Court, asked what the plan of action is regarding the Parks and Recreation Board suggested soliciting clubs to help form a Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Snyder thanked Council for moving forward with establishing a Parks and Recreation Board.

- It was noted that the Parks and Recreation Board ordinance requires the Parks and Recreation Board should consist nine members and the ordinance should be revised to state that there should be no less than five members and no more than nine members.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilman Myers to authorize Solicitor Weiler to prepare a proposed ordinance to amend the Parks and Recreation Board ordinance to note that the Parks and Recreation Board should have no less than five members and no more than nine members. Motion carried 7-0.

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 9:30 p.m. Solicitor Weiler stated that personnel and litigation matters were discussed in Executive Session resulting in the following.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to send the Worker's Compensation offer letter to the Borough employee as discussed. Motion carried 7-0.
- The Right to Know matter has been resolved and final determination is awaited.
- The Police Chief search has been narrowed down to two candidates.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman McCauley to notify Police Chief Candidate One that the Borough is interested. Motion carried 7-0.
- President Happel stated that a committee needs to be appointed to determine the conditions of employment for the new Police Chief. The committee will be Mayor Peterson, Solicitor Weiler, Councilman McCauley, Councilwoman Cotter and Councilman Peterson. Solicitor Weiler will make the first contact with the candidate to discuss employment.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilman Scioli to consult with Solicitor Matthew Crème at a rate of \$175.00 to review the current Chief of Police contract. Motion carried 7-0.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Birdsboro Municipal Authority	Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 6:30 PM
Budget Meeting	Monday, September 17, 2018 at 6:00 PM
Borough Council	Monday, September 17, 2018, at 7:00 PM
Planning Commission	Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at 7:00 PM (<i>if needed</i>)

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Manager