

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 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 (via phone)
Robert Myers, Member Anthony Scioli, Member

Staff & Professionals: Theodore Roth, Chief of Police Robin Levengood, Solicitor
Aaron J. Durso, Manager 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 Manager Durso.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- There was no public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Blank to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2018 regular meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

BILLS LIST

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Bills List dated September 17, 2018, and the Checks for Ratification dated September 5, 2018 through September 16, 2018. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the Treasurer's Report dated September 17, 2018. Motion carried 7-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Fee Schedule

- Councilwoman Cotter had questions regarding the proposed fee schedule and Councilman Happel made note of building permits required for residential water heaters. Manager Durso explained that the fees cover the Borough costs for inspections.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilman Blank to advertise the new fee schedule for adoption at the October 1, 2018 Council meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

2019 MMO Obligations

Manager Durso noted that based off of the estimates the Borough will have a liability this year as State Aid will not cover the full amount of the MMO. The estimated amounts of each plan's liability are:

Non-Uniform	\$1,227.00
Police	\$9,310.00
Teamsters	\$6,096.00

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers acknowledging receipt of the 2019 MMO Obligations. Motion carried 7-0.

Christmas in Birdsboro Update

- Manager Durso provided an update of the Christmas in Birdsboro event. Councilman Myers noted that he attended the Love Loud Event and complimented the event and said that there were over 800 attendees and he thinks that the ministerium will come up with something to make the Christmas in Birdsboro event a success. Event examples noted were Mission Trip Birdsboro (St. Paul's), Rotary Halloween Parade, The Wall that Heals (VFW, American Legion), Car Show (Woman's Club of Birdsboro and Masonic Lodge) and noted there is good synergy in the community.

Municipal Officials Breakfast

Manager Durso reminded Council of the Municipal Officials Breakfast to 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.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Engineer Brian Boyer reviewed his report with Council.

MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Mayor Peterson noted that the Alice Focht Church has an agreement of sale and he noted that he performed two weddings in the past month.
- Chief Roth reviewed his report with Council. Chief Roth noted a gas leak that was discovered by Sergeant Riegel.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Water Department: Report provided in Council packet
2. Sewer Department: Report provided in Council packet
3. Streets Department: A Council member inquired if the Borough removed brush from St. Mark's Church and Manager Durso noted that the Streets Department did remove brush from St. Mark's Church

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- It was noted that PEMA will be doing a tour of the storm/flood damage and paperwork is being completed to properly report the storm damage. The Borough is NIMS compliant for 2018.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No new report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Solicitor Levengood provided an update of counsel's monthly activities and noted that they are in the process of preparing a Parks and Recreation Board ordinance.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Scioli asked a question regarding Route 345 repairs and inquired about tours of the Birdsboro Power Plant.
- Councilwoman Cotter thanked Sergeant Riegel, the Borough Police Department, Birdsboro Union Fire Department, Geigertown Fire Department for handling the gas leak and also thanked the residents in attendance for their participation in the Council meeting.
- Councilman Peterson complimented the Love Loud Event.

- Councilman Myers noted the Schuylkill River Greenway Association 3rd Annual Ride for the River will be held 9/29/18 it starts and ends at the Sly Fox in Pottstown. Councilman Myers also provided an updated regarding the interpretative historical signs and provided a graphic design.
- MOTION was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the interpretative historical sign design as presented by Councilman Myers. Motion carried 7-0.
- Councilman Myers stated that he would like President Happel to form a committee to help with the sign designs. Borough resident Nancy Kauffman has asked to be on the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Bob Mealand noted a location for the interpretative historical sign for the Community Center. Mr. Mealand noted that the Community Center will hold the craft fair on 12/8/18. Mr. Mealand made some suggestions for Christmas in Birdsboro activities, such as BCMC fundraiser, a Santa Stroll event in place of the 5K during the day.
- Carl Motta noted the issue with the train station property and noted he has spent 5 years in court and spent thousands of dollars. There was discussion regarding imminent domain. There was a question posed if the Borough wants the station and there was a brief discussion regarding the potential uses of the property.
- Denise Harner of the Birdsboro American Legion Post 626 noted that the Legion would like to rename Optimist Field to the American Legion Post 626 Field and the field would be maintained by the American Legion Baseball Association.

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 8:55 p.m. Solicitor Levengood stated that an employment matter.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Scioli to make an informal offer to the top candidate and have Solicitor Weiler extend an offer. The candidate is not being named due to their current employment. Motion carried 7-0.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Birdsboro Municipal Authority	Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at 6:30 PM
Borough Council	Monday, October 1, 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 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Manager