

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 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 Theodore Roth, Chief of Police
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.

IBEW Local 743

- Mayor Peterson presented a Proclamation to the IBEW Local 743 for their volunteer work on the Rustic Park Pavilions.

American Legion – American Legion Baseball Field

- Denise Harner, American Legion Post 626, made a presentation about the American Legion Baseball League and how the American Legion Post 626 contributed to the program. Councilman Sciolio stated that there are legion posts around the country that help with baseball organizations. Mayor Peterson provided a history of the Optimist Club and noted that about 60 years ago the baseball field was turned over to the Borough. Vice President McCauley stated that the Borough ballfield is open to the public and use cannot be restricted.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Vice President McCauley to change the name of the Optimist ballfield on E. Main Street from Optimist Field to American Legion Post 626 Field. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the September 17, 2018 regular meeting minutes and the September 17, 2018 budget meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

BILLS LIST

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the Bills List dated October 1, 2018, and the Checks for Ratification dated September 18, 2018 through September 30, 2018, as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Animal Rescue League (ARL) 2019 Donation

- Manager Durso presented the Animal Rescue League 2019 Donation Agreement. Council discussed the agreement and there was concern regarding the increase in costs. It was agreed to invite the ARL Director to the October or November meeting.

Adoption of Fees Schedule

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve Resolution No. 2018-30 adopting the Master Fee Schedule for the Borough of Birdsboro. Motion carried 7-0

Schuylkill River Trail Storm Pipe Grant

- Manager Durso stated that the application for the Schuylkill River Trail Storm Pipe Grant has been submitted and there is a 50% match.

Pioneer Crossing Landfill Fall Clean Up

- Manager Durso noted the Fall Clean Up at Pioneer Crossing Landfill will be held Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Mayor Peterson noted that the personnel committee met and a decision has been made to offer the Chief of Police position to Todd Trupp and they are in final contract discussions and also noted the committee is very happy with Mr. Trupp's qualifications.
- Chief Roth provided a follow up of the 2016 roofing scam case and the person was caught and sentenced. Also noted were on W. 2nd Street – on 9/25 a bicycle was stolen, on 9/26 another bike was stolen, on 9/27 a craftsman toolbox was stolen, on 9/27 Birdsboro Elementary Center (BEC) was broken in to and vandalized. Chief Roth asked if Council would consider rolling over Officer Reinhart's unused vacation, sick, and wildcard Fridays into 2019.
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to allow Officer Reinhart to carryover into 2019 200 hours vacation time, 40 hours personal time, 10 hours for Wildcard Friday to be used within 90 days of his return. Motion carried 7-0.
- Councilman Blank asked Chief Roth the status of the investigation into the vandalism at Rustic Park and Councilman Myers asked if it was connected to the bike thefts and BEC vandalism and Chief Roth responded.

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: No new report

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No new report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Solicitor Weiler provided an update of the Southern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan and noted that each municipality must appoint representatives. Vice President McCauley and President Happel have been the representatives in the past. Meetings will begin to be scheduled and the municipality representatives are to attend. Solicitor Weiler noted he worked on a Right to Know Request that involved Borough payroll amounts.
- Solicitor Weiler requested an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel matters (new Chief of Police contract).

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Scioli noted he had sent Council an e-mail regarding the Hurricane Toy and Food Drive and noted that American Legion Post 626 will be a drop off location from October 1 -November 18.
- Councilman Myers noted that on September 20 Birdsboro representatives attended a Future of Berks County Fire Fighting seminar, those attending were Jonathan Barnes, Ken Long and Frank Nefos.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Scioli to authorize the Borough to pay \$10.00 of expenses for each attendee totaling \$30.00. Motion carried 7-0.
- Councilwoman Cotter stated she went to a County Breakfast on September 28 with Vice President McCauley. Vice President Mccauley and Councilwoman Cotter both stated that the breakfast was very informative and there was a large question and answer session. It was noted that the spotted lantern fly is destroying the black walnut and ash trees.
- Councilwoman Cotter asked if the locks at Borough have been changed and Manager Durso responded that the locks have been changed. Councilwoman Cotter stated that new council members should be made aware of property maintenance issues, hearings, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Carl Motta asked Council the status of the train station property at W. 1st and Furnace Streets. Solicitor Weiler and Mayor Peterson summarized the status of the case.
- **EXECTIVE SESSION** Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 9:15 p.m. Solicitor Weiler noted the purpose of the Executive Session was personnel matters: review of the potential offer and contract for the Police Chief candidate and discussion of Chief Roth's retirement benefits.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Birdsboro Municipal Authority	Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at 6:30 PM
Budget Meeting	Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:00 PM
Borough Council	Monday, October 15, 2018, at 7:00 PM
Planning Commission	Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at 7:00 PM (<i>if needed</i>)

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Manager