

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2019 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- Absent

Staff & Professionals: Terry Weiler, Solicitor
Todd E. Trupp, Chief of Police
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.

APPOINTMENTS

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the below list of appointments. Motion carried 7-0.
 - a) Bruce Weidenhammer – Civil Service Commission – 6-year term to expire 12/31/24
 - b) Steve Rathman – Zoning Hearing Board – 3-year term to expire 12/31/21
 - c) Jeff Kauffman – Planning Commission – 4-year term to expire 12/31/22
 - d) Terry Weiler – Planning Commission Solicitor
 - e) Charlie Benson – Vacancy Board
 - f) Aaron J. Durso and Kenneth Templin – Alternate Code Officers
 - g) Fred Mogel – Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor
 - h) Bonnie L. Frisco – Recording Secretary – Civil Service Commission
 - i) Brown and Brown – Borough’s Insurance Agent

APPOINTMENT RESOLUTIONS

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve Resolutions 2019-01 through 2019-19 with the exception of Resolution No. 2019-18 with Councilwoman Cotter abstaining from Resolution No.2019-09 with a vote of 6-0-1 and all other approved resolutions with a vote of 7-0.
 - a) 2019 -01 - No Employee Contribution to Police Pension Plan
 - b) 2019-02 – Appoint Aaron J. Durso as Borough Manager and Secretary
 - c) 2019-03 – Appoint Berks EIT Tax Bureau as EIT and LST Tax Collector
 - d) 2019-04 – Appoint Brian Boyer of Boyer Engineers as Borough’s Engineer
 - e) 2019-05 – Appoint Kenneth J. Imes, Jr. as Emergency Management Coordinator
 - f) 2019-06 – Appoint Kelly J. Yanos as Borough Treasurer
 - g) 2019-07 – Appoint BB&T as the Investment Institution
 - h) 2019-08 – Appoint Tom Wargo of Boyer Engineering as the Zoning and Codes Officer and Building Inspector
 - i) 2019-09 – Appoint Herbein & Company as the Independent Auditor
 - j) 2019-10 – Appoint Huckabee, Weiler and Levengood, PC as the Borough Solicitor
 - k) 2019-11 – Appoint Tompkins Vist Bank as the Depository for Operating Funds

- l) 2019-12 – Re-enacting the Per Capita Tax
- m) 2019-13 – Re-enacting the Real Estate Transfer Tax
- n) 2019-14 – Appoint Aaron J. Durso as the Admin Officer of the Borough Pension Plans
- o) 2019-15 – Appoint Kenneth Templin as the Fire Marshal and Fire Code Inspector
- p) 2019-16 – Appoint Barry Katzin and Kenneth Imes, Jr. as the Deputy Fire Marshals and Deputy Fire Code Inspectors
- q) 2019-17 – Reappoint Anthony Tucci to the Birdsboro Municipal Authority for said term to expire 12/31/23
- r) 2019-18 – Appoint Kenneth Imes as the Borough’s Assistant Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer and the Building Inspector
- s) 2019-19 - Appointing Anthony Scioli as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- No public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

BILLS LIST

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the Bills List dated December 7, 2019, and the Checks for Ratification dated December 18, 2018 through January 6, 2019. Motion carried 7-0.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Animal Rescue League

- Councilman Myers noted Robeson ordinances that were advertised and copies will be provided to Council. Councilman Myers spoke to Dr. Fry, of The Vet on Main, and she noted the Fairchild Foundation Feral Cat organization charged \$10.00 per cat, one per month.

UGI

- Andrew Bielecki of UGI was present. There was discussion about the location on Water Street where UGI would like to locate a station, the station will regulate high pressure to lower pressure and the site is good for access. There were several questions from Council which were answered by Mr. Bielecki. Council will follow up with UGI to negotiate the easement amount.

Stop Signs

- Steve Lusky, 211 Caravan Drive, was present and asked to discuss stop signs. Mr. Lusky noted the need for stop signs at W. 1st Street and Washington Street, W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street and E. 1st Street and N. Spruce Street. These are heavily used streets and sight distance is compromised. Councilman Blank noted this was brought up years ago and provided a history of current stop signs.
 - Councilwoman Cotter asked that if this was a safety and security issue why Mr. Lusky not addressed when he was on Council. Mr. Lusky responded. Mr. Lusky stated that the grocery store has added traffic onto W. 1st Street. Mrs. Cotter noted that traffic in that area did change because there is no longer a school there and a small business has closed.
- President Happel noted that former Chief Roth looked into it and noted there were not many accidents at the referenced locations. Chief Trupp pulled the statistics on W. 1st Street and

there are not a lot of accidents or speed issues. Chief Trupp did note that W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street is a bad intersection and the average rate of speed is 29 mph and also noted that stop signs do unintentionally regulate speed.

- Councilman Myers noted that the intersection at Jefferson Street is worth further investigation. More data is needed to make any decisions.
- Councilman Blank asked Chief Trupp if he thinks Jefferson Street is worse than Washington Street and Chief Trupp stated he is not sure but Jefferson Street does get more traffic.
- Councilman Myers noted he does not feel a decision needs to be made tonight.
- Cindy McGee, 101 N. Spruce Street, has brought up several times over the years and she sees cars being careless at the intersection at E. 1st Street and N. Spruce Street and they had a car hit their house as well as a car full of teens roll over.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to authorize Solicitor Weiler to draft an ordinance for a 3-way stop sign at W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Myers stated he would vote no on the motion, not because he believes additional measures don't have to be taken to improve safety, but because we lack sufficient information at this time to make a good decision. There is no reason to rush headlong into the matter in one night. Borough Council should give it thoughtful and measured consideration before acting in haste. We would be best served to research the matter and analyze information that is readily available and at our disposal before we ask the Solicitor to proceed with drafting a new stop sign ordinance.
- Councilman Peterson noted that W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street is a troubling intersection. President Happel stated that Chief Trupp says that W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street is a troubling intersection and Councilman Peterson concurred. Councilwoman Cotter asked Chief Trupp if he would like to see a stop sign there and Chief Trupp responded yes. Councilman Scioli asked what data will be provided at the next meeting and Chief Trupp explained that the site distance issue warrants a sign.
- Vice President McCauley noted he attended a 4-hour seminar regarding stop signs then read LTAP Sheet 140 which contained a lot of criteria. Councilman Peterson noted that stop signs are more palatable than removing parking spaces but warned of legal implications if protocol is not followed. Vice President McCauley also noted that stop signs do not always slow speed and they accelerate between stop signs and rear-end collisions could occur. Speed bumps are a way of causing traffic flow regulations.
- Russell Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, noted several near misses at W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street in the last few months.

The motion carried 4-3 on a roll call vote

Yes (Councilman Blank, Peterson, President Happel, and Councilwoman Cotter)

No (Councilman Myers, Scioli and Vice President McCauley)

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- No new report.

MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Chief Trupp asked Solicitor Weiler about a fireworks ordinance and Solicitor Weiler noted he would piggyback another municipality.

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 Scioli and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve Ordinance No. 477, Approval of the Tax Ordinance for 2019 taxes. Motion carried 7-0.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Myers noted the third sign for heritage sign program is the New First Baptist Church and he distributed text and there was discussion about the second sign's location.
- Councilman Peterson thanked those who came to the meeting and noted the Facebook crowd is counterproductive; addressing issues in person is viable.
- Councilwoman Cotter represented Council at the Daniel Boone High School – Future Business Leaders. Councilwoman Cotter noted there were many good accomplishments in 2018 and thanked everyone at the table. Councilwoman Cotter noted the blow backs at the Birdsboro Power Plant will be a good use of the Berks Alert System.
- Councilman Scioli noted a lot got done in 2018 and there were some good debates.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Don Wary, 511 Jefferson Street, asked about resident drop offs at Mascaro and Manager Durso noted he will follow up.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Borough Council	Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Birdsboro Municipal Authority	Tuesday, February 12, 2018 at 6:30 PM
Planning Commission	Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM, if needed

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Secretary