

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 21, 2019 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

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

**Council Members Absent:** Mary Ann Cotter, Member                      Austin Peterson, Member

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

- No public comment on agenda items.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2019 council meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

**BILLS LIST**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Bills List dated January 21, 2019, and the Checks for Ratification dated January 8, 2019 through January 20, 2019. Motion carried 5-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Treasurer's Report dated January 21, 2019. Motion carried 5-0.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Recycling Grant

- Recycling grant update provided by Manager Durso.

Animal Rescue League

- There was discussion regarding the Animal Rescue League agreement and Councilman Myers reviewed Robeson Township's draft ordinance, lengthy discussion ensued.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilman Myers to enter into the fee-for-service agreement with the Berks County Animal Rescue League. Motion carried 5-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Vice President McCauley to revise Chapter 89 (Animals) of the Code of Ordinances, to add the

language from the Animal Rescue League agreement and add the text found in the Robeson Township's draft ordinance which addresses the ability for the Borough to recoup costs it incurs from the owner of a stray or lost animal. It would also require residents to bring stray or lost animals to the Police Department and the Police Department would notify the ARL. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Daniel Boone Spring Track

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve Manager Durso's coaching Daniel Boone Spring Track. Motion carried 5-0.

#### 117-119 N. Mill Street

- Discussion regarding the request for the purchase of the parking lot at 117-119 N. Mill Street owned by the Borough. The property will have to appraised and then go out for bid. Mayor Peterson noted the lack of parking in the economic development downtown area and suggested that if 117-119 N. Mill is sold the proceeds could possibly be used to purchase the phone company lot and rent out 20% of the spaces and use the other spaces for local businesses.

#### Junior Council Person

- Manager Durso noted a Junior Council Person resume is in the Council packets.

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council. There was discussion regarding the old train station, Manager Durso to check the status.
- Councilman Myers asked a question about E. Main Street and Chestnut Street, Engineer Boyer responded.

#### **MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- Chief Trupp noted there is discussion for Citizens Police Academy with Cumru and Brecknock Townships, which allows citizens to learn about police work and it gets the Police Departments engaged with the community. Courses are one night per week and residents are required to apply.
- Chief Trupp asked to participate in Cody's newest program, there is no cost and there will be meetings to attend.
- Chief Trupp noted a program of Berks County and the Council of Chemical Abuse that allows for the recipient who was saved from a drug overdose to meet the officer that saved them.

#### **MUNICIPAL SERVICES/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

1. Water Department: Report provided in Council packet
2. Sewer Department: Report provided in Council packet
3. Streets Department: Report provided in Council packet.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**: No new report

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** report provided in Council packet.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Reviewed his monthly activities as previously discussed under the Manager and Engineer report

**COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Councilman Scioli suggested taking the donated bench to the American Legion Ballfield and Councilman Myers suggested setting the bench at the top of the hill. Councilman Myers suggested placing the bench on the top of the hill above the field as long as it can be secured in that location.
- Vice President McCauley attended the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee meeting and noted that odor complaints are up and the vent pipes are being moved. Overweight trucks have gone down, and November was the highest month for tonnage. Vice President McCauley asked Manager Durso about the PUC fine and Manager Durso responded.
  - Councilman Myers asked the status of the stop sign ordinance and Manager Durso provided a summarization and noted that the issue at W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street is symptomatic of a problem that could exist Borough wide. A more comprehensive study should be done Borough wide. “Councilman Myers asked the status of the stop sign ordinance. Manager Durso provided a summarization. Councilman Myers stated that the issue at W 1st Street and Jefferson Street is symptomatic of problems that in all likelihood exist Borough wide. A number of intersections have line of sight issues, and a more comprehensive study may be in order. Councilman Myers reviewed accident data for 2018 that was provided by Chief Trupp. He noted that four accidents were reported for the entire length of W 1st Street in 2018, whereas there were six on Hay Creek Road, ten on N Furnace Street, and eleven on E Main Street for the period. Chief Trupp was asked to conduct a more detailed analysis of our speed and accident data, and come back with recommendations for resolutions for any problem areas. Councilman Myers suggested that multiway stop signs at intersections isn't the only approach to making hazardous intersections safer. Other possible solutions that could be considered include the installation of speed humps or rumble strips, the deployment of more digital speed signs, extension of yellow curbing, convex mirrors, and more rigorous traffic safety enforcement efforts.
- Steve Lusky, 211 Caravan Drive, noted he had contacted PennDOT representative, Pat Wright, regarding the W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street intersection and noted that Mr. Wright is willing to come to the Borough for a presentation and site visit at the intersection with Borough officials.
- Mr. Brumgard, 908 Union Street noted concern about the mirrors at the intersection. Resident, Mr. Snyder, said if people obeyed the laws there would not be so many problems. Chief Trupp provided speed averages for W. 1st Street. Council discussed issues at other intersections.

- Russell Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, provided input on the busy times at W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street.
- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, noted she has not encountered issues at the intersection at W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- No public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso  
Borough Manager