

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 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

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 Pastor Joe Motz of St. Paul's UCC.

Junior Council Person

- Councilwoman Cotter provided an overview of the Junior Council Program and explained the duties of the Junior Council Person.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to nominate Ashley Gieringer as a Junior Council Person. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor Peterson administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Gieringer.

Schuylkill River Greenway

- Robert Folwell of Schuylkill River Greenway provided an overview of the trailhead location and requirements for the trailhead. He explained why the location is ideal. A three-panel kiosk will be needed along with 10-15 parking spaces and the road would need to be dedicated.
- Vice President McCauley asked what the next steps are and Mr. Folwell noted the next step is to contact property owners.
- Councilman Myers noted it is very exciting for Birdsboro Borough to become a trailhead and it is positive for the community and a good destination for trail users. Councilman Myers asked Manager Durso about the storm sewer project along the trail. Durso gave update.

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 January 21, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried 7-0. Manager Durso and Councilman Myers noted the changes to the minutes.

BILLS LIST

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the Bills List dated February 4, 2019, and the Checks for Ratification dated January 22, 2019 through February 3, 2019. Motion carried 7-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Animal Rescue League

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the Animal Rescue League Fee-for-Service Contract with the 30-day opt out language. Motion carried 7-0.

Recycling Grant

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to advertise the draft ordinance for the amendment of Ordinances 110, 374 and 385. Motion carried 7-0.
- Manager Durso requested an Executive Session as the end of the meeting for a Personnel matter, no action will need to be taken.

Manager Durso handed out a contract for pricing for 2018 from Excellence Auto Care for Council's review.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- No new report.

MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Chief Trupp noted he met with the PADOT consultant and provided an update of such meeting. Noted were some sight distance issues at W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street but a stop sign was not recommended. At E. 1st Street and Mill Street there is the potential for a stop sign on the East side or another option is to eliminate left turns. At E. 1st Street and Spruce Street the sight distances are fine. The PADOT consultant referenced PADOT documents and Councilman Myers read the section of the document.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to paint crosswalks along East and West 1st Streets and provide calming signs at W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street. Councilman Myers asked Chief Trupp his opinion and Chief Trupp noted it is a good start. Councilman Peterson noted that he did not feel that Council is listening to the will of the people. Councilwoman Cotter noted the webinar and site visit helped provide additional information. The motion carried 7-0.

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 noted he is working on the recycling ordinance, animal control ordinance and VFW Way. Solicitor Weiler provided an update of the lease of the parking lot at 117-119 N. Furnace Street and noted there is no option to purchase. The property would have to be appraised and put up at public auction for sale if the appraisal is over \$1,500.00.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Myers provided an update of the Heritage Sign for the Mercantile Building. The next sign will be at the New First Baptist Church which was the old St. Michael's. The fourth sign will be the neighborhood signs, the first two to be paid for by the Rotary Club and American Legion Post 626 will pay for two sign, and the Woman's Club may also sponsor a sign.
- Councilman Myers noted there will be meetings between the American Legion, Daniel Boone School District and the Coaches Association to discuss the American Legion Ballfield. The Daniel Boone

Athletic Association is doing most of the maintenance and the American Legion Post 626 donated \$25,000 for the field upgrade. Councilman Myers asked if there should be a facilities form for the organizations to use the field and Solicitor Weiler noted he will have one drafted if he cannot locate a facilities form to use. Mayor Peterson noted that proposed field improvements need to come before Borough Council.

- Councilman Peterson thanked Councilman Myers and Manager Durso for their work on the trailhead and thanked Manager Durso for addressing property maintenance issues.
- Councilwoman Cotter requested that a thank you letter be sent to Patrick Wright, PADOT representative, who provided the PADOT seminar, site visits and intersection suggestions.
- Councilman Scioli discussed public announcements for the steam blows from the Power Plant.
- President Happel noted three (3) old minute books from the 1870's that are falling apart and he took them to a book bindery and the price for rebinding will be \$75.00 each book.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to rebind the three (3) minutes books at a price of \$75.00 each. Motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Suzanne Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, asked what time of day the intersection (W. 1st Street and Jefferson Street) site visit was and asked that the intersection be visited at rush hour.
- Russell Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, asked if and when Silverbrook Drive would be repaved because there are worn patches.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Borough Council	Monday, February 18, 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Borough Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss a Worker's Compensation settlement. No decision was made.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Secretary