

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 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
Robert Myers, Member Anthony Scioli, 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.

PRESENTATION – BIRDSBORO MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY/UNION TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

- Doug Rauch, of Georgeadis|Setley, Solicitor for the Birdsboro Municipal Authority, provided the history of the Intermunicipal Agreement which was adopted in 1976 between the Birdsboro Municipal Authority and Union Township Municipal Authority.
- Solicitor Rauch explained the differences between the old and new agreements. Councilman Myers asked what formula was used to charge Union Township customers. Solicitor Rauch responded. Councilman Myers had a question regarding the sewer plant upgrade and Solicitor Rauch responded. Councilwoman Cotter noted that she would like to read the agreement. Vice President McCauley noted that everyone needs to do their due diligence on this matter and a brief discussion ensued between Solicitors Rauch and Weiler and Council.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to authorize Council President Happel to terminate the old agreement between the Birdsboro Municipal Authority and Union Township Municipal Authority. Motion carried 6-1.

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 December 3, 2018 council meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

BILLS LIST

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the Bills List dated December 17, 2018, and the Checks for Ratification dated December 4, 2018 through December 16, 2018. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Treasurer's Report dated December 17, 2018. Motion carried 7-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

2019 Budget

- There was discussion regarding the 2019 Budget. Vice President McCauley provided the past 14 years' millage rates. Councilman Peterson noted concern of not closing the budget gap and Mayor Peterson noted the budget gaps will cause future implications.
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Scioli to adopt the 2019 Budget with no tax increase. A roll call vote was taken:
 - President Happel – yes Vice President McCauley – yes
 - Councilman Myers – yes Councilman Blank – yes
 - Councilman Peterson – no Councilman Scioli- yes
 - Councilwoman cotter – yes

Motion carried 6-1.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to advertise the 2019 Tax Ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.

Birdsboro Power Update (Pipeline)

- Manager Durso provided an update of the Birdsboro Power Plan (pipeline).

Animal Rescue League

- Council discussed the Animal Rescue League contract options. Councilman Myers noted Mohnton's approach. No action was taken.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Engineer Boyer answered questions regarding the proposed VFW Way.

MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Chief Trupp noted the Borough is not interested in the old forensic vehicle. The vehicle is old and it doesn't seem that any other municipality is interested in it. It would require some repairs expenses to keep it operating as well as equipment upgrades. Also noted that a local company was a victim of wire fraud. Chief Trupp noted that Police Department received a \$50.00 donation from Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

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:

- Ken Imes, Emergency Management Coordinator, noted that FEMA has done damage assessments from the August 13 storm damage and he provided highlights of the visit.
- Based on Mrs. Cotter's suggestion of the use of an emergency notification system that will enable our residents to receive text messages and/or emails, Mr. Imes stated the Borough can utilize the reverse

911 notification system through Berks DES. Residents may register on the County website; the link will be placed on the Borough website.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No new report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

VFW Way

- Engineer Boyer reviewed VFW Way with Council.

Snow Ordinance

- Councilman Blank noted the draft snow ordinance needs further revisions.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Myers asked a question about UGI and Manager Durso responded. Councilman Myers noted the second heritage sign sample has been distributed.
- Councilman Blank asked if any roadwork is required on Water Street prior to the UGI substation project.
- Councilman Peterson noted the blood drive at Daniel Boone High School on December 18, 2018.
- Vice President McCauley noted the Landfill Advisory Committee Meeting and odor complaints and overweight trucks are up. The Regional Comprehensive Plan Survey is on the Borough website.
- Councilman Scioli thanked everyone for their participation in the Birdsboro Hometown Christmas.
- Councilwoman Cotter made the following statement: "Thank you to those who organized those who planned, those who worked so hard to make the plans for the Birdsboro Hometown Christmas become a reality, those who came and enjoyed Birdsboro Hometown Christmas and those who cleaned up. You all exemplify the true spirit of Christmas".
- President Happel thanked everyone for their help with Birdsboro Hometown Christmas, he then handed out an expense report of the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Manager