

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 15, 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 Anthony Scioli, Member
Robert Myers, Member

Council Members Absent: Mary Ann Cotter, Member

Jr. Council Member Present: Ashley Gieringer

Staff & Professionals: Todd E. Trupp, Chief of Police Robin Levensgood, 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 Councilman Peterson to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2019 council meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

BILLS LIST

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the Bills List dated April 15, 2019, and the Checks for Ratification dated April 2, 2019 through April 14, 2019. Motion carried 5-0-1 with Councilman Myers abstaining from payment of the American Legion check due to his position of Financial Officer at the American Legion.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Treasurer's Report dated April 15, 2019. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Myers asked a question about a donation in Line Item No. H387000 and Manager Durso responded that he would e-mail Council after he looked at that line item with the treasurer.

MANAGER'S REPORT

ADA Ramp Update

- Manager Durso provided an ADA Ramp update.

Schuylkill Trail Storm Sewer Update

- Manager Durso provided a Schuylkill Trail Storm Sewer update.

Appointment – Boone Area Library

- There was discussion about the appointment of Lisa Kraljevich to the Boone Area Library Board of Trustees. Mrs. Kraljevich spoke to Council about her involvement with her current library and noted there is no conflict between the Boone Area Library and her employment at the Pottstown Public Library. After much discussion a **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to appoint Lisa Kraljevich to the Boone Area Library Board of Trustees. Councilman Myers recommended postponing a vote until the first meeting in May in order to allow Council to further look into issues raised in a letter from the Boone Area Library Board dated April 12, 2019. President Happel called for a roll call vote:
 - President Happel – yes
 - Vice President McCauley – no
 - Councilman Myers – no
 - Councilman Blank – yes
 - Councilman Peterson – yes
 - Councilman Scioli – no

Mayor Peterson broke the tie with a yes vote and the motion carried. Mayor Peterson asked for Manager Durso to invite the Library Board to a Council Meeting for an update.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council. Engineer Boyer distributed cost estimates for the Jefferson Street project.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to bid out the Jefferson Street road project. Motion carried 6-0.
- Vice President McCauley asked a question about the Union Lodge bio swale and Engineer Boyer noted that is an MS4 matter. Vice President McCauley asked if the swale should be maintained or it is a civil matter and Manager Durso stated that agreements would have to be drawn up for property owners to maintain swale after completion. .
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilman Blank to authorize Solicitor Weiler to prepare a letter to property owners for soil sampling and surveys. Motion carried 6-0. Vice President McCauley requested a full accounting of the project including all expenses.

MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Chief Trupp reviewed his report with Council. Chief Trupp provided an update of a reported stabbing at Rustic Park and the premise of a robbery is not accurate. Chief Trupp sent a shooting range contract proposal to Solicitor Weiler for review. The Crime Scene vehicle is listed on Municibid. Chief Trupp thanked Nancy Kauffman for her help with the Coffee with a Cop event.

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: No new report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve three (3) ordinances for the VFW Way dedication. Ordinance No. Motion carried 6-0.
 - Ordinance No. 482 - Providing for the acceptance and dedication of a 50' wide portion of VFW Way, a private street within the Borough limits
 - Ordinance No. 483 - Providing for the acceptance and dedication of a 50' wide portion of VFW Way and a 5' wide portion of Armorcast Road, a private street within the Borough limits
 - Ordinance No. 484 - Providing for the acceptance and dedication of a 50' wide portion of VFW Way, a private street within the Borough limits
- There was discussion regarding the Board of Appeals formation, Manager Durso explained the purpose of the Board of Appeals. Councilman Myers asked a jurisdiction question and Manager Durso noted that issue would need to go to Zoning Board matter.
- Councilman Myers asked the status of the Recreation Board ordinance; Solicitor Levengood noted that Solicitor Weiler is working on it.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Scioli provided an update of the American Legion Post 626 baseball field.
- Junior Councilperson Gieringer provided a small proposal for a social media page noting it would allow for distribution of information to residents, easier for residents to connect with Council and get feedback to Council, and help Council connect with the next generation.
- Councilman Peterson noted that the school district has a Facebook and Twitter page. Councilman Peterson suggested the Facebook page be set up so that comments received will not require a response.
- President Happel recommended that Councilman Peterson, Councilwoman Cotter and Junior Councilperson Gieringer be appointed to the Facebook Page Committee.
- Vice President McCauley noted complaints about the noise and vapor clouds emitting from the Power Plant and Manager Durso noted he will reach out to Birdsboro Power.
- Councilman Blank asked a question about the Recreation Board ordinance and Manager Durso responded that Sol. Weiler is working on it.

- Councilman Myers noted the existing Recreation Board ordinance requires nine (9) members. Requested was copies of the Recreation Board minutes and Manager Durso will see what the Borough has. Councilman Myers noted that he had asked former Recreation Board Chair, Cindy McGee, for the notes regarding the Christmas in Birdsboro event.
- Councilman Myers asked a question about the leased parking lot and inquired about the status of the Motta property and Manager Durso noted that there has been no movement, the Berks Redevelopment Authority is moving the legal process forward. Mayor Peterson provided an overview of the Motta property and the process as he was part of the original transaction and noted the property owner was given several different options. Manager Durso noted that due to the legal process, Solicitor London advised not to issue citations.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Don Wary, 511 Jefferson Street, asked who owns Uncle Jack's property and Mayor Peterson noted that property is owned by a different entity and is no longer owned by Motta.
- Thomas Brungard, 908 Union Street, recommended the Facebook page be set up to allow instant messenger.
- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, noted she would like to see a Police Department Facebook page.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Manager