

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 6, 2019 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council Members Present: Joseph Peterson, Mayor David Blank, Member
Neil McCauley, Vice President Austin Peterson, Member
Robert Myers, Member Mary Ann Cotter, Member
Anthony Scioli, Member

Council Member Absent: Richard Happel, President

Staff & Professionals: Terry Weiler, Solicitor
Todd E. Trupp, Chief of Police
Aaron J. Durso, Borough Manager

Jr. Council Member: Ashley Gieringer

Call to Order: Vice-President McCauley 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.

Braden Freer – Eagle Scout Project (Little Free Library) Update

- Scout Freer noted he has 130 hours into his Eagle Scout project and Vice President McCauley asked if he is maintaining it and Scout Freer stated that he was. Councilman Myers asked if Scout Freer is collaborating with the Boone Area Library and Scout Freer responded yes. Scout Freer noted he received donations from the American Legion Post 626.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve Scout Freer's final Eagle Scout project. Motion carried 6-0.

Boone Area Library Update

- Cheryl Martinozzi provided a Boone Area Library Update. Programs offered: Snapology with Legos and computer, craft nights, free comic book day, author visit, pajama and pillow party (children read to cats), and summer reading. Mayor Peterson asked about fundraising and Mrs. Martinozzi reviewed the Duck Derby and other upcoming fundraisers. It was noted that the Library is looking for another Director. There is an increase in children's programs. Councilwoman Cotter asked about a previous appointment and Mrs. Martinozzi responded.
- Councilwoman Cotter brought to everyone's attention the fact that proper procedure was not followed by Council in appointing Lisa Kraljevich. The Library Board should have decided on new board members and Borough Council should have honored their wishes and okayed them as they have done in the past. That did not happen. Councilman Myers reiterated that he had wanted to postpone the vote for two weeks until Council had an opportunity to look into the matter and act diligently. Councilwoman Cotter said that the appointment never should have happened as it did, and she apologized to the Library Board, for all of Council and their actions. Furthermore, she addressed Council saying that, moving forward, proper procedures need to be followed by Council with appointments and perhaps a policy should be put in place.

Birdsboro American Legion Post 626

- The American Legion Post 626 presented a check for \$5,000.00 to Councilman Myers for the Schuylkill River Trail Head.

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 April 15, 2019 meeting minutes with amendments. Motion carried 6-0.

BILLS LIST

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilman Blank to approve the Bills List dated May 6, 2019, and the Checks for Ratification dated April 16, 2019 through May 5, 2019. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Scioli inquired about the citric acid bill.

MANAGER'S REPORT

ADA Ramp Project Update

- Manager Durso provided an update of the ADA Ramp Project. Councilwoman Cotter noted it would have been a good thing if the ramp project had been coordinated with the paving of W. 1st St, so that the surface of a newly paved road was not torn up. Manager Durso stated that the ADA Ramp project was funded by a grant and the Borough did not have the grant funds at the time so the ADA Ramps work happened when we had the grant funding to pay for the project.

Storm Sewer Pipe Replacement Update

- Manager Durso provided an update of the Storm Sewer Pipe Replacement Project.

Trail Head Grant

- Manager Durso provided an update of the Trail Head Grant.

Executive Session

- There will be an Executive Session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel.

Commercial Inspections Ordinance

- Tom Wargo, Building Inspection/Code Official, explained the importance of commercial inspections. Councilman Myers asked about legislation and Mr. Wargo responded. Councilwoman Cotter asked about the Appeals Board and Solicitor Weiler explained that the County no longer handles that.

UIS Services

- No action was taken on the UIS Service proposal.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: No new report.

MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Chief Trupp noted that Daniel Boone School District will be giving the Police Department emergency access to all schools. Mayor Peterson asked about Union Township and the School District taking action to allow the Birdsboro Police Department to cross jurisdictions.

Solicitor Weiler explained the legislation and noted that Pennsylvania State Police would have to approve it and Chief Trupp confirmed this.

- Chief Trupp noted watershed patrolling issues and they are working with the Robeson Police Department.
- Chief Trupp noted the Pistol Range agreement is being worked on.
- Chief Trupp noted issues with Facebook with the Police Department and noted a product called Crime Watch and the cost per year is \$1,200.00.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES/DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Reports to be included in next Council packet

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: No new report

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No new report

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- Solicitor Weiler is working on the Pistol Range agreement, the Robeson Police agreement, and noted a draft of the Recreation Board ordinance was distributed. Councilman Myers had a question about Page 2 and Solicitor Weiler explained there needs to be reasons for Recreation Board removal.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilwoman Cotter thanked Chief Trupp for his good work and a smooth transition. Councilwoman Cotter noted the Exit Interview Committee is still meeting. Councilwoman Cotter noted she attended a County breakfast with Councilman Myers and there was discussion regarding voting machines and the census.
- Jr. Councilmember Gieringer, Councilwoman Cotter and Councilman Peterson provided an update of the Borough Facebook page.
- Vice President McCauley noted the Southern Berks Comprehensive Plan Committee met and reviewed land use and zoning with the potential for regional land use.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Council recessed into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. and reconvened at 9:15 p.m. The Executive Session was to discuss eliminating the Laborer/Mechanic position and change it to Assistant Foreman position.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilman Blank to eliminate the Laborer/Mechanic position and changing it to an Assistant Foreman position at the same pay rate as in the Teamster's Contract for the Laborer/Mechanic position.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Thomas Brungard, 908 Union Street, suggested enhancing the Borough website by linking to other community organizations and businesses, then inquired if there was a police call
- Lisa Kraljevich, 128 N. Mill Street, asked if the Borough does quarterly newsletters that are sent via mail.
- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, asked if the Hopewell Big Woods letter was shared at the Southern Berks Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting and Vice President McCauley responded no.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Borough Council

Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Birdsboro Municipal Authority

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 6:30 PM

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM, if needed

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Secretary