

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 19, 2019 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

**Council Members Present:** Joseph Peterson, Mayor                      David Blank, Member  
Richard Happel, President                      Mary Ann Cotter, Member  
Robert Myers, Member                      Anthony Scioli, Member

**Council Members Not Present:** Neil McCauley, Vice President  
Austin Peterson, Member

**Jr. Council Member Present:** Ashley Gieringer

**Staff & Professionals:** Todd E. Trupp, Chief of Police  
Aaron J. Durso, Borough Manager  
Robin Levensgood, Solicitor  
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 Councilman Scioli.

**Representative Houlahan’s Staffer**

- A staffer from Representative Houlahan’s office reviewed the Congresswoman’s work since being elected in 2018. They gave office information and contact brochure.

**American Legion Post 626**

- John Piccoretta provided an overview of the repairs needed for the American Legion Post 626 Ball Field. The repairs are fixing drainage and grading issues, build a new press box and bathrooms. Denise Harner provided a cost estimate for the work. The Legion requested a \$7,000.00 donation to cover the cost of the engineering fees and it was noted the Legion donated \$25,000.00 to the baseball association.
- **MOTION** was by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilman Myers to donate \$7,000.00 from the Harms Benefit Fund to the American Legion Post 626 for the engineering costs for the ball field and approve the ball field improvements per the plan. Motion carried 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2019 council meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

**BILLS LIST**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the Bills List dated August 19, 2019, and the Checks for Ratification dated July 16, 2019 through August 18, 2019. Motion carried 5-0.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the Treasurer's Report dated August 19, 2019. Motion carried 5-0. Councilman Myers asked about the payment to the Animal Rescue League and Manager Durso noted that the Borough is not paying for animals that are not in the Borough and the animal owners in the Borough are getting invoiced for the charges.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **Gerald Trate – Medical Insurance Request**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the medical insurance request from Gerald Trate, former Police Chief, for health coverage for his spouse. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **2019 Road Project Update**

- Manager Durso provided an update of the 2019 road project.

#### **Trail Project Update**

- Manager Durso provided an update of the trail project.

#### **Ride for the River Event**

- The Schuylkill River Greenway Ride for the River Event will be held September 28 benefitting the Schuylkill River Trail.

#### **IGS Contract**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Scioli to enter into a contract with IGS to lower the Birdsboro Borough buildings and facilities gas prices. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **Administrative Staff Request**

- The Administrative Staff Request relating to sick time accumulation will be discussed in Executive Session.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council. Engineer Boyer discussed the MS4 agreements for soil testing and infiltration in retention basins.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Myers to authorize Engineer Boyer to design and bid out the Armorcast Bridge repair. Motion carried 5-0
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the Stormwater Agreement for 4207 Cocalico Road. Motion carried 5-0.

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

- Chief Trupp noted that Pastor James Farnsworth has volunteered to be the Police Chaplain for Birdsboro Borough. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilman Blank to appoint Pastor James Farnsworth as the volunteer Police Chaplain for Birdsboro Borough. Motion carried 5-0.

- There was discussion about obtaining cameras from Radio Maintenance for the parks, parking lots and other troubled areas. The new Tasers have arrived.

#### **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**: Manager Durso stated that Mr. Imes worked with the BMA Engineer on marking the spillway at the Reservoir.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**: The new Rescue Engine has arrived and is getting outfitted.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

- Solicitor Levensgood reviewed his report with Council.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve Ordinance No. 485, Commercial Inspection Ordinance. Motion carried 5-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to authorize advertising of the Board of Appeals Ordinance. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the date for the Birdsboro Rotary Club Halloween Parade for October 17, 2019 with a rain date of October 24, 2019. Motion carried 5-0. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to set the 2019 Trick or Treat evening to be Thursday, October 31, 2019. Motion carried 5-0.
- Councilman Myers distributed the final design for the "Neighborhoods" heritage sign. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the "Neighborhoods" heritage sign to be located at Main Bird Park. Motion carried 5-0.
- Councilman Blank noted the Rustic Picnic Area Park Sign to be located at the Texas Ball Field parking lot for a cost of \$310.00. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the Rustic Picnic Area Park Sign for \$310.00. Motion carried 5-0.
- Councilman Happel suggested a crosswalk at Jefferson Street and W. 1st Street and Manager Durso noted that can be done after the Jefferson Street road project is completed. Councilman Happel read a Harms Benefit Fund request from the 1st Street Players. No action was taken.
- Councilwoman Cotter noted a sludge cleanup issue and requested the employees' time be priced out and reimbursement from J.P. Mascaro be obtained. Discussion ensued and Manager Durso noted he will obtain the costs expended for the sludge cleanup.
- Councilwoman Cotter asked about the Exit Interview Committee checklist and Councilwoman Cotter will consult with Solicitor Weiler about the status of the checklist.

- Councilwoman Cottter noted the Borough should consider utilizing renewable energy and noted a Restore PA Initiative from Governor Wolf's Office. Councilwoman Cotter also noted a presentation at Ozzy's on August 20, 2019 which will highlight impaired driving enforcement for Labor Day.
- Councilman Scioli provided a skate/bike park committee update, noting the committee has met several times and will be meeting one more time before the next council meeting and will provide a report at such time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- No public comment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Council recessed into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. and reconvened at 9:35 p.m. The Executive Session was to discuss employee matters and administrative staff benefits with no action needed at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso  
Borough Manager