

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

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

**Council Member Not Present:** David Blank, Member

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

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

**First Street Players**

Joe Hagan, President of the First Street Players organization, and Deanne Leech, Treasurer, and others were present to discuss a request for a donation for repairs to the First Street Players building. An overview of the financials was discussed, Councilman Myers asked for current and previous balance sheets and budgets and Ms. Leech noted she will provide such. Councilwoman Cotter inquired why the owner of the property (J.P. Mascaro) does not make the improvements needed. Mr. Hagan explained the \$1/year lease and the cost savings. Councilman Peterson noted the theatre is a good resource for the community. Councilman Myers noted the item can be discussed at budget discussions which begin at the next Council meeting. No further action taken as this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the minutes of the August 19, 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 September 3, 2019, and the Checks for Ratification dated August 20, 2019 through September 2, 2019. Motion carried 6-0. There was an inquiry about the CJ Tires payment and Councilman Myers inquired about the portion of the Fire Department donation being taken out of Harms Benefit and Manager Durso noted that due to further review of the Fire Department agreement the Borough must contribute additional monies.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

**2019 Road Project Update**

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

### 2019 Budget Schedule

- Manager Durso noted the 2019 budget schedule with the first meeting to be September 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

### Sludge Update

- Manager Durso noted the cost for the sludge cleanup that was caused by J.P. Mascaro and also noted that J.P. Mascaro is allowing the Borough to store millings on property owned by J.P. Mascaro; therefore, saving the Borough milling storage or disposal costs. No further action to be taken on this matter.

### MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Mayor Peterson noted that Chief Trupp has gathered information regarding video surveillance for the parks and asked Manager Durso to forward the cost estimates to Council.
- Chief Trupp noted that Officer Fay will be receiving a community service award from the Daniel Boone Optimists. Also noted was a Boy Scout sleepover outing to be held September 14-15 at Rustic Park and the Police Department will be doing fingerprinting for the Boy Scouts.
- Vice President McCauley noted the excessive speeding on Route 724 and W. 1st Street between Jefferson Street and the Birdsboro Union Fire Department. In response Chief Trupp explained enforcement regulations. Councilwoman Cotter stated the Police Department's presence on the streets is duly noted.

### MUNICIPAL SERVICES/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Water Department: Report to be provided in next Council packet.
2. Sewer Department: Report to be provided in next Council packet.
3. Streets Department: Report to be provided in next Council packet.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**: Report to be provided in next Council packet.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**: Report to be provided in next Council packet.

### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- The Appeals Board ordinance has been advertised for adoption at the September 16, 2019 Council meeting.
- The Armorcast Drive ordinance is being worked on.

### COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilwoman Cotter inquired about the repairs to the H&K railroad tracks and Manager Durso responded.
- Councilman Myers asked about the trailhead project and Manager Durso noted the project will start at the end of the week. A **MOTION** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Vice President McCauley to accept the bicycle repair station from Schuylkill River Greenways for the Trailhead. Motion carried 6-0.
- Councilman Peterson provided a presentation of the Skate/Bike Park Committee's activities.

- provided examples of skate parks in Amity and Exeter Townships
- review of viable locations and cost estimates
- comment: Councilman Myers: inquiry into grants, Councilman Peterson noted there are not many grants out there for this sort of project; Councilman Scioli: multi-use would be more beneficial and concerns about the skate/bike park only benefiting a small group; Councilwoman Cotter: insurance and cost concerns; Vice President McCauley: tie the fence into the UGI project; no action taken; subject tabled for budget discussion
- Vice President McCauley noted the Pioneer Crossing Advisory Committee did not meet in August but will meet in September and the Southern Berks Regional Comprehensive Plan Committee will meet in September.
- Councilwoman Cotter noted the following:
  - The trail looks wonderful in front of the Power Plant and thanked everyone who worked on it.
  - Thanked Tom Wargo, the Borough Code Officer, for the good job he is doing.
  - Thanked all those who worked on the water main break but felt that communication with the residents can be improved upon
  - requested an update of the recent Zoning Hearings
  - requested monthly Code Enforcement reports
- Councilman Scioli noted the planned work for the American Legion 626 Ball Field, also noted was the incomplete sidewalk work at 100 S. Spruce Street, the contractor will be contacted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- No public comment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened at 9:07 p.m. The Executive Session was to discuss and administrative staff benefits with no action needed at this time. Council will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso  
Borough Manager