

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

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

Council Member Not Present: Neil McCauley, Vice President

Jr. Council Member Not 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 Pastor Devin Blankenbiller of Abundant Life Church.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2019 council meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

BILLS LIST

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the Bills List dated September 19, 2019, and the Checks for Ratification dated September 4, 2019 through September 15, 2019. Motion carried 6-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated September 19, 2019. Motion carried 6-0.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Trailhead Update

- Manager Durso provided an update of the trailhead.

BMA Update

- Manager Durso provided a BMA (Birdsboro Municipal Authority) update.

MMO’s

- Manager Durso noted that based off of the estimates the Borough will have a liability this year as State Aid will not cover the full amount of the MMO’s (Minimum Municipal Obligation). The estimated amounts of each plan’s liability are:

Non-Uniform	\$ 6,080.00
Police	\$11,215.00
Teamsters	\$ 9,616.00

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson acknowledging receipt of the 2020 MMO Obligations. Motion carried 6-0.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

- The Search Committee (for the Borough Manager position) consists of Vice President McCauley, Councilman Myers and Councilwoman Cotter and Mayor Peterson asked if any members of the Birdsboro Municipal Authority (BMA) will be on the Search Committee? President Happel noted that the Search Committee will need to address that and Mayor Peterson noted he is concerned if the BMA does not have a say in who fills the Borough Manager position. Councilman Myers stated that Anthony Tucci would like both himself and Kevin Shelton on the Search Committee.

MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Chief Trupp noted that officers attended the Boy Scout event on September 14 at Rustic Park and the Coffee with a Cop event to be held at Boyer's Market and sponsored by the Birdsboro Rotary Club will be held October 1. Chief Trupp encouraged residents to lock their vehicles.

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

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve Ordinance No. 486, under Chapter 135-4 of the Code of the Borough of Birdsboro which provides for the establishment of a Board of Administrative Appeals and its related procedures Motion carried 6-0.
- Solicitor Weiler noted that the Board of Health currently does not have a full Board which is required in the Board of Health ordinance and the Borough needs to work on getting a Board fully staffed and meetings scheduled and minutes provided. It was discussed that a physician is required to be on the Board of Health and Councilman Myers suggested a letter be sent to the medical facility in Birdsboro and Councilwoman Cotter volunteered to visit the medical facility.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Scioli provided an American Legion Ball Field update and work is to begin next week and also noted the sidewalk project at E. 1st and S. Spruce Streets has been completed.
- Councilman Blank requested an Executive Session regarding a personnel matter.

- President Happel noted the First Street Players donation request. Councilman Blank noted the Borough should give the First Street Players the same amount donated to the American Legion for the ball field and Councilwoman Cotter noted concern regarding the ramifications of the Borough donating money to an organization for building repairs. President Happel asked Councilman Myers for a report of the theatre's fundraisers and Councilman Myers provided the information and noted First Street Players is a 501c(3) organization. Councilwoman Cotter suggested the donation be earmarked for production costs only.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Peterson to donate \$4,000 from the Harms Benefit Fund to go to the First Street Players to be utilized solely for production and general operating expenses. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Myers noted that Council may consider another donation in 2020.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jeff Geist, Windstream employee, noted concern of Ordinance No. 485, Commercial Inspections, and noted concern of not having more advance notice and stated that their office staff already inspects safety regulations at Windstream's Birdsboro site. Mayor Peterson noted concerns from business owners about the extent of the inspection and Code Enforcement Officer Tom Wargo noted the business owners are not required to bring properties up to code but safety regulations will be addressed. Councilwoman Cotter suggested a meeting be set with the Code Enforcement Officer and businesses to answer questions and address concerns.
- David Snyder, 348 Drew Court, thanked Manager Durso for his work. Mr. Snyder also noted that Rustic Park is not a good location for a bike/skate park citing vandalism concerns.
- Don Wary, 511 Jefferson Street, noted the Jackson Street underpass traffic light is out and asked if there was any further action regarding the railroad station and Manager Durso noted the Borough is awaiting an update from the Berks County Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Wary noted concern about Beacon Container venting off steam and it can be heard on Jefferson Street and asked if they are exceeding the noise limits.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. and reconvened at 8:38 p.m. The Executive Session was to discuss an administrative staff benefits request.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Scioli to allow the three (3) full-time administrative staff to accumulate up to forty (40) days of sick leave with no buyback with accumulation effective January 2020 and the 2019 unused sick time may be carried over into 2020. Motion carried 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Manager