

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

**Council Members Present:** Richard Happel, President      David Blank, Member  
Joseph Peterson, Mayor      Mary Ann Cotter, Member (via phone)  
Robert Myers, Member      Austin Peterson, Member

**Council Members Not Present:** Neil McCauley, Vice President and Anthony Scioli, 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 Manager Durso.

**PFM – PENSION REVIEW**

Donald Grant, representative of PFM, was present to provide an overview and update on the Borough pension plans and reviewed the yearly investment allocations and return.

**BERKS REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Matt McGough reviewed the Berks Regional Comprehensive Plan with Borough Council and the residents and answered questions from Borough Council and the residents.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2019 council meeting. Motion carried 5-0. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2019 budget meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

**BILLS LIST**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilman Blank to approve the Bills List dated October 7, 2019, and the Checks for Ratification dated September 17, 2019 through October 6, 2019. Motion carried 5-0.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Animal Rescue League

- Councilman Myers requested further information regarding the Animal Rescue League.

**MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- Chief Trupp thanked the Birdsboro Rotary Club and Nancy Kauffman for the Coffee with a Cop event and thanked the Birdsboro Rotary Club for the \$1,000 donation.

- Pastor Farnsworth, the Police Department Chaplain, got Police Department trinkets to hand out to the community. The Borough will need to update its information to have a formal Chaplain to include a hold harmless agreement.
- Councilman Myers noted the Coffee with a Cop event was successfully and he thanked the Birdsboro Rotary Club. A resident donated \$20.00 to the Police Department.

#### **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**

- Solicitor Weiler noted he is working on the Chaplain hold harmless agreement and is working on completing the Armorcast Drive ordinance for advertising. The Appeals Board need to be filled with three people with basic building trades. Councilman Blank asked about the status of the Recreation Board ordinance and Solicitor Weiler noted he will resend a draft to Council.

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

- Councilwoman Cotter noted that Dr. Buczewski will be the Board of Health.
- Councilman Blank requested an Executive Session for personnel matters.
- Councilman Myers noted the fourth heritage sign (Main Bird Park) has been received listing the Birdsboro neighborhoods. Two signs have been purchased by the Birdsboro Rotary Club and two signs have been purchased by the American Legion and Rotary Club will be purchasing two more signs.
- Councilman Myers noted Berks Nature received a State grant to construct a pedestrian footbridge over Haycreek at Rustic also noting that the American Legion Post 626 is coming along with the ball field improvements.
- Councilman Myers noted he attend the Birdsboro Hometown Christmas Committee meeting and asked Borough Council for the \$1,200.00 from Harms Benefit back to \$18,800.00 to make the original total of \$20,000.00.
- MOTION was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Peterson to move the \$1,200.00 from Harms Benefit to Birdsboro Hometown Christmas making the 2019 allocated amount \$20,000.00. Motion passed 5-0

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- President Happel noted the Code Enforcement Officer could not be present this evening to address comments regarding the Commercial ordinance. President Happel explained the Code Enforcement Officer's role. Mayor Peterson gave an overview of Council's intention with the

Commercial Inspection ordinance and some business owners have expressed their concern about the extent of compliance with the timeframe given.

- Dennis Ewing, owner of Birdsboro Beverage, voiced concerns of inspections and costs.
- Sal Amato, Sal's Pizza, voiced concerns over the ordinance enforcements.
- Rick Steele, Robeson Township resident, noted issue with the sidewalk at W. 1st and Jackson Streets.
- Kevin Orman, Birdsboro business owner, requested a checklist for the commercial inspections and asked if the whole building or just units are to be inspected.
- Councilman Peterson expressed that the implementation of the ordinance was poor and a checklist and better customer service to businesses should be provided.
- Wendy Sheetz, owner of Stuff 4 Everyone, noted concern about a notice of violation she received regarding her displaying items on the sidewalk outside the business and explained the purpose of displaying the items.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Council recessed into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. and reconvened at 9:55 p.m. The Executive Session was to discuss personnel and no action was taken.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso  
Borough Manager