

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2019 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

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

Council Member Not Present: Anthony Scioli, Member

Jr. Council Member Present: Ashley Gieringer

Staff & Professionals: Todd E. Trupp, Chief of Police Aaron J. Durso, Borough Manager
Robin Levengood, 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.

COMMERCIAL LIFE/SAFETY INSPECTIONS DISCUSSION

Roger Orfield, 122 Orange Street, provided an overview of his experience with Code Enforcement and discussed building permit issues. Tom Wargo, Code Enforcement Officer, provided an overview of the code enforcement and building permit procedures and fees.

Steve Lusky, 211 Caravan Drive, asked if the code enforcement issue with Stuff 4 Everyone has been resolved and Mr. Wargo, Code Enforcement Officer, noted that the owner of the Stuff 4 Everyone shop would need to apply to the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance. Mr. Wargo also explained the issues with the violation. Ms. Sheetz, owner of Stuff 4 Everyone, and Mr. Lusky asked President Happel to speak with Dr. Dina, the owner of the building where Stuff 4 Everyone is located. There was a lengthy discussion about the origins of the complaint and how it progressed.

Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, noted concern of the commercial life/safety inspection letters not reaching each business.

Cindy McGee, 101 N. Spruce Street, asked what time construction workers are allowed to begin work in the Borough and Mr. Wargo noted 7:00 a.m.

The owner of Uncle Jacks' Café asked a question regarding the commercial life/safety inspections and asked if a failed inspection fee is required and Mr. Wargo noted that a failed inspection fee is required.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Peterson and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the minutes of the October 7, 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 October 21, 2019, and the Checks for Ratification dated October 8, 2019 through October 20, 2019. Motion carried 6-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Treasurer's Report dated October 21, 2019. Motion carried 6-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Laptop – Borough Manager

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to approve the purchase of a new laptop for the Borough Manager's office with a cost not to exceed \$2,250.70. Motion carried 6-0.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council and fielded questions regarding the trailhead grant.

MAYOR/POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Mayor Peterson thanked Sam Mengel of the Angry Anvil for the event at Rustic Park this weekend. Mayor Peterson thanked Manager Durso for his years of service to the Borough and leaving the Borough in better condition than when he arrived.
- Chief Trupp noted the Halloween Parade will be Wednesday, October 23. Chief Trupp noted that unlocked vehicles have been broken into noting these events generally occur between 2:00 a.m. – 3:00 a.m.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES/DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Water Department: Report included in Council packet.
2. Sewer Department: Report included in Council packet.
3. Streets Department: Report included in Council packet.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Ken Imes provided the Emergency Management report and noted he completed the 2019 NIMS Compliance Survey and completed the PEMA certification test. Councilman Myers asked Ken Imes if he is on the Fire Advisory Board and Mr. Imes noted he was not. Councilman Myers requested EMA be added to the Fire Advisory Board. Council may appoint both Ken Imes and Anthony Scioli to the Fire Advisory Board.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: No new report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Blank and seconded by Councilman Peterson to authorize advertising of an ordinance for the acceptance and dedication of Armorcast Road, a private street within the Borough limits for adoption at the November 18, 2019 meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

Vice President McCauley asked a questions about the Armorcast Bridge and Manger Durso responded.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilman Myers thanked Manager Durso for his tenure as Manager and Council Member and thanked Manager Durso for the great job he has done with the Birdsboro Municipal Authority.
- Councilman Blank asked if the truck bed is in the budget and Manager Durso responded yes. Councilman Blank noted that the lights at Main Bird Park keep getting ripped out and the Borough needs to install lights like the ones located at Borough Hall.
- Councilman Peterson thanked Manager Durso and noted Manager Durso was a valuable asset to the community.
- Councilwoman Cotter thanked Manager Durso for his service and dedication.
- Vice President McCauley thanked Manager Durso and noted Manager Durso has served the Borough well. Vice President McCauley noted the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Committee had a meeting and they are working on dealing with overweight trucks and there is a minor permit change to increase the height.
- Junior Council Member Gieringer thanked Manager Durso.
- President Happel thanked Manager Durso for his work and provided an overview of the new manager hiring process.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Rick Steele, 944 W. 1st Street, noted an issue with antique cars at his ex-wife's house. Mr. Steele thanked Manager Durso for his work and thanked Mayor Peterson and Councilman Peterson as well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. and reconvened at 9:20 p.m. The Executive Session was to discuss two (2) staff issues.
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Blank to not accept the proposal from Tom Wargo for full-time Code Enforcement and Building Code services. Motion carried 6-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Blank to approve the proposal for a consulting agreement with Manager Durso for Manager Durso to receive the Borough's portion (1/2) of his salary and benefits until December 31, 2019. Motion carried 6-0. Council to review in January regarding a different consulting agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Durso
Borough Manager