

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2020 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council Members Present: Joseph Peterson, Mayor
Neil McCauley, President
Mary Ann Cotter, Vice President
(via telephone)

Richard Happel, Member
Robert Myers, Member
Anthony Scioli, Member
Matthew Welch, Member

Absent: Ashley Gieringer, Jr. Council Member

Staff & Professionals: Terry Weiler, Solicitor
Todd Trupp, Chief of Police
Kelly J. Yanos, Manager
Bonnie L. Frisco, Secretary/Treasurer

Call to Order: President McCauley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Vice President Cotter.

Presentation – Professional Certification Plaque for Emergency Management to Kenneth Imes
Councilman Myers presented to Emergency Management Coordinator, Kenneth Imes, a Professional Certification Plaque for Emergency Management.

Presentation – American Legion Post 626 – Building Plan for the Baseball Field
Engineer Boyer is working on the first draft of drawings for the building plan for the baseball field. The concession stand will be at the back with the press box at the top, the old press box may possibly be utilized for supplies or may be retrofitted for a deck.

Minutes– January 6, 2020 Reorganization and Council Meetings

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the January 6, 2020 Reorganization meeting minutes. Motion carried 5-0-1 with Councilman Happel abstaining due to his absence at the January 6, 2020 meeting.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilman Happel to table approval of the January 6, 2020 Council meeting minutes pending further review. Motion carried 6-0.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Happel to approve the Bills List dated January 20, 2020 and Checks for Ratification dated January 7, 2020 – January 19, 2020. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Myers inquired about the 40% commission being paid to the Tax Collector and Manager Yanos confirmed that the Borough has the authority to revise the Tax Collector’s commission percentage.

Manager’s Report

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve Resolution No. 2020-01 to allow for no employee contribution to the Police Pension plan. Motion carried 6-0.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Happel to approve the contract with the Animal Rescue League for \$1 per capita for the amount of \$5,163 to be paid out of the Harms Benefit fund. Motion carried 6-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilman Myers to rescind the previous motion to approve the purchase of 2,500 recycling totes. Motion carried 6-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Welch to pay the \$8 quarterly recycling fee charged to water/sewer users from the Harms Benefit fund until the termination of the current recycling contract which expires the end of 2020. Motion carried 5-1-0 with Councilman Myers voting no.
- Approval of the LTL Consultants, Ltd contract for building and code enforcement services, was tabled until Solicitor Weiler has contacted LTL Consultants, Ltd to discuss the terms of the contract.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council and provided an overview of the American Legion Baseball Field plans.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the square abutments instead of the skewed abutments for the Haycreek Pedestrian Bridge adding no additional costs to the project. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor/Police Reports

Chief Trupp noted there is no new report.

Emergency Management

Ken Imes, Emergency Management Coordinator, noted he has begun the annual review of the emergency plan which is up for re-adoption in 2020.

Fire Department

Report in packet. Councilman Myers noted that the Borough may consider re-negotiating the ratio of contributions between the Borough and Union Township as the calls seem to be 50/50.

Solicitor's Report

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the Pistol Range Agreement with Amity Township and approve execution of such by the Council President. Motion carried 6-0.
- Solicitor Weiler noted he is awaiting the police agreement from Robeson Township. Solicitor Weiler will be amending the Board of Health Ordinance with the option of having a Health Officer or a Board of Health.
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Scioli to advertise the vacant Council seat which was vacated by Mitchell Bailey. Vice President Cotter and Councilman Scioli moved to amend the motion to specify the vacant seat is for a 2-year term. Motion carried 6-0.
- Solicitor Weiler noted a car damage letter received and the correspondence will be forwarded to the Borough's insurance carrier.

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Myers noted the American Legion Post 626 Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for May 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Councilman Myers noted the most recent heritage sign to be located at Uncle Jack's focusing on the railroads. Solicitor Weiler recommended license agreements for the properties where the heritage signs are located to protect the signs from vulnerability.
- Councilman Welch noted the Streets Department did a great job with the recent snow.
- Councilman Happel thanked the meeting attendees.
- Councilman Scioli noted the high school will not be playing on the Legion Ball Field the coming season due to field reconstruction and thanked the Borough workers for the super job they did on the field drainage issues.
- Vice President Cotter noted proposed Sunshine Law to require the agendas to be posted 24 hours in advance of meetings and if an item is not on the agenda prior to the meeting the item may not be voted on. Vice President Cotter thanked all of those in attendance.
- Councilman Myers asked Solicitor Weiler to provide Councilman Welch with the Sunshine Law information.
- President McCauley noted neighbor complaints regarding the Pioneer Crossing Landfill and the issues are being handled.

Public Comment

- Don Wary, 511 Jefferson Street, asked if all recycling goes to recycling or the landfill and President McCauley stated that Total Recycle is not a good outlet for glass but the glass may be used at the landfill and President McCauley will get further information regarding the recycling of grocery bags as Total Recycle is installing new equipment.
- Bruce Godfrey, 204 Hampton Street, inquired about the location of the Haycreek Pedestrian Bridge and it was confirmed that the abutments at no extra cost was selected. Mr. Godfrey inquired about the no contribution to the Police Pension plan and Chief Trupp noted that if the MMO does not require a contribution then no contribution is needed per the police contract.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary