

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2020 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council Members Present: Joseph Peterson, Mayor
Neil McCauley, President
Mary Ann Cotter, Vice President
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.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– February 3, 2020 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilman Happel to approve the February 3, 2020 Council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 6-0. Amendments:
 - Under Section Council/Committee Reports, bullet point 4, change Daniel Boone to Immaculate Conception.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the Bills List dated February 17, 2020 and Checks for Ratification dated February 4, 2020 – February 16, 2020. Motion carried 6-0. Bills List inquiries:
 - Councilman Welch inquired about the cargo pants for the police and Chief Trupp confirmed that the cargo pants were for the whole department.
 - Are Boyer Engineering’s bills for the pedestrian bridge reimburseable from the DCNR grant? Yes they are.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated February 17, 2020. Motion carried 6-0. Treasurer’s Report inquiry:
 - Confirmed that the vehicle payment from Harms Benefit for the police car was redistributed twice in the month of February.

Council Vacancy

Five (5) candidates for the Council vacancy were interviewed, those candidates being Bruce Godfrey of 204 Hampton Street, Ken Long of 241 Hopewell Street, Nancy Kauffman of 7 Mansion Court E, Tom Brungard of 908 Union Street and Matthew Elgonitis of 217 S. Walnut Street.

All Council members expressed the competency of all the applicants and thanked all the applicants.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Myers to nominate Ken Long for the Council position. President McCauley called for a roll call vote.
 - President McCauley - no
 - Vice President Cotter - no
 - Councilman Happel - yes
 - Councilman Myers - yes
 - Councilman Scioli - no
 - Councilman Welch - no

Motion failed with a 2-4 vote.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch to nominate Bruce Godfrey for the Council position. There was no second to the motion. Motion failed.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Vice President Cotter to nominate Nancy Kauffman for the Council position. President McCauley called for a roll call vote.
 - President McCauley - yes
 - Vice President Cotter - yes
 - Councilman Happel - yes
 - Councilman Myers - yes
 - Councilman Scioli - yes
 - Councilman Welch - no

Motion passed with a 5-1 vote.

The Oath of Office was administered by Mayor Peterson to newly appointed Council member Nancy Kauffman. Mrs. Kauffman then joined the Council table.

Manager's Report

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Welch to authorize the Borough Engineer to prepare the bid documents for the 2020 Road Project which has been estimated at \$120,406 to include the fog seal option. Motion carried 7-0.
- Manager Yanos provided a meeting update of the American Legion 626 Field concession building.
- Manager Yanos noted the Water Department received the Water Treatment Plant Phase III Director's Award noting Birdsboro Borough's Water Plant is one of the first participating membrane plants.
- Manager Yanos noted that the Public Works Foreman has worked for the Borough for 50 years.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the Manager and Public Works Foreman's attendance at a 2-day, 9-hour Environmental Sensitivity Maintenance Training on June 2 and 3 with the Borough covering reasonable costs. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Vice President Cotter to authorize President McCauley to execute the Caernarvon Pistol Range Contract. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Chief Trupp noted the watershed agreement and that EMS will be doing the mapping to allow for appropriate dispatching.
- Chief Trupp noted a well written paper by Intern Austin Ruffe.
- There was discussion regarding the financial state of the State Police and comparisons were noted between costs for taxpayers relating to State Police coverage and local coverage.

Emergency Management

No new report.

Fire Department

The Fire Department report is included in the Council packet.

Solicitor's Report

- Solicitor Weiler is working on the LTL Consultants, LLC agreement and the Board of Health Ordinance.
- The Redevelopment Authority Solicitor will be looking into the Motta property matter.

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Scioli thanked all the Council vacancy applicants and thanked those who agreed to join the Recreation Board.
- Councilwoman Kauffman noted the Hopewell Big Woods map is being revised and the Friends of Hopewell Big Woods is writing a book about William Bird.
- Vice President Cotter thanked Manager Yanos for doing a great job and congratulated Water Chief Operator John Ruth on the Water Treatment Plant Phase III Director's Award. Constellation Energy is to be contacted for information for sustainable energy options. Reverend Joe Motz has resigned and his last day with St. Paul's UCC is May 3 and it was suggested he be given a commendation for his service to the Birdsboro Borough community. Vice President Cotter thanked all the Council vacancy applicants and encouraged them to serve on other committees.
- Councilman Welch thanked all of those in attendance.
- Councilman Myers congratulated Water Chief Operator John Ruth on the Water Treatment Plant Phase III Director's Award and complimented the Streets Department for the great job they did with the rehab of the conference room. Councilman Myers asked of the status of the Jr. Council Member and Mayor Peterson noted that Ms. Gieringer was no longer enrolled at Daniel Boone School District and Vice President Cotter noted she has tried to contact Ms. Gieringer. It was recommended the program be suspended for a while until the position can be filled and remove that individual from the roll call list. Councilman Myers stated that Council wishes Keith Karlson, Public Works Foremen, the best.
- Councilwoman Kauffman stated she noticed a big tractor trailer parked at the fix it station at the trail. Chief Trupp noted it cannot be enforced without property posting.
- President McCauley noted the next Pioneer Crossing Landfill meeting is March 18 and he is unable attend and Councilman Welch agreed to substitute for President McCauley at the Pioneer Crossing Landfill meeting.

Public Comment

- Don Wary, 511 Jefferson Street, noted his disappointment in Mayor Peterson's actions at the February 3, 2020 Council meeting. Mr. Wary asked about the water valve leak at 1st and Jefferson and Manager Yanos noted the Water Department is keeping an eye on it.
- Tom Brungard, 908 Union Street, congratulated Councilwoman Kauffman on her appointment and noted he will be available to serve on committees.
- Ken Long, 241 Hopewell Street, commended the Borough employees for their help at the Birdsboro Hometown Christmas event.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary