

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2020 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL
(Meeting held Teleconference)

Council Members Present: Joseph Peterson, Mayor
Neil McCauley, President
Mary Ann Cotter, Vice President
Robert Myers, Member
Anthony Scioli, Member
Matthew Welch, Member
Nancy Kauffman Member
Richard Happel, Member

Staff & Professionals: Terry Weiler, Solicitor
Todd Trupp, Chief of Police
Kelly J. Yanos, Manager
Anthony Tucci, Teleconference Coordinator
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 Reverend Joseph Motz.

Mayor Peterson commended Reverend Joseph Motz for his service to the community and President McCauley read the contents of Resolution No. 2020-17 recognizing Reverend Joseph Motz.

MOTION was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve Resolution No. 2020-17 recognizing Reverend Joseph Motz. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– March 16 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the March 16, 2020 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0 Amendment being Vice President Cotter and Councilwoman Kauffman seconding the motion to close the Borough Office to the public.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the Bills List dated April 6, 2020 and Checks for Ratification dated March 17, 2020 – April 5, 2020. Motion carried 7-0. Vice President Cotter noted it was helpful to have the Due from BMA line items on the list of bills.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Happel to approve the contributions from the Harms Benefit Fund to Albright College Center for Excellence in Local Government for \$300.00 and Berks County Solid Waste Authority for \$250.00. Motion carried 7-0.

Manager’s Report

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve Resolution No. 2020-18 allowing council members to participate in and vote on council

business by way of telephonic communication and therefore not physically require members to be present in a public room. Motion carried 7-0.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve a monthly stipend of \$535.00 to an Emergency Management Coordinator with payments to discontinue by the end of May unless the Governor's Declaration of Emergency has been lifted. Mayor Peterson asked Mr. Tucci if the Birdsboro Municipal Authority would consider paying half of the costs of the Emergency Management Coordinator stipend and expenses. Mr. Tucci responded that he did not see why not. Councilman Scioli amended his motion to begin the stipend and other expenses, such as gas for the Emergency Management Coordinator to begin on March 6, 2020 and extend until the Commonwealth lifts the Declaration of Emergency. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to appoint Kenneth Imes to the position of Emergency Management Coordinator with a stipend of \$535 per month and include reasonable verified expenses. Motion carried 7-0.
- Discussion of compensation for furloughed, infected or quarantined employees was tabled.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Vice President Cotter to ratify the advertising expense for the ad for the Council and Birdsboro Municipal Authority teleconferences. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Mayor Peterson requested that Council members copy him on requests made to Chief Trupp.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the Police Mutual Aid Agreement between Brecknock Township, Robeson Township and Birdsboro Borough. Motion carried 7-0.
- Chief Trupp noted resident donations to the Police Department and recommended they be thanked on the Borough website. The Police Department is working with St. Mark's and other churches to deliver meals to the elderly and shut-ins. There is a suspected COVID-19 death in Birdsboro, the coroner will provide the Police Department with pertinent information regarding the case.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Welch to waive U/O transfer inspections until LTL Consultants, the Borough's third party inspector, resumes and is available for inspections. Motion carried 7-0.

Emergency Management

Kenneth Imes noted he sent an e-mail to council explaining his report. A pandemic assistance group has been created and Vice President Cotter is the coordinator. Emergency kits have been provided to the Police Department.

Fire Department: Report is included in the Council packet

Solicitor's Report

- The Board of Health Ordinance to be adopted at the next council meeting.

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Scioli thanked the Chief, all volunteers, Ken Imes, Boyer's Market, Dollar General, Sunoco, Turkey Hill and the churches.
- Councilman Welch noted to stay safe, wash hands and keep distance.

- President McCauley thanked Mr. Tucci for facilitating the teleconference meetings.

Public Comment

- Tom Brungard, 908 Union Street, suggested the parks be closed and Manager Yanos noted the Public Works Department is keeping an eye on the activity in the parks and there are mostly dog walkers.
- Councilman Myers noted that it will be difficult to plan the Legion and VFW Memorial Day Parade which will most likely be cancelled. Item to be discussed further at the next council meeting. Councilman Myers thanked Ken Imes, the borough employees, the trash haulers, postal workers, pharmacy staff, and the paper deliverers.
- Matthew Elgonitis, 217 S. Walnut Street, asked if the trout opening day can still be held and as the trout opening day has been approved by the state the event can be held but practice social distancing.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary