

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 4, 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
Richard Happel, Member
Anthony Scioli,, Member
Nancy Kauffman Member

Council Members Absent: Matthew Welch, 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– April 20, 2020 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the April 20, 2020 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the Bills List dated May 4, 2020 and Checks for Ratification dated April 21, 2020 – May 3, 2020. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Myers inquired about the LTL Consultants payment and it was noted that the costs were incurred prior to the Governor’s Emergency Declaration.

Manager’s Report

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve Resolution No. 2020-20 to extend the “flat period” for the collection of municipal real estate taxes to September 30, 2020 to match the County’s time period. Motion carried 6-0.
- Councilman Myers inquired if Birdsboro Municipal Authority (BMA) is considering not enforcing penalties and water turn-offs during this time and Manager Yanos noted the BMA meets next Tuesday. Councilman Myers asked if there are cameras at the watershed and playgrounds to spot vandalism and Manager Yanos noted the cameras are ordered but delayed due to the COVID-19. Councilman Myers noted the incorrect time on the town clock and Chief Trupp stated that Mr. Takacs, the electrician, can resolve that.
- Manager Yanos reminded Council that for the summer months (June, July and August) Council will have one meeting a month, that being the third Monday.
- Vice President Cotter inquired about the burning regulations in the Borough and it was noted that open backyard fires are not permitted unless a permit has been issued by the Fire Marshal in

accordance with the burning ordinance. Recreation fires are not prohibited. Burning regulations are in the Borough Code of Ordinance which may be found on the Borough website.

- Vice President Cotter inquired about the recycling totes and Manager Yanos noted the borough did receive the grant paperwork but the recycling totes have not been ordered and it is unknown if the vendor is manufacturing them at this time.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Chief Trupp noted that service calls are down and Court is closed until May 15. Chief Trupp noted the graffiti problem at the watershed and patrolling the watershed has been increased. Signage at the watershed to be increased. Councilwoman Kauffman asked if there is a dumping problem at the watershed because there are grants available that address illegal dumping issues and Chief Trupp noted there is not a large degree of dumping and spray painting is the worst issue. Chief Trupp noted the Police Department will be back to full-compliment on Saturday. Suzanne Lander asked a question of Chief Trupp regarding a specific property and Chief Trupp recommended Mrs. Lander contact him directly to discuss.
- Mayor Peterson stated that everyone should warn senior about scams. Also noted was a Daniel Boone School District parents group that has expressed interest in having a motorcade for the seniors as graduation has been cancelled. If such an event would take place involved parties would need to be notified in advance, such as the Police Department, for proper planning.
- Since the Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled Vice President Cotter asked if the Fire Department could sound the sirens and then have there be a moment of silence in recognition of Memorial Day to make the day special. Councilman Myers noted that the flags will still be placed on graves but a ceremony may not be good due to the social distancing regulations but it is a good idea to work with the Fire Department to memorialize Memorial Day.

Emergency Management

Kenneth Imes noted a webinar he is attending on Thursday for a PEMA briefing addressing guidelines for funding. Also noted was that first responders have been receiving plenty of supplies from the County.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve Resolution No. 2020-19 for the Declaration of Disaster Emergency Extension. Motion carried 6-0.

Fire Department: Report is included in the Council packet

Solicitor's Report

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve Ordinance No. 489 adopting the Board of Health ordinance. Motion carried 6-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Scioli to authorize President McCauley to sign the Amorcast Road Deed of Dedication. Motion carried 6-0.
- Solicitor Weiler noted he is waiting to hear back from Solicitor London, representing the Berks County Redevelopment Authority, who is to contact Carl Motta's attorney. Further discussion to include input from the Borough's Engineer and Carl Motta's attorney.

Council/Committee Reports

- Vice President Cotter noted it is National Firefighter's Day and thanked all the firefighters and first responders. Also thanked were Borough office staff for their good work during this difficult

time, the Police Department for delivering meals as well as Ken Imes, EMC. Vice President Cotter thanked all those attending this evening including the residents who attended tonight.

- Councilman Scioli noted the employee satisfaction survey and noted concern that employees feel deeply disturbed by social media and its effect on morale. Councilman Scioli inquired about the election in June and Mr. Imes noted the Governor addressed that issue encouraging the use of mail-in ballots.
- President McCauley noted the potential for a partial in-person Council meeting in June. President McCauley noted he received an angry message from a resident about receiving a double water/sewer bill. Manager Yanos noted a borough-wide meter replacement project is to take place (due to the abundance of dead water meter batteries affecting the ability to read meters) and Manager Yanos will look into the incident that President McCauley referenced.

Public Comment

- Suzanne Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, noted her father's veteran flag holder in the cemetery is broken and Councilman Happel noted he will take care of it.
- Tom Brungard, 908 Union Street, thanked everyone along with Chief Trupp and Ken Imes.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary