

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 20, 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  
Matthew Welch, Member  
Nancy Kauffman, Member

**Staff & Professionals:** Terry Weiler, Solicitor  
Todd Trupp, Chief of Police  
Brian Boyer, Engineer  
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– June 15, 2020 Council Meeting**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the June 15, 2020 council meeting minutes. Amendments were discussed. **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the June 15, 2020 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0. Amendments:
  - Page 1. Heading “Manager’s Report”, third bullet point. Councilwoman Kauffman made the motion.
  - Page 2. Second Executive Session paragraph. Omit reference to Motta representatives and clarify only representatives of the Berks County Redevelopment Authority were present for the discussion.

**Bills List**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the Bills List dated July 20, 2020 and Checks for Ratification dated June 16, 2020 – July 19, 2020. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated July 20, 2020. Motion carried 7-0.
  - Vice President Cotter asked about the variations in the cost of sludge hauling and it was noted that the sludge hauling amounts are based on what the digesters are producing.

**Manager’s Report**

- There was discussion regarding the placement of the speed limit sign at Route 724 and Jackson Street. The need for Penn Dot approval and ordinance amendment were discussed. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel to move the sign to the location where the original documents specified. Councilman Happel amended the **MOTION** to move the “End 35” traffic sign 160

feet west of the Route 724/Jackson Street intersection. Councilman Scioli seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Welch to advertise the recycling contract bids. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Welch to donate \$500.00 from the Harms Benefit Fund to St. Paul's UCC for Mission Trip Birdsboro. Motion carried 7-0.
- Manager Yanos noted a draft public gathering ordinance and Solicitor Weiler noted that these documents can be an issue with first amendment rights if not worded properly. Solicitor Weiler will review the draft ordinance and render an opinion at the August Council meeting.
- Councilwoman Kauffman inquired about having Birdsboro Hometown Christmas planning meetings and it was noted that it is appropriate to meet and discuss but wait until September-October to determine the state of public gatherings.
- Manager Yanos noted the draft License Agreement for the American Legion Post 626 ball field and only Birdsboro Borough and the School District are listed in the agreement. The matter will be discussed further at a later date.
- The hearing for the approval of the Southern Berks Regional Joint Comprehensive Plan will be advertised for August 17, 2020 at 6:45 p.m.
- Ed Miller resigned from the Recreation Board. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Scioli to appoint Nancy Kauffman to the Recreation Board. Motion carried 7-0.
- It was agreed that the Borough Hall door will remain locked and those needing assistance may call the Borough Hall or knock on the door.
- Manager Yanos requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

### **Engineer's Report**

- Engineer Boyer noted he is working on the MS4 program, resubmitted outstanding items for the Haycreek Pedestrian Bridge to the DEP and is working with Senator Schwank to obtain a one-year extension, and is working on the sewer connection for the Legion ball field.
- Vice President Cotter inquired about strips of land being paved and used for various purposes. The lands were purchased from Brook Land Co owned by the Estate of Tom Sherman. Quiet title was noted and Solicitor Weiler noted that action would be expensive. Vice President Cotter asked about the sewer issue at the Matthew Brooke building and Engineer Boyer noted the Sewer Department was on the Borough side and the issue has been resolved.

### **Mayor/Police Reports**

- Mayor Peterson to look into information regarding the rumored sale of Birdsboro Elementary Center.
- Chief Trupp noted a list of those who made donations to the Police Department and that they will be placed on the Borough website, specifically noting the Woman's Club of Birdsboro, American Legion Post 626, Mr. and Mrs. Cotter and various churches.
- Chief Trupp noted that, after taking over the Watershed, there have been eight arrests and five of them pled guilty. Also, addressed was complaints about speeding on Main Street and stats show that 90% of drivers stay within 5 mph of the speed limit. Councilman Welch asked about fireworks complaints and Chief Trupp stated that the Police Department has received complaints, the residents are being educated and for the most part they comply as in most areas of the

Borough setting off fireworks is illegal according to State law. Councilwoman Kauffman asked if there have been issues with gas siphoning and Chief Trupp noted that there was one complaint that could not be substantiated.

**Emergency Management:** No new report

**Fire Department:** No new report.

**Solicitor's Report:** No new report.

**Council/Committee Reports**

- Vice President Cotter thanked all the Emergency personnel and meeting attendees for their input.
- President McCauley noted the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Committee will meet next month.

**Public Comment**

- Tom Brungard, 908 Union Street, suggest posting the Southern Berks Regional Comprehensive Plan on the Borough website. The link will be posted on the website. Recreation Board vacancy notice may be placed on Borough website.
- The crosswalk at 1st Street and Jefferson Street is to be painted to include pedestrian crossing signs on each side of the street.
- Management of recreation fields to be discussed at a later date.

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. for the purpose of personnel. Council returned from Executive Session at 9:06 p.m. and the regular meeting resumed.

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Happel to hire Rebecca Aulenbach for the Receptionist/Clerk position at an hourly rate of \$15.00 plus benefits. Motion carried 7-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Borough Secretary