

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 7, 2020 7:00 P.M. – 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  
Brian Boyer, Borough Engineer  
Todd Trupp, Chief of Police  
Kelly J. Yanos, Manager  
Bonnie L. Frisco, Secretary/Treasurer

**Visitors:** Bruce Godfrey, Tom Brungard, H. David Miller, Anthony Tucci, Matt Elgonitis, Susie and Russell Landers, Jonathan Washko, Steve Lusky, Al Degenaro, Caitlyn Dillon, and Todd Sheridan

**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

**Girl Scout Silver Award Project – Caitlyn Dillon**

Caitlyn Dillon of Girl Scout Troop 1797 presented her Girl Scout Silver Award project. The project is to clean up graffiti at Main Bird Park and other locations. Paint donated to the Water Treatment Plant is available for use. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Vice President Cotter to proceed with the Girl Scout Silver Award project as presented. Motion carried 7-0-0.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Al Degenaro, of J.P. Mascaro, noted the deficiency in one of the recycling bids. Councilman Myers inquired about the necessity for the Certificate of Authority that is in the recycling bid specifications. The bid specifications are to be reviewed.

**Minutes– November 16, 2020 Council Meeting**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilman Happel to approve the November 16, 2020 budget meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Vice President cotter to approve the November 16, 2020 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

**Bills List and Treasurer’s Report**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the Bills List dated December 7, 2020 and Checks for Ratification dated November 17, 2020 – December 6, 2020. Motion carried 7-0.

**Manager’s Report**

- After review of the EMS Services proposals (received by Life Lion, Southern Berks EMS and Western Berks EMS), a **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Welch to contract with Western Berks EMS to begin 2021. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilman Scioli to adopt the 2021 Budget with no tax increase for the amount of \$3,029,054. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Scioli to award the Recycling Contract to J.P. Mascaro for one year (2021) for the proposed cost of \$112,268. President McCauley called for a roll call vote:

Vice President Cotter – yes	Councilman Happel – yes	Councilman Myers – yes
Councilman Scioli – yes	Councilman Welch – no	Councilwoman Kauffman – no
President McCauley – no		

Motion carried 4-3.

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the 2021 Holiday Schedule as presented. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the 2021 Meeting Schedule as presented. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the following reappointments:
  - Roy Feick                      Zoning Hearing Board                      3-year term
  - Kevin Shelton                Birdsboro Municipal Authority            5-year term
  - Randy Walker                Board of Appeals                            3-year term
  - Tom Brungard                Recreation Board                            5-year term
  - Bert Tucci                      Planning Commission                      4-year term
  - Charles Benson                Vacancy Board                                1-year term
- The 2021 Tax Resolution will be prepared for adoption at the next Council meeting.

### **Engineer's Report**

- Engineer Boyer submitted his report, a copy of which will be kept on file. Engineer Boyer provided an update of the MS4 work and President McCauley noted concerns of the cost of the MS4 Program and Engineer Boyer noted that the Borough has 3.5 years to complete the required tasks. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Welch to proceed with the MS4 Program work. Motion carried 7-0
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to award the Amorcast Road Bridge project to Fares Farhat General Construction, LLC for the amount of \$154,321. Motion carried 7-0.
- Engineer Boyer noted the Multi Modal Grant was accepted and the match would be \$370,000, noting the possibility of splitting out the Furnace Street work. Councilwoman Kauffman asked if the Borough could apply to DCED for matching funds and Engineer Boyer said yes.

### **Mayor/Police Reports**

- Chief Trupp thanked everyone for the \$500 in No-Shave November donations which will go to support homeless veterans. Chief Trupp noted ten (10) car break-ins and reminded everyone to lock their car doors.

### **Emergency Management**

Ken Imes, Emergency Management Coordinator, noted that the COVID case numbers are rising and another order may come down from the Governor.

**Fire Department:** No new report.

### **Solicitor's Report**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Welch to advertise the amended Stop Sign Ordinance to include a 3-way stop at Jefferson Street and W. 1st Street. President McCauley called for a roll call vote:

Vice President Cotter – no	Councilman Happel – yes	Councilman Myers – no
Councilman Scioli – yes	Councilman Welch – yes	Councilwoman Kauffman– yes
President McCauley – no		

Motion carried 4-3.

### **Council/Committee Reports**

- Vice President Cotter noted the letter regarding recycling is to be sent to Representative Maloney and Senator Schwank. Vice President Cotter thanked President McCauley for an excellent job leading the Council meetings and thanked Manager Yanos and Councilman Welch for their work with gathering the EMS services information.
- Councilman Scioli thanked Manager Yanos and Councilman Welch for their work with gathering the EMS services information.
- Councilman Welch said for everyone to stay safe and wear masks.
- Councilman Happel noted the poor state of the railroad tracks in front of FM Brown's, Manager Yanos to contact H&K regarding the railroad tracks.
- Councilman Myers noted he attended the American Legion Baseball Field committee meeting and a draft of the baseball field license agreement is to be revisited and then forwarded to the School District for consideration and an agreement to be prepared for other entities' field use.
- President McCauley noted the Pioneer Crossing Landfill odor complaints are increasing.

### **Birdsboro Hometown Christmas**

- There are 3 to 4 organizations putting up their own lighting displays for the Birdsboro Hometown Christmas event, 13 vendors and 117 cars have signed up so far.

### **Recreation Board**

- Bruce Godfrey thanked Caitlyn Dillon for her Girl Scout Silver Award project. Also noted is that pavilion pricing recommendations will be ready for the next Council meeting. Plans are being made for a Saturday night event the first weekend in March.
- Mayor Peterson noted he was contacted by an Eagle Scout parent proposing a project in one of the parks, Mayor Peterson will forward the contact information to Bruce Godfrey.

### **Executive Session**

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:42 p.m. Solicitor Weiler stated that the Executive Session was discuss real estate and potential litigation. No action was taken.

**Public Comment**

- Tom Brungard, 908 Union Street, thanked Council for his reappointment to the Recreation Board and also thanked Anthony Tucci, Matthew Welch, the BU Fire Department and Chief Trupp.
- Mayor Peterson noted that Car Museum owner, J.P. Mascaro is interested in installing a split rail fence at the trail head parking area lot near Hay Creek. That item will be presented to the Birdsboro Municipal Authority as the Authority owns the subject property

**ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Borough Secretary