

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 21, 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  
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

**Visitor(s):** Tom Brungard, Susy and Russell Landers, Bruce Godfrey, Joan London, Tony Tucci, and Steve Lusky

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None

**Minutes– December 7, 2020 Council Meeting**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the December 7, 2020 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0. Amendment: add the 7-0 vote to the motion to contract with Western Berks for EMS services.

**Bills List and Treasurer’s Report**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the Bills List dated December 21, 2020 and Checks for Ratification dated December 8, 2020 – December 20, 2020. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated December 21, 2020. Motion carried 7-0. Councilman Myers asked about the \$500 donation from the Harms Benefit Fund and Manager Yanos noted it was the check for the Community Center.

**Manager’s Report**

- There was discussion regarding the recycling specifications and it was noted that the Certificate of Authority is (one of the documents listed in the specifications as being required with bid submissions) a document associated with a company which is incorporated out of state. It was discussed if an Article of Incorporation would be sufficient especially if the company is not incorporated out state. Solicitor Weiler will review the recycling bid specifications and provide language recommendations.
- An Executive Session will be held to discuss pending litigation.

### **Mayor/Police Reports**

- Mayor Peterson commended the job done by Borough employees during the snow event. Chief Trupp noted the well planned snow emergency announcement aiding in the speedy street clean up. Also noted was a rash of vehicle break-ins and two individuals have been identified and arrested pending further investigation. Chief Trupp thanked the VFW for the \$1,000 donation to the Police Department. Also noted was the application made to PEMA for reimbursement funds for the expenses incurred due to the protest in June, noting a full refund may not be received as there is \$3.1M allotted for these expenses to be shared for all of Pennsylvania. Chief Trupp thanked Ken Imes, Emergency Management Coordinator, for the large supply of PPE. Also noted was a nationwide shortage of gloves.
- Vice President Cotter asked if all Police Department staff are in good health and Chief Trupp noted they are except for one individual dealing with an injury.

### **Recreation Board**

Bruce Godfrey noted that the Recreation Board met this past Thursday and has made progress with the 2nd Saturday events. Discussed was the proposed pavilion rental fees, suggesting the rates be lowered for weekdays, \$25 for non-profits, \$60 for residents and \$75 for non-residents. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops will not be charged if they are chartered by an organization within the Daniel Boone School District. For weekend reservations, there would be a 10% discount for additional pavilions.

### **Birdsboro Hometown Christmas**

Councilwoman Kauffman deferred the Birdsboro Hometown Christmas update to January after which time all the expenses have been recorded.

### **Emergency Management:**

- Kenneth Imes noted that the glove shortage issue is be worked on and he will meet with PEMA on Wednesday and will have more information for the next meeting.

Council recessed into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m. Solicitor Weiler noted that the purpose of the Executive Session was a real estate matter and pending litigation specifically costs involved with the Hollis legal case. No action was taken.

**Fire Department:** No new report.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the Resolution No. 2020-22, the 2021 Tax Resolution. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve Resolution No. 2020-23 for the 2021 EMS levy change from \$35 per household to \$30 per household. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Council/Committee Reports**

- Vice President Cotter thanked the Fire Department and Santa for travelling around the Borough and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Councilman Myers thanked Borough snow removal personnel for clearing the streets from the snow event.

- Councilman Scioli thanked everyone for keeping the roads clear during the snow event.
- Councilman Welch noted the Birdsboro Hometown Christmas was a very nice event and noted the excellent job done with the snow clearing of the Borough streets. Councilman Welch asked Council to consider matching the bonuses the Birdsboro Municipal Authority gave to Borough office staff. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilman Scioli to give bonuses to Borough office staff matching the bonuses given by the Birdsboro Municipal Authority. Motion carried 7-0.
- President McCauley noted that 2020 has been a trying year and commended the Borough employees and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Public Comment**

- Tony Tucci, Birdsboro Municipal Authority President, noted there was a meeting with the DEP and they are not budging with the water allocation issues so Judy Schwank will be contacted. Mr. Tucci noted that Western Berks EMS is set to go January 6, 2021.
- Tom Brungard, 908 Union Street, thanked Council for serving especially during a trying year.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Borough Secretary