

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 5, 2021 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, Engineer
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): Bruce Godfrey, Tom Brungard, Matt Elgonitis, Chris Herbein, Stephen Kincaid, Ron Schwartz, Brian Focht, Anthony Tucci, Logan Fox, Christen Thompson, Gary Mendez, and Susy and Russell Landers

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Mr. Tucci noted that the Western Berks Ambulance has had 145 transports. The station will move the third week of April to the permanent headquarters. Mr. Scioli asked how many communities does Western Berks Ambulance cover and Mr. Tucci noted eighteen. Also noted was the \$700,000.00 shortfall from 2020 due to COVID-19.

Town Clock Repair – Ron Schwartz

Mr. Schwartz provided an overview of the town clock and the repairs needed. LED lights were discussed but it was noted that LED lights may overwhelm the clock face.

Berks Trail Works – Stephan Kincaid

Mr. Kincaid provided an overview of Berks Trail Works. The organization is classified as 501-3C. Mr. Kincaid noted an increased need to maintain the watershed and trails and once the bridge project is complete the trail traffic will increase. The Berks Trail Works' goal is to assist the borough with maintenance of the Haycreek Trail area and other trails in the area. The Berks Trail Works has an estimated 290 members.

American Legion 626 Ball Field Netting

There was discussion regarding netting at the AL626 ball field and it was agreed that the netting should stay down and not be replaced.

Minutes– March 15 2021 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the March 15, 2021 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0.
 - Remove the duplicate Matt Elgonitis from the Visitor(s) section

- Under the Manager's Report, in the first paragraph, change 'remove the disciplinary portion' to 'reword the disciplinary portion'
- Under Solicitor's Report, in the first paragraph change 'south to north' to 'north to south'

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the Bills List dated April 5, 2021 and Checks for Ratification dated March 16, 2021 – April 4, 2021. Motion carried 7-0.

Manager's Report

- The Western Berks EMS request for consideration of financial assistance from the Corona Relief Package funds will be placed on Pending Business.
- There was a discussion regarding the notice given by the Daniel Boone School District that Keystone Collections will be the collector of the per capita tax for 2021, which will be more costly than when Daniel Boone School District collected the tax. Manager Yanos checked the other collection firms and they would charge the same price as Keystone Collections for the per capita tax collection. Manager Yanos noted a suggestion to contract with Keystone Collections for 2021, decision does is not needed until 5/1/21, and repeal the per capita tax starting in 2022.
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the hiring summer help for the Water Department for watershed maintenance starting on or after May 3 and ending no later than September 10, 2021 for 20 hours per week at a rate of \$15/hour, pending approval from the BMA and Teamsters. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to proceed with the town clock repair in accordance with the proposal received from Ron Schwartz for a cost not to exceed \$6,700.00. Motion carried 7-0.
- Manager Yanos noted looking into repaving Water Street from Route 724 to E. 1st Street as more monies were received for the 2021 Liquid Fuels allotment than expected. There was discussion regarding UGI providing monies toward that project due to the poor condition of Water Street as a result of UGI's installation of a gas line.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve to have the electrical octopus at Main Bird Park grounded. Motion carried 7-0. Quotes to be obtained for a second electrical octopus.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve a \$300.00 donation to Albright College Center for Excellence for Local Government. Motion carried 7-0.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.

- The sidewalk issue at 215 S. Walnut Street is a property owner matter and the Borough cannot require the property owner to make alterations.
- Cedar Hill Estates was discussed. The project proposes 502 single family dwellings, with ½ of the homes being age restricted, the site size is 350 acres, with no proposed development in the Borough other than the street connection. Phase 1 covers improvements and the NPDES and PADOT permits need to be renewed. An easement agreement concerning the Beacon driveway will need to be prepared. Councilman Welch asked if anything could be done about the Jackson Street underpass and it was noted that there is no way to fix that without replacing the whole

railroad bridge. Councilman Myers asked when Phase 1 would be complete and it was noted the earliest would be next spring.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Mayor Peterson noted that the Satiros have been approved to purchase the Birdsboro Elementary Center and a Planning Commission will be held to reorganize.
- Chief Trupp noted the Public Works Department painted speed lines throughout the Borough.

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: Vice President Cotter noted the Fire Department report is inaccurate.

Solicitor's Report:

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the American Legion Ball Field Agreement and the 2021 Legion Ball Field Fee Schedule. Motion carried 7-0.
- Councilman Myers asked about what will be on the ballots and it was noted the 2-year seat will be a write-in.

Recreation Board

- Mr. Godfrey noted that the groundwork has been started to initiate a Farmer's Market and four farms are interested. The goal is to begin May 22 and have a Farmer's Market every other Saturday through October. Hand washing stations to be made available to adhere to sanitary regulations. **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to move forward with the Farmer's Market plans starting May 22 for every other Saturday. Motion carried 7-0.
- Movie nights to continue, there is enough funding for June, July and August.
- Beautify Birdsboro is upcoming and Angry Anvil plans to have a beer garden.

Council/Committee Reports

- Vice President Cotter thanked all of those who attended and thanked all for their input.
- Councilman Scioli inquired about transitioning to in-person meetings.
- Councilwoman Kauffman noted that Hopewell Big Woods is focusing on tourism and planning on doing outreach to municipalities. May 8 is trash pickup day.
- Councilman Myers noted the importance of having a detailed discussion about how to expend the funds received under the COVID relief package.

Public Comment

- Gary Mendez, 561 High Street, noted concern regarding lack of parking for High Street residents. Council requested that the Solicitor and Borough Manager discuss and report findings to Council.

Executive Session

Council recessed into Executive Session at 9:26 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 10:06 p.m. Solicitor Weiler noted that Council discuss personnel matter including the Borough Manager's performance review and the Tax Collector position. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary