

MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 21, 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
Matthew Welch, Member
Nancy Kauffman, Member

Council Member Absent: Anthony Scioli, 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, Jeffrey Kauffma, Susie and Russell Lander

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Jeffrey Kauffman of the Birdsboro Rotary Club noted the Birdsboro Rotary Club felt slighted by the perceived implication that the Birdsboro Rotary Club did not want to provide payment for the additional Hometown Hero Banner brackets that were needed due to the removal of a couple Met-Ed electric poles. He noted that the Rotary Club did not receive a request from the Borough to consider covering the bracket costs. The matter will be discussed under the Manager's Report.

Minutes– May 17, 2021 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the May 17, 2021 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 6-0.
 - Under Herbein and Company, Inc. – Review of the 2020 Borough Audit, in the last sentence change 'Mr. Herbein' to 'Mr. Bieber'.
 - Under Manager's Report, the sixth bullet to read 'It was noted that Council needs to appoint a certified Health Officer'

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the Bills List dated June 21, 2021 and Checks for Ratification dated May 18, 2021 – June 20, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.
 - Vice President Cotter asked that the year in the Dispatch Services description be clarified

Treasurer's Report

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve Treasurer's Report dated June 21, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.
 - Councilman Myers asked for clarification of line item numbers G387001 (Other Revenue. Contributions), G451540 (Recreation. Other Recreation Expenses) and G451740 (Recreation. Major Equipment)

Mayor/Police Reports

- Mayor Peterson read a letter commending Chief Trupp for his involvement with a property owner dispute matter that resulted in an acceptable conclusion.
- Chief Trupp noted the quarterly statistics and Quality of Life matters make up the largest amount of calls received.
- Chief Trupp noted that addresses at each home and business should be marked clearly and within code requirements and a large percentage of the Borough does not comply. Chief Trupp suggested the Borough consider a program to paint property numbers on the curbs and this project could potentially be done by Boy Scout or Girl Scout groups.
- Chief Trupp expressed frustration regarding the lack of funding and resources relating to law enforcement involving mentally disturbed individuals. Such individuals are released from jail without proper rehabilitation and the hospitals do not prefer to admit them; therefore, they become repeated offenders.
- Vice President Cotter asked if Cumru Township took over Mohnton Borough police services would Birdsboro Borough back them up as well and Chief Trupp noted that area departments do provide back up for each other and there are agreements in place to cover that.

Engineer's Report

Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file. President McCauley noted concern of the costs incurred for the MS4 Program.

Emergency Management

MOTION was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to terminate the monthly stipend of \$535.00 that has been being paid to Ken Imes, Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion carried 6-0.

Fire Department: Vice President Cotter requested a corrected Fire Department report.

Solicitor's Report

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the Amended Cooperation Agreement with Berks Nature/The Nature Place. Motion carried 6-0.
- Solicitor Weiler noted he has a call into Joan London regarding an update of the Motta property.

Manager's Report

- **Legion Ball Field Lavatory - MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to provide a portable lavatory for \$200/month at the Legion Ball Field till October. After further discussion, **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and econded by Councilwoman Kauffman to rescind the motion to provide a portable lavatory for \$200/month at the Legion Ball Field until further information is gathered, such as, why did the

school district remove the portable lavatory and further review of the ball field lease agreement to determine who is responsible for providing the portable lavatory until the concession stand is complete. Motion carried 6-0.

- **Birdsboro Power Plant Tour** – Manager Yanos to provide Council with dates/times for scheduling a tour of the Birdsboro Power Plant
- **Mission Trip Birdsboro Prayer Meeting** – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the use of Main Bird Park on Friday, July 23, 2021 between 3:30 PM and 5:30 PM for Mission Trip Birdsboro’s Program Completion Prayer Meeting.
- **Hometown Hero Banner Hardware** – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to authorize the Borough to pay \$260.00 for the additional hardware needed for the Hometown Hero Banners due to Met-Ed’s removal of the poles and hardware. Motion carried 6-0.
- **“Children at Play” Signs** – Manager Yanos noted a request from a resident to place “Children at Play” signs on the one-way portion of Orange Street. After discussion, it was agreed that such signs would not be beneficial to the Borough.
- **Code Enforcement** – Manager Yanos noted the requirement that every complaint must be submitted on a signed complaint form to ensure complaints and violations are addressed in a proper manner.

Council/Committee Reports

- Vice President Cotter commended Councilmen Myers, Happel and Scioli and Mayor Peterson for representing the Borough on Memorial Day and also noted the Farmer’s Market is doing well. Vice President Cotter gave kudos to those individuals who worked on The Schuylkill Road Project and congratulated Tom Brungard on his primary election results. Vice President Cotter requested Manager Yanos contact APCI to provide a presentation regarding solar energy. Vice President Cotter thanked all those present this evening for attending.
- Councilwoman Kauffman requested that repairs be made to the wood on the fence and the post for the little library at Vest Pocket Park. Councilwoman Kauffman noted that the Birdsboro Rotary Club has received permission from the Schuylkill River Trail Association to place a historical marker depicting the canal at the trailhead and there are plans to place a historical marker at Borough Hall depicting the past buildings that were at that site.
- Councilman Welch wished everyone a belated Happy Memorial Day and commended the phenomenal job done on the town clock.
- Councilman Myers noted \$2,000.00 that were in the Birdsboro Historical Commission’s bank account but due to inactivity was turned over the State. The Borough can apply for the monies from the State as the first request from the Birdsboro Historical Commission was denied.
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to set the Halloween Parade for October 28, 2021 and Treat or Treat night for October 30, 2021, which is a Saturday. The motion carried 5-1 with Councilwoman Kauffman voting no.
- Councilman Happel noted the American Legion Post 626 will celebrate their 100th birthday in 2022, a planning committee will be established to plan a celebration. Councilman Happel noted several complaints regarding the railroad tracks. Manager Yanos noted she will follow up with H&K, the other recourse for the Furnace Street railroad track is to contact PennDot and have them pave over the tracks.
- Councilman Happel noted the two (2) unnecessary stop signs at Silverbrook Drive, Washington Street and W. 6th Street. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by

Councilwoman Kauffman to remove the two (2) stop signs at Silverbrook Drive, Washington Street and W. 6th Street. Motion carried 6-0. Vice President Cotter noted that Council should wait a month before voting on this matter, so that Council had time to look into it

- President McCauley echoed Vice Presidents Cotter's compliment regarding the Farmer's Market and noted the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Committee met last Wednesday and one issue discussed was the increase in overweight trucks.

Public Comment

- Bruce Godfrey, Recreation Board Chairman, noted the following.
 - The Battle of the Bands event has been cancelled due to planning difficulties.
 - The Recreation Board is trying to settle on a date with the Tons of Fun establishment for carnival activities but are having difficulty getting a set date from Tons of Fun.
 - The 1st Street Players plan to put on the show, Rock of Ages, in Rustic Park for two shows on August 7, with a rain date of August 15, one show at 2:00 p.m. and the other at 7:00 p.m. They will be doing fundraising for the event and the show will be free and open to the public.
 - Chairman Godfrey will discuss the curb house numbering project with Chief Trupp
- Tom Brungard of the Recreation Board is planning Walking Tours to take place September 11.
- Matt Elgonitis noted the great paving job at S. Walnut Street and E. 3rd Street. Also noted was a Girl Scout doing a good job of painting under the bridge at Rustic Park and noted the Girl Scout project bench in Rustic Park will be installed soon. The next move featured for Movie Night at Texas Field will be The Sand Lot.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary