

**MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 18, 2021 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL**

Council Member Roll Call:

Neil McCauley, President - present
Mary Ann Cotter, Vice President - present
Robert Myers, Member - present
Richard Happel, Member - present

Anthony Scioli, Member - present
Matthew Welch, Member – present
Nancy Kauffman, Member - present

Also present in addition to Council were:

Joseph Peterson, Mayor
Todd Trupp, Police Chief
Terry Weiler, Solicitor
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 Abundant Life Church Pastor Devin Blankenbiller

Visitor(s): Matt Elgonitis, Chruce Godfrey, Anthony Tucci, Abundant Life Church Pastor Devin Blankenbiller, Russell and Susie Landers

Agenda Amendments: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Jeffrey Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, noted that the Haycreek Pedestrian Bridge is on Birdsboro Municipal Authority owned property and suggested the naming of the bridge be tabled until the matter can be discussed with the Birdsboro Municipal Authority.

Abundant Life Church Relocation – Abundant Life Church Pastor Devin Blankenbiller was present to discuss the relocation of Abundant Life Church that will need to change locations due to the sale of the former Birdsboro Elementary Center building. Pastor Blankenbiller noted that the church prefers to stay in the Borough and requested if anyone knew of any suitable locations for the church to relocate to, to please notify the church.

Minutes– October 4, 2021 Budget Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the October 4, 2021 budget meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes– October 4, 2021 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the October 4, 2021 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0.
 - Manager’s Report – subheading Recycling Bids – amend the minutes to reflect that Councilwoman Kauffman made the motion to accept J.P. Mascaro’s Recycling Bid and add the following text, Solicitor Weiler explained the bidding process and agreed with Attorney DeGennaro that Hollenbaugh’s Trash and Recycling LLC bid documents were not in accordance with the recycling bid specifications as prescribed by the Borough.

- Council/Committee Reports – Councilman Myers noted that the ‘snack bar plumbing’ was installed not the ‘snack bar and plumbing’.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the Bills List dated October 18, 2021 and Checks for Ratification dated October 5, 2021 – October 17, 2021. Motion carried 7-0.

Treasurer’s Report

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated October 18, 2021. Motion carried 7-0.

Manager’s Report

- **Accommodation Fee Renegotiation** – Anthony Tucci, Birdsboro Municipal Authority Chairman, provided an overview of the reasoning for the accommodation fee split between the Municipal Authority and the Borough. It was agreed that Councilman Myers, President McCauley, Anthony Tucci and Jeffrey Kauffman will form a committee along with Solicitors Weiler and Becker to discuss the accommodation fees.
- **Naming Rights to the Haycreek Pedestrian Bridge** – Item is tabled.
- **Appoint Dan Becker of Kozloff Stout** – **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to appoint Dan Becker of Kozloff and Stout to serve as the solicitor for the Birdsboro Civil Service Commission. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Jackson Road Closure** – Jackson Road will be closed Thursday, October 21 from Route 724 to W. 1st Street for road repair.
- **Executive Session – Recycling Grant** – Executive Session not needed

Mayor/Police Reports: Chief Trupp noted the following

- The Girl Scouts painted the house numbers on the curbs on Mansion Court East and Mansion Court West will be done in the spring.
- The VFW donated \$500 from their games of chance to the Police Department.
- The Police Department will be participating in “No Shave November” and plan to donate the proceeds to a child in Union Township who has cancer.
- PEMA has awarded the Police Department \$1,100 for costs incurred during the ‘passive demonstration’.
- Robin Emerick, Police Department Administrative Assistant, assisted with the JNET audit that earned the Police Department a commendable rating within a month.
- There were speed signs placed at E. 5th and Chestnut Streets and E. 1st and Spruce Streets
 - E. 5th and Chestnut – 26,000 vehicles travelled in one direction in 10 days with 20 vehicles going over the speed limit
 - E. 1st and Spruce – 4,000 vehicles travelled in one direction in 10 days with 1 vehicle going over the speed limit

Recreation Board

Christmas in Birdsboro Lighting Contract – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Vice President Cotter to accept the Halter Landscaping quote for this year’s Christmas lights. Motion carried 7-0.

The appointment of Donna Elgonitis to the Recreation Board will be on the next Council meeting agenda. The next Christmas in Birdsboro committee meeting will be held October 26 and 8:45 a.m. at Borough Hall.

Councilman Myers asked if there will be fireworks at the Christmas in Birdsboro event and Mr. Godfrey noted that is being coordinated with Dave Blank.

Municipal Services / Department Reports:

1. **Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Report included in Council packet
2. **Water Treatment Plant:** Report delayed due to staffing issues
3. **Streets Department:** Report included in Council packet

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: Report included in Council packet

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Weiler reported he has nothing additional to add

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilwoman Kauffman noted that governmental entities are referring to the recovery funds as grants. The COVID Fiscal Recovery Stimulus committee will consist of President McCauley, Vice President Cotter and Councilman Welch.
- Vice President Cotter thanked all of those attending the meeting.
- Councilman Welch thanked all that had reached out to him in response to the loss of his family member.
- Councilman Myers noted that he attended a zoom meeting, which included Commissioner Leinbach, relating to the Reading to Philadelphia rail service and noted that Birdsboro was listed as a stop, along with Pottstown, Phoenixville, Reading and Allentown. Councilman Myers requested a meeting be scheduled with PLGIT to discuss investment opportunities. Councilman Myers asked if ransomware has been looked into relating to the Borough and Manager Yanos stated that is was and the Borough is okay.
- President McCauley noted that the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee will meet on Wednesday and the tarp issue is expected to be discussed. The J.P. Mascaro Fall Clean Up is scheduled for October 30.

Public Comment:

Matt Elgonitis, 217 S. Walnut Street, asked when is Trick or Treat night and it was noted it is Saturday, October 30.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary