

**MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2021 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL**

Council roll call:

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

Anthony Scioli, Member – present (virtual)  
Matthew Welch, Member – present  
Nancy Kauffman, Member - present

Also in attendance were:

Joseph Peterson, Mayor  
Todd Trupp, Police Chief  
Terry Weiler, Solicitor  
Kelly J. Yanos, Manager (virtual)  
Bonnie L. Frisco, Secretary/Treasurer

**Call to Order:** President McCauley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Vice President Cotter

**Visitor(s):** Matt Elgonitis, Chruce Godfrey, Hilary Notario, Chruce Godfrey, Russell and Susie Landers, and Greg Birmingham

**Agenda Amendments:** **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Welch to add “Disaster Mitigation Grant Application’ to the agenda under the Manager’s Report. Motion carried 7-0.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items** - None

**Minutes– November 1, 2021 Budget Meeting**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the November 1, 2021 budget meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

**Minutes– November 1, 2021 Council Meeting**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the November 1, 2021 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

**Bills List**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the Bills List dated November 15, 2021 and Checks for Ratification dated November 2, 2021 – November 14, 2021. Motion carried 7-0.

**Treasurer’s Report**

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated November 15, 2021. Motion carried 7-0.
  - Clarifications made at the request of Councilman Myers

- ✓ G387001 – Contributions of \$1,054.60 were for the repair to the town clock received by the Woman's Club of Birdsboro and the Birdsboro Rotary Club
- ✓ G332900 – Other Police Income – Received \$1,447.48 for reimbursement for police coverage for special activities at Main Bird Park and restitution
- ✓ G451740 – Recreation Major Equipment – the \$1,105.57 expense was for an electrical fuse box and associated electrical supplies for Main Bird Park

### **Manager's Report**

- **VFW \$1,500.00 Donation Request – MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the \$1,500.00 donation from the Harm's Benefit Fund to the VFW. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Clock Repair Donation** – Manager Yanos noted the \$1,054.60 donation from the Woman's Club of Birdsboro and the Birdsboro Rotary Club for the town clock repair.
- **Flood Mitigation Grant** – MOTION was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Myers to authorize the Borough Manager to apply for the Flood Mitigation Grant for Fulton Street and Schuylkill Road. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Per Capita Tax** – There was discussion regarding the possible elimination of the Per Capita Tax. No action was taken.
- **Borough Investments** – Councilman Myers and Vice President Cotter provided details of a meeting they had with the Borough's PLGIT representative, and discussed was moving funds to gain better interest rates. Borough staff to review the possibilities and make necessary adjustments.

### **Mayor/Police Reports**

- Chief Trupp thanked Vice President Cotter and Mr. Cotter for their donation for No Shave November and stated that the Police Department has so far collected \$500.00 for the event.
- Chief Trupp noted that in January he will be named President of the Berks County Chiefs' Association.
- Mayor Peterson read a letter from J.P. Mascaro regarding the tarp (cap) on the top of the landfill, the letter denoted the reasoning and benefits of the tarp (cap). President McCauley noted the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee has been discussing the matter and noted that the Harms Agreement with J.P. Mascaro includes an aesthetic clause and felt that the tarp (cap) may be in violation of that.

### **Recreation Board**

Christmas in Birdsboro Fireworks Contract – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Welch and seconded by Vice President Cotter to authorize signature of the Fireworks Contract with International Fireworks contingent upon the approval of Solicitor Weiler, with the cost of the fireworks not to exceed \$5,000.00. Motion carried 7-0. The fireworks display will be managed the International Fireworks and set off by Birdsboro Union Fire Department personnel. The fireworks are to be located as far away as possible from the Birdsboro Power Plant and the they are estimated to start around 8:00 p.m. Chruce Godfrey, President of the Recreation Board, thanked Vice President Cotter for her help with securing a tent for the Christmas in Birdsboro event and the bounce house has been donated. Councilman Happel thanked everyone on the Recreation Board for the great job they are doing.

### **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**

**Pandemic Funding and Stipend** - Councilman Welch noted the discontinuation of the Emergency Management Coordinator's stipend and noted that the November 16, 2020 meeting Council extended the EMC stipend until both Emergency Declarations are lifted, which included the President's and the Governor's declaration, noting that the President's declaration has not been lifted and FEMA is operating under the President's declaration. The matter to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Fire Department:** Report included in Council packet

### **Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Weiler reported he has nothing additional to add other than the Fireworks Contract review.

### **Council/Committee Reports**

- Councilwoman Kauffman thanked all of those who attend the Haycreek Pedestrian Bridge Dedication Ceremony held today.
- Vice President Cotter noted that Mayor Peterson represented well at the Bridge Dedication Ceremony. Vice President Cotter noted she attend the Zoning Hearing on November 10 for the proposed apartments at 400 W. 2nd Street and noted concern about the discussion as she was under the impression that the apartments were to be all 55+. Mayor Peterson noted they are proposing 2/3 of the apartments to be 55+. It was noted the Zoning Hearing was continued and Councilwoman Kauffman asked why it was continued and Mayor Peterson noted that the applicant obtained the legal representation and their council needed additional time to submit an amended application.
- Vice President Cotter thanked all of those attending the meeting and providing input and wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Councilman Welch thanked all of those who voted.
- Councilman Myers noted that the American Legion Post 626 will have a 100th Anniversary celebration event at the end of July or early August in 2022. There will be several events along with one community event. Councilman Myers asked if the Recreation Board would be interested in helping with planning the community event and Chruce Godfrey said the Recreation Board would be happy to help and they will send a representative to the planning meeting. The planning meeting is scheduled for January 9 at 3:30 p.m.
- President McCauley noted that the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee will not meet this month but will meet in December.
- Councilman Scioli noted that Election Day was very enjoyable. Councilman Scioli noted that Daniel Boone graduate Brienne Houck, an Army Veteran won the Ms. Pennsylvania 2022 title at the United States of America State Pageant. Ms. Houck is interested in helping promote the Borough and it was suggested Ms. Houck participate in the American Legions' 100th celebration, noted was her participation in the Rotary Club Halloween Parade.

### **Public Comment**

- Chruce Godfrey, 204 Hampton Drive, noted concern regarding moving Borough investments to obtain minimal interest, as assurance of liquidity of the monies is important.

- Susie Landers, Silverbrook Drive, asked about the status of Motta property and Solicitor Weiler noted he has is waiting to hear back from Attorney Joan London.
- Greg Birmingham, 320 Washington Street, noted concerns of noise and provided a noise ordinance be adopted and provided copies of Mohnton Borough's noise ordinance.
- Matt Elgonitis, 217 S. Walnut Street, asked when the railroad tracks by Boyer's Market will be repaired and it was noted that H&K is working with PennDot to get the matter resolved.
- Hilary Notario, 504 Madison Street, asked when dumping will end at Pioneer Crossing Landfill and Mayor Peterson noted that could go on for a while but they are opening another location by the motorcycle club which is another community. Ms. Notario noted that the residents near Maple Grove get a tax abatement due to the local landfill an it was noted that residents of Birdsboro Borough benefit from the Harms Benefit monies, for example the E. 1st Street Bridge project and recycling service, along with other expenses.
- Tom Brungard, 908 Union Street, noted that he felt that the smell is more offensive that the tarp (cap) on the landfill as it was noted the tarp (cap) does eliminate some of the smell.

**ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Borough Secretary