

**MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2022 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL**

Council roll call:

Matthew Welch, President - present
Neil McCauley, Vice President - present
Robert Myers, Member - present
Richard Happel, Member - present

Thomas Brungard, Member – present
Matthew Elgonitis, Member – present

Also in attendance were:

Anthony Scioli, Mayor
Todd Trupp, Police Chief
Terry Weiler, Solicitor
Kelly J. Yanos, Manager
Bonnie L. Frisco, Secretary/Treasurer

Call to Order: President Welch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Mary Ann Cotter

Visitor(s): Robert Chafin Jr., Mary Ann Cotter, Drew Lamb, Susan Eshelman, Ian Karlson, Michael Mettler, Chruce Godfrey, and Joseph Peterson

Agenda Amendments: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– January 3, 2022 Reorganization and Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the January 3, 2022 reorganization and council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the Bills List dated January 17, 2022 and Checks for Ratification dated January 4, 2022 – January 16, 2022. Motion carried 6-0.

Interim Bills and Payroll

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Interim Bills and Payroll. Motion carried 6-0.

Treasurer’s Report

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated January 17, 2022. Motion carried 6-0.

Manager's Report

- **Appoint Member to Council** - The following individuals were interviewed for the Council position: Robert L Chafin Jr., Mary Ann Cotter, and Drew Lamb. Following the interviews President Welch called for nominations for the Council position. Councilman Happel nominated Mary Ann Cotter for the Council position and Councilman Brungard seconded the nomination. President Welch called for other nominations and there were none and then called for a roll call vote to appoint Mary Ann Cotter to Council for a 2-year term.

Vice President McCauley – yes	Councilman Happel – yes	Councilman Myers – yes
Councilman Brungard – yes	Councilman Elgonitis – yes	President Welch – yes

Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor Scioli administered the oath of office to Councilwoman Cotter at which point Councilman Cotter took her seat at the Council table.

- **Appoint Member to the Municipal Authority-** The following individuals were interviewed for the Municipal Authority position: Mary Ann Cotter, Susan Eshelman, Ian Karlson, Drew Lamb and Michael Metter. Following the interviews President Welch called for nominations for the Municipal Authority position. Councilman Brungard nominated Michael Mettler for the Municipal Authority position and Councilman Elgonitis seconded the nomination. President Welch called for other nominations and there were none and then called for a roll call vote to appoint Michael Mettler to the Municipal Authority for a 4-year term.

Vice President McCauley – yes	Councilman Happel – yes	Councilman Myers – yes
Councilman Brungard – yes	Councilman Elgonitis – yes	President Welch – yes
Councilwoman Cotter – abstained citing conflict of interest		

Motion carried 6-0-1.

Essential Worker's Pay – Manager Yanos noted that year ago, the Teamster employees asked Council to consider reinstating 5 sick days for individuals who either contracted COVID or had to quarantine due to CDC regulations. It was noted that ARP Funds cannot be used toward paying employees for past incidents, however they could be used for “essential employee pay” for a time designated by Council. Manager Yanos asked Council if they would consider this option in lieu of reinstated sick time. Council requested additional information.

Mayor/Police Reports

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the requested amendment to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations to change the term “soldier” to “veteran”. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the cameras at the Road Crew Building for a cost not to exceed \$13,000.00 using the Harms Benefit Fund. President Welch called for a roll call vote.

Vice President McCauley – no
Councilman Brungard – yes
Councilwoman Cotter – no

Councilman Happel – yes
Councilman Elgonitis – yes

Councilman Myers – no
President Welch – yes

Motion carried 4-3. Councilman Myers stated that the reason for his ‘no’ vote is because the expenses for the cameras at the Road Crew Building was not budgeted.

- Chief Trupp provided an overview of the police call breakdown and 66.4% of the calls are for quality of life matters and there is not a trend up of crime.
- Mayor Scioli noted that the Streets Department did a great job cleaning the streets after the winter storm and the Water Department did a great job on the water main leak.

Municipal Services / Department Reports:

1. **Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Report included in Council packet
2. **Water Treatment Plant:** Report included in Council packet
3. **Streets Department:** Report included in Council packet

Recreation Board

- Chruce Godfrey, Chair of the Recreation Board, noted that there are three vacancies on the Recreation Board and the Recreation Board meets next Thursday. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the use of Main Bird park for the Farmer’s Market for every other Saturday beginning May 21 through October. Motion carried 7-0.

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: Report included in Council packet

Solicitor’s Report

MOTION was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve Ordinance No. 495 for repeal of the Per Capita Tax. Motion carried 7-0.

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Brungard noted that the Windstream outage was fixed within 3 days.
- Councilman Elgonitis commended the Water Department for the great job done on the water main leak and noted that he and Councilman Brungard completed Elected Officials Boot Camp.
- Vice President McCauley note that the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee did not meet in November and December but will meet Wednesday of this week.
- Councilwoman Cotter thanked the crews for plowing and thanked the water department for their handling of the water main leak. Councilwoman Cotter congratulated Michael Mettler on his appointment to the Municipal Authority.
- Councilman Happel thanked all the Borough crews and thanked all of those in attendance.
 - Councilman Myers thanked the crews for the plowing and the water department for the handling of the water main leak. Councilman Myers noted that a \$10,000 donation was received for the AL Post 626 Ball Field Fund in honor of Commander Denise Harner.

- President Welch stated that he would like to establish three committees to assist in establishing better communications. The committees to be established are a Public Safety Committee, Public Works Committee and a Community Revitalization/Redevelopment Committee. Those interested in joining one of the committees may contact President Welch. Also a working group can be established to communicate with the Municipal Authority. President Welch requested that requests to professional staff be sent to him and he will distribute to streamline the process. The American Recovery Plan Committee will roll into the Redevelopment Committee.

Public Comment

- Susan Eshelman, 130 Cinder Street, inquired about the state of the E. 1st Street bridge. The matter to be referred to the Borough Engineer.
- Drew Lamb, 253 Bird Street, thanked the road crew for plowing.
- Michael Mettler, 706 E. 5th Street, thanked Council for their vote of confidence by appointing him to the Municipal Authority and he is glad that quality of life matters are being addressed by the Police Department.
- Joe Peterson, 14 Mansion Court East, noted concern regarding the decision of the Zoning Hearing Board for the Satiro's to not allow the 50 apartments at the old Birdsboro Elementary Center building. Solicitor Weiler will look into the matter but no action is to be taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary