

**MINUTES OF THE BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 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
Matthew Welch, Member – arrived at 7:49 p.m.
Nancy Kauffman, Member - present

Also in attendance 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 Vice President Cotter

Visitor(s): Matt Elgonitis, Chruce Godfrey, Tom Brungard, Russell and Susie Landers

Agenda Amendments: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– December 6, 2021 Budget Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Happel to approve the December 6, 2021 budget meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes– December 6, 2021 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Scioli and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the December 6, 2021 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Happel to approve the Bills List dated December 20, 2021 and Checks for Ratification dated December 7, 2021 – December 19, 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 December 20, 2021. Motion carried 6-0.
 - Inquiries from Councilman Myers
 - ✓ Requested quotes be obtained for sludge hauling and Manager Yanos noted the Authority noted that is a Birdsboro Municipal Authority issue. **MOTION** was made by Councilman

Myers and seconded by Vice President Cotter to request the Birdsboro Municipal Authority obtain bids for sludge hauling. Motion carried 6-0.

- ✓ Inquiry about the Zoning Hearing Board escrows and it was noted that some expenses are taken out of the escrow and the remainder returned to the applicant.

Manager's Report

- **2022 Budget** – Manager Yanos recommended that Borough approve the 2022 Budget as advertised with a .5 millage increase and utilizing \$75,000 of the American Recovery Funds to cover the budget deficit. **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the 2022 Budget as advertised. After it was pointed out that a .5 mil tax increase was included in the advertised budget, Councilman Myers withdrew his second to Councilwoman Kauffman's motion. No other Council member offered a second to Councilwoman Kauffman's motion, so the motion failed. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the 2022 Budget with no tax increase and utilize the ARF funding for the budget deficit. Councilwoman Kauffman asked if the ARF Funds Committee have discussed the use of the ARF funds and the response was that the Committee is still formulating ideas but no recommendations have been made. Councilwoman Kauffman noted that nobody likes tax increases but she feels that Council is being short-sighted. Councilwoman Kauffman stated she felt that Council should have acted on the recommendation of the Manager and the Treasurer. Councilman Myers stated that Council has a fiduciary responsibility. The motion carried 5-1 with Councilwoman Kauffman voting no.
- **2022 Tax Resolution and Per Capita Tax Repeal** – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Scioli to authorize Solicitor Weiler to prepare the 2022 Tax Resolution and Per Capita Tax Repeal Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0.
- **2022 Holiday Schedule** – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Vice President Cotter to approve the 2022 Holiday Schedule as presented. Motion carried 6-0.
- **2022 Council Meeting Schedule** – **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Kauffman and seconded by Councilman Scioli to approve the 2022 Council Meeting Schedule and Meeting Notice as presented. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Tax Refunds Requested by Tax Collector** – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Kauffman to approve the tax refunds requested by the Tax Collector for 105 S. Furnace Street and 336 W. 2nd Street. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Chief Trupp distributed a quote from Radio Maintenance for a surveillance system at the maintenance building brush drop off site. The cost for a two-camera system is about \$11,000. Chief Trupp thanked the American Legion for their donation to Police Department (about \$1,000) for targets for the pistol range.

Councilman Welch arrived – 7:49 p.m.

- Mayor Peterson read a written statement addressing his achievements during his tenure as Mayor and thanked various individuals and groups that supported him during that time.

Recreation Board

- **Appoint Monica Dech to the Recreation Board – MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to appoint Monica Dech to the Recreation Board. Vice President Cotter amended the motion to appoint Monica Dech to the Recreation Board to set the appointment expiration date to 12/31/24 and Councilman Myers seconded to the motion amendment. Motion carried 7-0.
- **New Year's Eve Fireworks – MOTION** was made by Vice President Cotter and seconded by Councilman Welch to approve the New Year's Eve Fireworks. The fireworks will be held at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 7-0

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

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: Report included in Council packet

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Weiler congratulated Anthony Scioli on his election wins and noted that Mayor Peterson provided a great service to the Borough.

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilwoman Kauffman wished Council and the public a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Councilman Scioli noted the great job done by the Recreation Board for Christmas in Birdsboro and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and promised Mayor Peterson he will continue the momentum Mayor Peterson started.
- Vice President Cotter noted that a meeting was held with the Birdsboro Municipal Authority regarding the accommodation fee and a summary will be prepared for the next Council meeting. Vice President Cotter thanked the Birdsboro Union Fire Department for the taking Santa around the Borough over the weekend and commended the Recreation Board on a great Christmas in Birdsboro event and noted it has been an honor and privilege to have worked with everyone and would like Council's support with being appointed to Council and wished all a Merry Christmas.
- Councilman Happel thanked all the volunteers and first responders and noted he will miss Mayor Peterson and noted Mayor Peterson was an asset to the Borough and wished all a Merry Christmas.
- Councilman Welch thanked the Recreation Board for all they do and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Councilman Myers thanked Vice President Cotter for all her contributions to Council and told Councilwoman Kauffman he will miss her being on Council. Councilman Myers noted the CHIRP Program (a program for COVID assistance for businesses) and noted that the Angry Anvil was the only Birdsboro Borough business that was listed in the Reading Eagle. Councilman Myers asked Manager Yanos to provide to Council sample ordinances that address fireworks regulations from Boroughs such as Pottstown and Reading. Councilman Myers asked if the Armorcast Road Bridge is open and Manager Yanos noted that it is open.

- President McCauley stated that the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee will meet in January and commended the outgoing officials Vice President Cotter, Councilwoman Cotter and Mayor Peterson on the great jobs they have done.

Public Comment

- Chruce Godfrey, 204 Hampton Drive, asked if American Recovery Funds could be used for asphalt and fencing at the ball courts at Rustic Park and Councilwoman Kauffman noted that MS4 regulations would need to be checked for that type of project.
- Councilwoman Kauffman asked if the wood pallets in the parking lot at Main Bird Park are still there and Mr. Godfrey noted that they are not. Councilwoman Kauffman asked if Water Street will be closed for the bonfire and it was noted that Water Street will be closed but Route 724 will be not be closed.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary