

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
MARCH 7, 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

Mary Ann Cotter, Member - present
Thomas Brungard, Member – present
Matthew Elgonitis, Member – present

Also in attendance were:

Anthony Scioli, Mayor
Todd Trupp, Police Chief
Terry Weiler, Solicitor
Brian Boyer, Engineer
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 Councilwoman Cotter

Visitor(s): Russell and Susie Lander, Chruce Godfrey, and Deborah Mettler

Agenda Amendments: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Boone Area Library Presentation – Ashley Allen, Library Director

Present were Boone Area Library Director Ashley Allen and Library Trustees Kim Unger and Chrissy Mittura. Director Allen provided an overview of her background. Noted was the continuing of improvements to the library, some of which have been new furniture, updating and improving the community rooms and fixing old electrical wiring. Recent events the library participated in were the last Duck Derby, Summer Reading in the Park, the Birdsboro Historical Walks, Christmas Birdsboro, etc. Upcoming events are the Duck Derby on May 14, a fundraiser on March 9 at the Angry Anvil, expanding the summer reading programs, recipe swap, craft month, escape rooms, etc.

Minutes– February 21, 2022 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the February 21, 2022 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Happel to approve the Bills List dated March 7, 2022 and Checks for Ratification dated February 22, 2022 – March 6, 2022. Motion carried 7-0.

Interim Bills and Payroll

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Interim Bills and Payroll. Motion carried 7-0.

Manager's Report

- **EMC (Emergency Management Coordinator) Stipend - MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Brungard to match what the Birdsboro Municipal Authority (\$267.50) is paying the EMC to retroactive to June of 2021. Councilwoman Cotter recommended that the EMC get paid only when they are activated. Councilman Myers noted the stipend was not to be provided beyond the lifting of the emergency declaration. 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 – yes
President Welch – yes

Motion carried 5-2.

MOTION was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Vice President McCauley to not extend the EMC stipend beyond the lifting of the Federal Emergency Declaration. President Welch called for a roll call vote.

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

Councilman Happel – yes
Councilman Elgonitis – yes

Councilman Myers – yes
President Welch – no

Motion carried 5-2.

- **American Legion Donation- MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the \$1,500 Harms Benefits Fund donation to the American Legion Post 626. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Local Share Account-Statewide** – Manager Yanos noted the monies available through the Local Share Account-Statewide program from the Commonwealth Financing Authority. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to authorize Manager Yanos to submit the grant applications through the Local Share Account-Statewide program for a street sweeper, dump truck, recreation projects and the E. 1st Street Bridge and designate President Welch and Manager Yanos as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Birdsboro and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grants. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Teamster's Contract** – This matter to be discussed in Executive Session.

Engineer's Report

- Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Chief Trupp noted that nine applications have been received for the Police Officer position and the written test is scheduled for Saturday, March 12 at the Birdsboro Community Memorial Center at 8:00 a.m. Expected hire date to be the end of June/early July. Chief Trupp noted the security cameras at the Street Department have been installed and they working fantastic, exceeding expectations.

Recreation Board

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Myers to appoint Deborah Mettler to the Recreation Board for a 5-year term. Motion carried 7-0.
- Chruce Godfrey, Recreation Board President, noted:
 - The Recreation Board is helping the library with the Duck Derby
 - The Farmer's Markets will begin Saturday, May 21
 - Available DCNR grants for wellness events
 - Damage to the bridge at the parking lot of Rustic Park, Manager Yanos to notify Public Works.
 - The Recreation Board is assisting with the American Legion Anniversary Event and summer movie nights are being planned

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: No new report

Solicitor's Report: No new report

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Myers inquired about the status of the Motta property and Solicitor Weiler noted that Attorney Joan London has not been able to make progress with Motta or Motta's attorney so Attorney Pick plans to file a petition. Councilman Myers noted that the Passenger Rail Committee will have a meeting on April 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Services Center in the County Commissioners Board Room.
- Councilwoman Cotter suggested the use of Facebook to improve communication with residents. President Welch noted potential first amendment conflicts. The PSAB do's and don'ts of Facebook for municipal organizations to be checked. Councilwoman Cotter noted the Jr. Council Member vacancy and that Girl/Boy Scouts could be contacted. Also noted, was the manhole cover on Chestnut Street and the one on Pine Street were UGI. UGI to be notified.
- Councilman Welch noted he is DJ'ing the Duck Derby.
- Councilman Brungard noted the Redevelopment Committee did an informal walk through the downtown for a mural location. No location has been identified and grant funding is being looked into. Artist Carrie Kingsbury is booked until next year but has offered to provide a mock up of a mural, pro bono.
- Councilwoman Cotter noted she had contacted Drew Sonntag of the Urban Research and Development Corporation regarding looking at upgrades to the Schuylkill River Trail from Armorcast to Gibraltar. There will be a zoom meeting to discuss. Councilwoman Cotter noted DCNR grant monies as a result of the Recovery Funds Act, suggestion was possibly a bridge at Haycreek, the

submission deadline is April 15. The Birdsboro Municipal Authority to be notified since they own the property prior to further action.

Executive Session

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations. Council reconvened the Regular Meeting at 8:37 p.m. Solicitor Weiler noted that the purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss contract negotiations, pertaining to the Teamster's Contract. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the 5-year contract for years 2023 through 2027 to include the proposed changes, pending Teamster approval. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment

- Russell Landers, 534 Silverbrook Drive, inquired about the W. 2nd Street hearings and Solicitor Weiler noted that the applicant has filed an appeal. Also noted was the "No Turn on Red" sign at Route 345 and W. Main Street is missing. The matter will be looked into.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary