

Meeting Minutes of the  
**BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 21, 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 (via zoom)  
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 Councilwoman Cotter

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

**Agenda Amendments:** None

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None

**Minutes– March 7, 2022 Council Meeting**

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

**Bills List**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Bills List dated March 21, 2022 and Checks for Ratification dated March 8, 2022 – March 20, 2022 with the exception of Check No. 31240 to Western Berks Ambulance in the amount of \$15,000. Motion carried 7-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the payment of Check No. 31240 to Western Berks Ambulance in the amount of \$15,000. Motion carried 6-0-1 with one abstention by President Welch due to his employment at Western Berks Ambulance.

**Interim Bills and Payroll**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the Treasurer's Report dated March 21, 2022. Motion carried 7-0.

**Manager's Report**

- **Letter of Support – Western Berks Ambulance for American Rescue Funds - MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the letter of support for Western Berks Ambulance for American Rescue Funds. Motion carried 6-0-1 with one abstention by President Welch due to his employment at Western Berks Ambulance.
- **Letter of Support – Muhlenberg Township for APR Funds for Kelly's Lock- Schuylkill River Trail - MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the letter of support for Muhlenberg Township for APR Funds for Kelly's Lock- Schuylkill River Trail. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Letter of Support – Muhlenberg Township for DCNR Funds for Kelly's Lock- Schuylkill River Trail - MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the letter of support for Muhlenberg Township for DCNR Funds for Kelly's Lock- Schuylkill River Trail. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Letter of Support – Birdsboro-Union Fire Department for County Funding Toward the Purchase of a Tower Truck - MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve letter of support for Birdsboro-Union Fire Department for County funding toward the purchase of a tower truck. President Welch voiced concerns of voting for the letter of support as to the possibility of future maintenance liability and Vice President McCauley noted concerns about insurances. President Welch called for a roll call vote.

Neil McCauley – no

Richard Happel – yes

Robert Myers – yes

Mary Ann Cotter – no

Thomas Brungard – yes

Matthew Elgonotis – yes

Matthew Welch – no

Motion carried 4-3.

- **Request for Police Contract Negotiations-** The Birdsboro Police Officers' Association has requested negotiations for the contract commencing on January 1, 2023. Three members of Council, the Borough Manager, the Police Chief and Borough Solicitor to be on the negotiations committee. A committee to be set at the next council meeting.
- **Ratification of Resolution 2022-18 for the DCED Application for Statewide Gaming Monies- MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to ratify Resolution No. 2022-18 for the Application to the DCED for Statewide Gaming Monies. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Ordinance Amendment – Amend Code of Ordinances to Provide Penalties for Non-Residential Dumping** – Council to discuss amending the Code of Ordinance to provide for penalties for non-residential dumping at the yard waste site.
- **PSAB Recognition Plaque** – The PSAB would like to present the Borough with a plaque during an anniversary celebration to celebrate the Borough’s 150th anniversary of incorporation (1872). It was suggested the Recreation Board plan an event. To be discussed at a later date.
- **Internet Upgrade for the PWD Cameras** - The Borough’s IT provider has recommend upgrading the internet service at the Public Works building to business service speed to improve viewing and prevent buffering in the operation of the security cameras. This upgrade would raise the monthly cost from \$80.90 to approximately \$109.95 per month. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the increase in the upgrade to the to the internet service at the Public Works building to improve viewing and prevent buffering in the operation of the security cameras. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Berks Municipal Partnership Breakfast** – Those interested in attending the Berks Municipal Breakfast being held at the Colebrookdale Railroad on Friday, April 29, at 8:00 AM are to contact Manager Yanos. The breakfast is limited to two attendees per municipality.
- **Rustic Park Bridge Collapse** – The bridge at Rustic Park (near the parking lot) needs to be repaired and it will take 3-4 weeks to get the steel piping. The bridge has been shored up for temporary use.

#### **Mayor/Police Reports**

- Chief Trupp noted that seven police officer applicants attended the testing and all passed. The agility test is scheduled for this Saturday.
- Chief Trupp noted that the cameras at the Public Works building secured a photo of a vehicle illegally dumping at the yard waste site. Chief Trupp noted the option of utilizing the CrimeWatch PA site to aid in such matters.
- Mayor Scioli requested permission to attend the PSAB Conference on May 24 with one night’s lodging. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Happel and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve Mayor Scioli’s attendance at the PSAB Conference on May 24 with one night’s lodging for a cost not to exceed \$500. Motion carried 7-0.
- Mayor Scioli noted the program “I Am Able” that connects PTSD vets with handicapped children. Please contact Mayor Scioli for further information.

#### **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 there is nothing new to report for the Recreation Board.

**Emergency Management:** No report

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

**Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Weiler to look at the Solid Waste Ordinance as it relates to penalties for illegal dumping.

**Council/Committee Reports**

- Councilman Brungard noted the Redevelopment Committee has not spoken to property owners as of yet.
- Councilman Elgonitis noted the Girl Scouts are proposing a pantry (take what you need, give what you can) and were looking to possibly locate the pantry at Cinder and N. Mill Street by the Borough Hall. Chief Trupp recommended the area be within the security cameras viewing area. The Girls Scouts to attend the next council meeting.
- Councilwoman Cotter distributed a draft of a survey to provide to business owners as part of a venture of the Redevelopment Committee. The Junior Council position has been placed on the Borough website and Councilwoman Cotter will be providing flyers to the Boy/Girl Scouts and Berks Catholic.
- Vice President McCauley noted that Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee met last Wednesday and discussed truck weight overages.

**Public Comment:**

Russell Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, inquired about the 'no turn on red' sign at Route 345 and Main Street and Chief Trupp noted the sign has been located and installed.

**ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Borough Secretary