

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
AUGUST 15, 2022 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council roll call:

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

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

Also in attendance were:

Anthony Scioli, Mayor
Terry Weiler, Solicitor
Sam Reeser, representing Borough Engineer Brian Boyer
Todd Trupp, Police Chief
Kelly J. Yanos, Manager
Bonnie L. Frisco, Secretary/Treasurer

Call to Order: President Matthew Welch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A moment of silence was held in memory of Councilman Richard Happel.

Opening prayer was led by Councilwoman Cotter.

Visitor(s): Brian Jeter (Comcast), Sue Walley, Susie and Russell Landers, Linda Stein, Maria Satiro, Christen Thompson, Sharon Morris

Agenda Amendments: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– July 18, 2022 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the July 18, 2022 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 August 15, 2022 and Checks for Ratification dated July 19, 2022 – August 14, 2022. Motion carried 6-0.

Interim Bills and Payroll

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the Interim Bills and Payroll. Motion carried 6-0.

Treasurer’s Report

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated August 15, 2022 as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Manager's Report

- **Commercial Inspection Program Ordinance** – There was discussion regarding repealing the Commercial Inspection program. A **motion** was made by Vice President McCauley to repeal the Commercial Inspection Program Ordinance. After further discussion, Vice President McCauley rescinded the motion to repeal the Commercial Inspection Program Ordinance. Suggested was requiring a business license affording the option to enter the business for inspection if deemed necessary. The subject tabled to the next Council meeting.
- **Animal Ordinance** – Amendment to the animal ordinance to be placed on the next Council meeting agenda. It was suggested that three ordinances be addressed simultaneously; those ordinances include the Commercial Inspection Program ordinance, the Animal ordinance and the Parade ordinance.

Engineer's Report

- Engineer Reeser reviewed his report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.
- Engineer Reeser noted that the Armorcast Road Bridge project is ready for approval of the final payment. A **motion** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve final payment to Fares Farhart General Construction for the Armorcast Road Bridge project. Motion carried 6-0.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Mayor Scioli thanked everyone for all their prayers for Councilman Happel and his family and thanked all of those who attended Councilman Happel's service. Mayor Scioli noted he will be attending a webinar on September 14 which addresses the Role of the Mayor.
- Chief Trupp noted that donations were received from the Woman's Club of Birdsboro and Boyer's Market which will be used for on-line training. Cost and time reductions will be realized by using the on-line training. The Standard Operating Procedure will be uploaded and tests can be created from the upload. Since May 1, there have been close to 2,000 drop-offs at the brush pile and 78 letters have been sent and there is expected to be 3 violations upcoming once they are confirmed. Quality of Life police calls still dominate the number of calls received at the Police Department.
- Mayor Scioli noted a fire on N. Walnut Street and thanked the BUFD for their assistance at the fire and noted that St. Mark's Church is collecting gift cards for the fire victims.

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

- Christen Thompson, representative for the Recreation Board, that there will be a Christmas in Birdsboro Committee meeting August 16 and the next Farmer's Market is August 27. Movie night will be September 17 at Texas Ballfield. The Recreation Board would like to get picnic tables for Main Bird Park.

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: Report included in Council packet

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Weiler noted that Judge Lillis has entered an order for review of the Zoning Hearing Board decision relating to the BEC – Satiro property on W. 2nd Street. Maria Satiro was present to discuss the BEC – Satiro property. Mrs. Satiro noted that the BEC building has not been sold but there is a letter of intent. Solicitor Weiler recommended that if it is the desire of the property owners to seek a zoning overlay, they should secure counsel of a lawyer and engineer and make presentation to Council.

There has been no updated news on the train station and noted was that Mr. Motta has not collected the monies as a result of the court decision.

Beacon Container has not responded to inquiries regarding the easement, road alignment proposal, so the developer for Cedar Hill Estates may need to revise the development plans.

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Elgonitis noted the Blessing Box established by the Girl Scouts.
- Councilwoman Cotter thanked all of those in attendance.
- Vice President McCauley noted he was unable to attend the last Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee meeting but the next meeting will be September 21. Vice President McCauley encouraged all to call the complaint line if there are odors issues.
- Councilman Myers noted he has been appointed to the Technical Committee for the Schuylkill Rail Authority and they are working on the transit orientation development plans. Councilman Myers noted he will continue to advocate to have Birdsboro as a stop on the passenger rail route.
- At the recommendation of Solicitor Weiler, a **motion** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Brungard to declare the Council vacancy and authorized advertising on the Borough website and digital sign to fill the vacancy. Appointment to be scheduled for September 19. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment

- Randy Dawson, 135 Cinder Street, asked if parking lines could be painted on Cinder Street and Chief Trupp noted that parking lines must be spaced far enough apart to accommodate a truck, which would result in the reduction of parking spaces. Mr. Dawson requested that curb stops be placed at the Borough Hall parking lot facing E. Main Street, as it is hard to see traffic coming from the East when entering E. Main Street from N. Mill Street. The Manager was asked to look into getting curb stops for the Borough Hall parking lot area facing E. Main Street.
- Brian Jeter, of Comcast, was present to discuss the possibility of installing Comcast lines in the Borough and enter into a franchise agreement with the Borough. President Welch requested Mr. Jeter provide more information for further consideration.
- Drew Lamb, 253 Bird Street, noted that the animal ordinance amendments should include better identification of farm animals.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary