

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council roll call:

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

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

Also, in attendance were:

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

Call to Order: Vice 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 Councilwoman Cotter.

Visitor(s): Janet Steiner (Comcast), Rob Anderson (Comcast), John Walker (Comcast), Nancy Kauffman, Christen Thompson, David Moss and Denise Harner (American Legion Post 626), Drew Lamb, Alen W. Harris, Sr.

Agenda Amendments

MOTION was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to add approval of resolution authorizing the submission of a LSA Funds grant application for a pickup truck for the Public Works Department. Motion carried 5-0.

Presentation of Donation from American Legion Post 626 to the Police Department

Denise Harner presented a donation to the Police Department from the American Legion Post 626.

Council Vacancy

Four (4) applications were received for candidates for appointment to the Council vacancy which will fill the seat that Councilman Happel held. Those applicants are: Alen W. Harris, Sr., Drew Lamb, Nancy Kauffman and Anthony Tucci. Those present were Alen W. Harris, Sr., Drew Lamb and Nancy Kauffman.

Each candidate present provided a brief overview of their background and qualifications.

MOTION was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to appoint Reverend Alen W. Harris, Sr. to fill Councilman Happel’s remaining term, which expires December 31, 2023.

Vice President McCauley called for a roll call vote.

Thomas Brungard	- yes
Mary Ann Cotter	- yes
Matt Elgonitis	- yes
Neil McCauley	- yes
Robert Myers	- yes

Motion carried 5-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– September 6, 2022 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the September 6, 2022 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the Bills List dated September 19, 2022 and Checks for Ratification dated September 7, 2022 – September 18, 2022. Motion carried 5-0.

Interim Bills and Payroll

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the Interim Bills and Payroll. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer’s Report

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated September 19, 2022. Motion carried 5-0.

Manager’s Report

- **American Legion Post 626 – Opportunity House Collection Box – MOTION** was made by Councilman Elgonitis and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the placement of the Opportunity House Collection Box, as per American Legion Post 626’s request, at a location that will not disrupt activities in Main Bird Park with the condition that if the box is not emptied often enough or becomes overridden with trash and becomes an eyesore the box will be either emptied immediately or removed. Motion carried 5-0.
- **American Legion Post 626 – Purchase of Batting Cage – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve a \$10,000 contribution to the American Legion Post 626 for the purchase of a batting cage for the American Legion Post 626 ballfield. Motion carried 4-0 with abstention from Councilman Myers due to his involvement with the American Legion Post 626.
- **American Legion Post 626 – Digital Sign Variance – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to authorize Manager Yanos to represent Council at the September 28, 2022 zoning hearing for the variance requested by the American Legion Post 626 for relief from Zoning District (HC) requirements and sign size requirements. Motion carried 4-0 with abstention from Councilman Myers due to his involvement with the American Legion Post 626.

- **Comcast**– Janet Steiner, Rob Anderson and John Walker were present representing Comcast relating to the submitted cable franchise agreement which is under Council review. Ms. Steiner inquired about community feedback and Vice President McCauley noted that some residents were neutral in regards to Comcast being provided in the Borough but most were not favorable of Comcast. Vice President McCauley did not see how Comcast would be able to undercut existing cable prices. There was concern noted regarding the impact the new cable lines would have on the Borough roads. Comcast noted that they would not have to dig up many areas as boring procedures could be utilized. The matter of deciding on the Cable Franchise Agreement was tabled.
- **Representative for the September 29 County Commissioners’ Meeting** – Mayor Scioli agreed to represent the Borough at the September 29 County Commissioners’ Meeting.
- **2023 Pension Municipal Minimal Obligations (MMO’s) – MOTION** was made by Councilman Elgonitis and seconded by Councilman Brungard to acknowledge receipt of the 2023 Pension Municipal Minimal Obligations. Motion carried 5-0.
- **LSA Funds Grant Application for Public Works Pickup Truck – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the resolution authorizing the submission of an LSA Funds grant application for a pickup truck for the Public Works Department with the cost not to exceed \$100,000. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Mayor Scioli noted he was an apple pie contest judge at the St. Mark’s Fall Fest and he also noted he attended a role of a Mayor webinar. Mayor Scioli requested a 150th Anniversary link be placed on the website along with photos of the event. Mayor Scioli commended the Water and Wastewater Departments for their work with the clogged water pipe at Haycreek.
- Chief Trupp noted that 2,266+ individuals have used the dump site and 93 notices were sent for more information and payment has been received from three individuals for violation of the dumping ordinance. Five warnings have been issued for speeding on Jefferson Street. The new police vehicle has arrived. As answer to Ms. Thompson’s question from the last meeting, Chief Trupp confirmed that there were 53 domestics in the summer months this year in comparison to the 39 domestics that occurred the same time last year. Vice President McCauley noted the increase in the number of citations and Chief Trupp stated that the new officer has issued more vehicle code citations that have been issued in the past.

Municipal Services / Department Reports

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant:** Report included in Council packet
- **Water Treatment Plant:** Report included in Council packet
- **Streets Department:** Report included in Council packet

Recreation Board

- Christen Thompson, representative for the Recreation Board, noted that the Birdsboro Farmer’s Market has been ranked #6 on Facebook. Also noted was that the September 17 movie night was cancelled. As for Christmas in Birdsboro, the cost provided by Halter Landscaping for Christmas lights has increased to \$13,500 which may pose an issue as there are few vendors for that type of service.

Emergency Management:

Ken Imes, Emergency Management Coordinator was present.

- **PA Emergency Management Training Requirement Changes** – The EMC certifications are now good for five (5) years.
- **Pandemic Reimbursement** – Pandemic reimbursement funds will continue being reimbursed as long as the COVID emergency is still in force.
- **Upcoming Indian Run Emergency Plan Update – Possible Grant for an Exercise** - A grant is being applied for, for an upcoming Indian Run emergency plan exercise.
- **Re-adopt Emergency Plan** – Approval of the re-adoption of the Emergency Plan was tabled, further clarification needed.

Fire Department: Report included in Council packet

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Weiler noted that there is no new update for the railroad station property. The police bargaining committee will meet on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Solicitor Weiler is preparing draft ordinances for the commercial inspections repeal, animal ordinance and parade ordinance.

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilwoman Cotter welcomed Reverend Alen W. Harris, Jr. to Council.
- Councilman Myers noted the Schuylkill River Passenger Railway Committee is making progress and a consultant has been selected.

Public Comment

- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court East, inquired about the Pioneer Crossing Landfill hotline, and Vice President McCauley noted there has been issues with the operation of the hotline and he will notify the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Committee of the matter, but callers should contact J.P. Mascaro to inform them of the hotline issues.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary