

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 7, 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
Alen Harris, Member - absent

Also, in attendance were:

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

Call to Order: President Welch called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Councilwoman Cotter.

Visitor(s): Nancy Kauffman, Sue and Russell Lander, H. David Miller, Tony Tucci, Janet Steiner (Comcast)

Agenda Amendments: None

Presentation – Western Berks EMS

H. David Miller and Tony Tucci were present to discuss Western Berks EMS. Mr. Miller noted that there is a shortfall in income for all EMS companies and that is partly due to lower usage and insurance payment issues. Councilman Myers suggested looking at other companies and President Welch noted that Tower Health provided numbers based on the same assumptions as Western Berks EMS had provided. Councilman Myers requested a copy of Western Berks Ambulance’s budget, audits, income statements and balance sheet. A couple suggestions noted to help with the financial issue was to raise the household cost to \$125 and charge businesses accordingly to by the amount of workers. Councilman Myers suggested sending RFPs to other ambulance services.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– October 17, 2022 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the October 17, 2022 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes– October 17, 2022 Budget Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the October 17, 2022 budget 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 November 7, 2022 and Checks for Ratification dated October 18– November 6, 2022. Motion carried 6-0.

Interim Bills and Payroll

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

Manager's Report

- **Animal Ordinance Amendment** – Solicitor Weiler will draft amended language to address the cat spay and neuter issue. To be discussed further at the next council meeting.
- **Police Contract – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the amended Police Bargaining Agreement contingent upon the Bargaining Unit's approval of the Agreement. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Comcast Franchise Agreement** – Comcast to be provided with proposed amendments to the franchise agreement for review.
- **Solicitor Position** – Mike Gombar, Jr. with Masano Bradley to appear at the next council meeting for discussion regarding legal services. Councilman Myers requested a fee schedule.

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 there has been 3,000+ brush drop-offs since May. Also, noted was that RMI did site survey for cameras and it was recommended that cameras be placed at strategic points where individuals are entering and egressing the Borough.
- Chief Trupp noted that the defendant regarding the rooster case paid all five citations and two more are being issued.
- Chief Trupp noted that the speed sign at Jefferson Street (speed limit of 30) clocked an average of 32 mph and the speed sign at E. Main Street (speed limit of 25) clocked an average of 25.1 mph.

Municipal Services / Department Reports

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

Recreation Board

- Susie Lander, representative for the Christmas in Birdsboro Committee, noted that the next Committee meeting will be held November 15 at 9:00 a.m.
- Christmas in Birdsboro events planned:
 - Santa 5K Run on December 10 at 11:00 a.m., as well as a 1K walk.
 - Santa Clause, live nativity, bonfire, food vendors, cub scouts will be selling hotdogs, girl scouts will be selling hot cocoa bombs, kids train, mechanical reindeer, lighted tunnel, giant snow globe, the Nazarene Church will be doing children's crafts

- House lighting contest sponsored by Halter Landscaping
- Tree lighting and fireworks

The Recreation Board is coordinating with the Pottstown Farmer's Market for spring's Market dates.

MOTION was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the fireworks contract for a price of \$5,500 contingent upon receipt of proof of insurance. Motion carried 6-0.

Emergency Management

Readopt the Emergency Management Plan – Tabled, Emergency Management Coordinator, Ken Imes, not present. Councilman Myers noted there are additional corrections that need to be made.

Fire Department: No new report

Solicitor's Report: Nothing new to report

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Brungard suggested having a committee to discuss communications.
- Councilman Elgonitis noted that Jeff Deitman completed his Eagle Scout project which included painting the Armorcast Road Bridge and installing the gaga pit at Rustic Park. A pickleball court is another proposed project.
- Councilman Myers suggested a celebration be planned for Solicitor Weiler's retirement.
- Councilman Myers suggested another tour of Birdsboro Power be arranged.
- President Welch encouraged all to come out and vote Election Day.

Old Business: None

Public Comment

- Susie Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, noted the more citizen-friendly agenda wording.
- Tony Tucci, 341 Washington Street, recommended that the E. 1st Street Bridge repairs be addressed before it becomes a very costly project.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary