

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 21, 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 – via zoom
Matthew Elgonitis, Member – present
Alen Harris, Member - present

Also, in attendance were:

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

Call to Order: President Welch called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Reverend Alen Harris.

Visitor(s): Nancy Kauffman, Janet Steiner (Comcast), Michael Gombar, Jr. and Christopher Muvdi of Masano Bradley

Agenda Amendments

MOTION was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Vice President McCauley to add to the agenda the appointment of two police department personnel and one council person to the Pension Board. Motion carried 7-0.

Introduction of Solicitor Candidates

Michael Gombar, Jr. and Christopher Muvdi of Masano Bradley were present to discuss providing legal services to the Borough due to the retirement of Solicitor Weiler.

MOTION was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to engage Masano Bradley, represented by Michael Gombar, Jr. and Christopher Muvdi, to provide legal services to Birdsboro Borough to start January 2023. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– November 7, 2022 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the November 7, 2022 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0. Amendment being, under re-adoption of the Emergency Management Plan note remove the text ‘additional’.

Minutes– November 7, 2022 Budget Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the November 7, 2022 budget meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the Bills List dated November 21, 2022 and Checks for Ratification dated November 8– November 20, 2022. Motion carried 7-0.

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 Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated November 21, 2022. Motion carried 7-0.

Manager’s Report

- **Animal Ordinance – MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to authorize the advertising of the amended Animal Ordinance as revised. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Comcast Franchise Agreement – MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the Comcast cable franchise agreement.

President Welch called for a roll call vote.

Neil McCauley – yes

Robert Myers – yes

Mary Ann Cotter – yes

Thomas Brungard – yes

Matthew Elgonitis – yes

Alen Harris, Sr – yes

Matthew Welch – yes

Motion carried 7-0.

- **Western Berks EMS** – There was discussion regarding the financial state of the Western Berks EMS and the additional monies that would be needed to provide the same level of service as is being provided at this time. Councilman Myers noted he would agree to an increase but not the amount that Western Berks EMS has proposed. It was suggested that the lack of contributions being made by Union Township be discussed. Councilman Harris suggested that a survey be done to determine the opinion of the residents as it relates to ambulance service.
- **Beacon Container Air Quality Program Permit** – As mandated by state code, Beacon Container forwarded to the Borough a notice of Air Quality Program permit renewal application, which is in the council packets, and interested parties have a 30-day comment period.
- **Police Contract – MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Police Contract pending, the police bargaining unit’s approval of such, to include two of the three proposed revisions. Motion carried 7-0. Proposed revision to not be included is Article VIII: under the heading Personal Days-Wild-Card-Fridays, delete the apostrophe after 72 hours’.
- **Police Chief Contract** – To be discussed in Executive Session.

- **Capital Projects** – List of proposed Capital Projects include Rustic Park Security, Public Works Storage and E. 1st Street Bridge.
- **Pension Board – MOTION** was made by Councilman Elgonitis and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to appoint Sergeant Borz, Officer Kasopsky and Council President Welch to the Pension Board. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor/Police Reports

Chief Trupp noted the average speed on S. Walnut Street near E. 2nd Street is 14 mph (speed limit is 25 mph), and the average speed on E. Main Street is 34.1 mph (speed limit is 30 mph).

Municipal Services / Department Reports

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

Recreation Board

- Councilman Elgonitis noted that the Christmas in Birdsboro event is coming into place and a lot of donations are being received.

Emergency Management

MOTION was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Brungard to re-adopt the Emergency Management Plan. Motion carried 6-1 with one abstention from Councilman Harris as he has no prior knowledge of the Emergency Management Plan.

Fire Department: No new report

Solicitor's Report: No new report

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Brungard noted holding off on forming a communications committee until January or February.
- Vice President McCauley noted the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee will meet December 7. Mrs. Kauffman noted the hotline issues have not been corrected.
- Councilwoman Cotter noted that Berks Alert is being revisited. It was suggested that the information be placed on the water bills for resident to sign up. Also suggested was purchasing the Code Red App, and splitting the cost between the Borough and the BMA. Councilwoman Cotter noted a water main leak on the southern side of town and repair work is schedule to begin November 28.

Old Business: No old business

Public Comment

- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, asked if the three ordinances have been approved to be advertised (the Animal, Commercial Inspection and Parade ordinances) and it was noted that the ordinances have been authorized to be advertised for adoption.

Executive Session

Council recessed into Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. to discuss the proposed changes to the Police Chief contract. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:23 p.m. Solicitor Weiler summarized the Executive Session and noted that the proposed changes to the Police Chief contract was discussed.

MOTION was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the changes, as proposed by the Police Chief, to the Police Chief contract with a contract term of 1/1/23 – 12/31/25. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary