

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 6, 2023 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council roll call:

Matthew Welch, President – present
Neil McCauley, Vice President - present
Robert Myers, Member – absent
Mary Ann Cotter, Member - present

Thomas Brungard, Member –present
Matthew Elgonitis, Member – present
Alen Harris, Member - present

Also, in attendance were:

Michael Gombar, Solicitor
Brian Boyer, Engineer
Todd Trupp, Police Chief
Kelly J. Yanos, Manager

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 Reverend Harris

Visitor(s): Nancy Kauffman, Russell and Susy Lander, Anthony Tucci, Don Wary, Brad Cosgrove (TowerDirect), Sharon Morris, Shayne Bowles, Matt Specht

Agenda Amendment

MOTION was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to add approval of waivers for the 604 W. 3rd Street Stormwater Management Plan. Motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– January 16, 2023 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the January 16, 2023 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 6-0. Amendment being, under heading, Minutes – January 3, 2023 Council Meeting, note the Birdsboro Power Accommodation Fee vote was 6-0 due to President Welch’s absence.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the Bills List dated February 6, 2023 and Checks for Ratification dated January 17, 2023– February 5, 2023. Motion carried 6-0.

Interim Bills and Payroll

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

Manager's Report

- **Ambulance Service – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the agreement for ambulance service submitted by TowerDirect contingent upon final review and approval by the Borough Solicitor and a clean copy to be sent to Council. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Scheduling of Federal Holidays – MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to allow time off with pay for any borough employee wishing to perform community/volunteer service on a federal holiday. Councilman Harris then agreed to amend the motion to allow time off with pay for any borough employee wishing to perform community/volunteer service under the direction of a non-profit organization, preferably located in the borough, and to reschedule any council meeting that falls on a federal holiday to the following day (Tuesday). Motion carried 5-1 with Vice President McCauley voting no.
- **Sale of Wood Shredder and Street Sweeper – MOTION** was made by Councilman Elgonitis and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the sale of the Public Works Department's wood shredder and the street sweeper. Motion carried 6-0.

Engineer's Report

- Engineer Boyer reviewed his report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to grant the waivers from the Stormwater Management Ordinance's Sections 325.8 and 325.16 for the 604 W. 3rd Street land development. Motion carried 6-0.

Solicitor's Report

- **Donation of Firewood – MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve Resolution No. 2023-20 to authorize the Borough Manager, or her designee to gift, transfer and/or donate firewood and logs owned by the Borough to neighboring property owners. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Loan – LIBOR Issue** – Solicitor Gombar notes issues with the LIBOR rate that was applied to the 2008 General Obligation Note and stated that a revised Note will need to be drafted and Bond Counsel will be needed. The estimated cost of Bond Counsel for the LIBOR matter is \$5,000. Truist Bank to make efforts to provide an interest rate comparable to the LIBOR rate.

Mayor/Police Reports

Chief Trupp noted the average speed on Hopewell Street is 22 mph, speed limit is 25 mph; 26 cars were stopped, 1 cited and 25 warned. On West 1st Street 40 cars were stopped, 2 cited and 38 warned.

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

- Sharon Morris noted that Beautify Birdsboro is to be held May 13, the Egg Hunt in Main Bird Park is to be held March 31, and the Farmer's Markets will start May 20. The possibility of a car show is being discussed.

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: No new report

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Brungard noted he will be meeting with Manager Yanos to discuss the Borough website. Councilman Brungard suggested that Birdsboro conduct repair cafes as those held in Phoenixville and Downingtown. Items to be repaired could include lamps, vacuum cleaners, clocks and watches, small appliances, furniture, clothing, toys, jewelry, musical instruments, etc.
- Councilwoman Cotter thanked Western Berks for their service the last two years, welcomed TowerDirect and thanked Councilmen Elgonitis and Harris for the work with the ambulance service. Councilwoman Cotter noted that the Birdsboro Municipal Authority approved the Phase 2 Pilot Study to be sent to the DEP.
- Councilman Harris thanked Western Berks for their service to the Borough and thanked Councilman Elgonitis for his assistance with the ambulance and thanked President Welch for his expert help with the ambulance service matter.

Old Business: No old business was discussed

Public Comment

- Susie Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, as a representative of the Womans' Club of Birdsboro requested the Recreation Board not schedule a car show on the same day as the Womans' Club's car show and Councilman Elgonitis noted that the Recreation Board would be amenable to that request.
- Matt Specht, 708 E. 2nd Street, asked for clarification of the recently adopted Animal Ordinance that prohibits beekeeping and asked why the change was made. Manager Yanos noted that beekeeping is a better activity for a Township than a Borough as there is the possibility of honeybees stinging. Mr. Specht asked if his bees would be grandfathered in as he has had them prior to adoption of the revised Animal Ordinance. The Borough Solicitor will review the Animal Ordinance and provide information for the next council meeting. Councilman Welch noted the beekeeping portion of the Animal Ordinance may be revisited.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary