

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 21, 2023 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 - present

Also, in attendance were:

Anthony Scioli, Mayor
Christopher Muvdi, Solicitor
Todd Trupp, Police Chief
Kelly J. Yanos, Manager
Bonnie L. Frisco, Secretary/Treasurer

Call to Order: President Welch called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Tony and Brenda Tucci, Don Wary, Ryan Acevedo, John Weiland, Matt Specht, Doug Rauch

Agenda Amendment

MOTION was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Harris to amend the agenda by adding approval of the use of Main Bird Park under the Manager’s Report. Motion carried 7-0.

Truist Bank (LIBOR – London Inter Bank Operative Rate) – Solicitor Doug Rauch, Georgadis Setley

Doug Rauch of Georgadis Setley was present to provide an overview of the Truist Bank LIBOR matter. Solicitor Rauch noted that the Truist loan will need to be revised to accommodate a different rate. Councilman Myers asked what the consequences would be if the loan documents were not revised and Solicitor Rauch stated that the Borough would need to refinance and that would be more costly than having bond counsel assist with the loan revisions.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– February 6, 2023 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the February 6, 2023 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 6-0-1 with Councilman Myers abstaining due to his absence at the February 6, 2023 meeting. Amendment being, under heading, Manager’s Report – Ambulance Service, note that Councilwoman Cotter made the motion to approve the ambulance services contract with TowerDirect.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Bills List dated February 20, 2023 and Checks for Ratification dated February 7, 2023– February 19, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.

Interim Bills and Payroll

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the Interim Bills and Payroll. Motion carried 7-0.

Treasurer's Report

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the February 21, 2023 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 7-0.

Manager's Report

- **Memorial Day Parade – MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the date of May 29 for the 2023 Memorial Day Parade. Motion carried 7-0. Parking signs will be posted at least 72 hours in advance.
- **American Legion Scoreboard** – Manager Yanos noted that a representative of the American Legion Post 626 planned to attend to discuss a scoreboard for the ballfield, but they were unable to attend. Manager Yanos read a memo from the representative and noted that the American Legion Post 626 will be purchasing a scoreboard for the ballfield utilizing Legion funds.
- **Solid Waste Authority Donation – MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve a \$250 donation to the Berks County Solid Waste Authority. Motion carried 7-0.
- **EMS Funding – MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to utilize Harms Benefit to fund the additional \$30,210 for the EMS service for 2023 as it is too late to change the EMS collection amount on the 2023 tax bills. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Public Works Dept/Water Dept Treatment Plant Expansion** – There was discussion regarding the PWD/WTP storage expansion and Tony Tucci, Chairman of the Birdsboro Municipal Authority, thought it would be beneficial to have the two departments combine the storage as the Public Works Dept is in the flood plain. Manager Yanos expressed that it would be better to have two separate structures and have the PWD structure be in the Public Works Dept area. The matter will be discussed further among Manager Yanos, Councilwoman Cotter and Tony Tucci.
- **Zoom Meeting Account** – Manager Yanos noted that Masano Bradley has offered to allow Council to utilize their zoom account, when needed, as Council had been utilizing Western Berks Ambulance's account prior.
- **Main Bird Park Use – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the request from Tri-County Chiropractic to use of Main Bird Park for an evening Egg Hunt on April 7 from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Solicitor's Report

- **Truist Bank – MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to authorize Doug Rauch, of Georgetadis Setley, to advertise prepare and advertise the appropriate ordinance for the Truist Bank loan revision. Motion carried 7-0.

- **Stormwater Management Agreement (604-A W. 3rd Street) – MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to authorize the Borough to enter in the Stormwater Management Agreement for 604-A W. 3rd Street. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Executive Session** – An Executive Session will be held at the end of the meeting.

Mayor/Police Reports

Chief Trupp noted the average speed on W. 1st Street (near Birdsboro Beverage) is 24.48 mph, speed limit is 25 mph and noted that 1,600 cars travel that route on a daily basis. Councilwoman Cotter asked about the homeless population in the Borough and Chief Trupp noted that there is a known encampment near the Schuylkill River and steps are being taken to relocate the individuals.

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 Girl Scout Egg Hunt will take place April 1 and an adult Easter Egg Hunt will take place March 31. Gift card donations for the adult Easter Egg Hunt are welcome. Beautify Birdsboro is planned for May 13. The Farmer's Markets will begin the end of May. Noted was the need for security at Rustic Park to eliminate vandalism. Councilman Myers asked if the Borough could work with the Authority for funding for security at Rustic Park and Tony Tucci suggested bringing it up at an Authority meeting.

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: Report included in the Council packet

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Myers noted that a committee has been formed to discuss the future of the old Southern Berks Ambulance station. Councilman Myers noted that there are five Council seat opening, four 4-year terms and one 2-year term. Councilman Myers noted that Beacon Container is closing.
- Councilwoman Cotter thanked all of those in attendance.
- Councilman Harris echoed Councilwoman Cotter's sentiments.
- Vice President McCauley noted the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Committee did not meet this month.
- Councilman Brungard noted that he will be volunteering at the Phoenixville Repair Café every other month. He is doing research to have a Repair Café in the Borough and noted that the start-up costs are minimal. Councilman Brungard expressed interest in the Borough having a Youtube channel for Council meeting and asked for permission to contact other communities with this service and see what is involved.

Old Business

Vice President McCauley requested that the item under Old Business, Western Berks Donation Request – COVID-19 Stimulus be stricken from future agendas.

Public Comment

- Russell Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, noted a men's group that he is a member which is made up of individuals from various churches. The group would be willing to help with the Rustic Park vandalism issue.
- Matt Specht, 708 E. 2nd Street, was present for discuss the beekeeping portion of the Animal Ordinance. Mr. Specht noted he will share with Council a model ordinance for beekeeping. Councilman Myers suggested the beekeeping portion of the Animal Ordinance be revisited and incorporate appropriate precautions into the ordinance.
- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, suggested financial reports be made available to the public.
- Tony Tucci, 341 Washington Street, noted that COVID monies were requested for other organizations and uses but the monies were utilized to balance the Borough budget. President Welch noted that the monies were used for revenue loss purposes.
- Matt Specht, 708 E. 2nd Street, inquired about the status of the train station and President Welch noted there is no new update.

Executive Session

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:01 p.m. Solicitor Muvdi summarized the Executive Session and noted Council discussed a litigation matter.

Tony Tucci, 341 Washington Street, asked the what the details of the Executive Session were and Solicitor Muvdi noted details of the Executive Session are not public record.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary