

Meeting Minutes of the  
**BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**APRIL 3, 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  
Michael Gombar, 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):** Matt Winger, Seth Winger, Nancy Kauffman, Russ and Susie Lander, Brenda Tucci, Ryan Acevedo

**Agenda Amendment**

**MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to amend the agenda by adding under Solicitor’s Report, authorization to execute an Easement Agreement with 501 E. 8th Street with an agreement expiration date of September 15, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None

**Minutes– March 20, 2023 Council Meeting**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Elgonitis and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the March 20, 2023 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

**Bills List**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Bills List dated April 3, 2023 (\$43,819.71) and Checks for Ratification dated March 21, 2023– April 2, 2023 (\$31,736.45). Motion carried 7-0.

**Interim Bills and Payroll**

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

### **Manager's Report**

- **Planning Commission Application – MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilman Harris to advertise the Planning Commission position and place on the next Council meeting agenda. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Mission Trip Birdsboro Donation Request – MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the Mission Trip Birdsboro Donation of \$500 from the Harms Benefit Fund. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Street Sweeper, Pickup Truck, Dump Truck Purchase – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the purchase of the Public Works pickup truck and dump truck not to exceed the LSA monies received for those items. Motion carried 7-0. Manager Yanos noted that the cost of the street sweeper was expected to have increased by approximately \$40,000 since the application for LSA grant funding, but the increase can be absorbed by the amount placed in the budget to purchase a used street sweeper if the grant monies were not awarded. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the purchase of the street sweeper with the LSA funds along with an amount not to exceed \$45,000 to cover the cost increase. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Rustic Park Security** – Matt Smith from RMI will be onsite at Rustic Park on April 6, 2023 to discuss a comprehensive security camera system for Rustic Park.
- **BMA/Borough Agreements** – Councilman Myers noted that the copies of the BMA/Borough agreements provided were not signed. Manager Yanos responded that signed copies did not exist in the office. President Welch stated that the agreements can continue to be reviewed.
- **Pension Board COLA Recommendation (Executive Session)**

### **Solicitor's Report**

- **400 W. 2nd Street (BEC) Zoning Change Request** – Solicitor Gombar noted that an application for a zoning amendment has been submitted for the BEC building to change the entire property into R-2 district zoning to allow multi-family by conditional use. A public hearing will be needed along with Borough and County Planning Commission review. Notices will be posted regarding the hearing. Solicitor Gombar asked Council if they would like to schedule the hearing along with a Council meeting, noting a decision on that does not need to be made at this meeting. Vice President McCauley noted that the site abuts to R-1 district zoning.
- **Animal Ordinance** – Councilmen Harris and Elgonitis will work on the beekeeping section of the animal ordinance with Matt Specht, of 708 E. 2nd Street, and other residents that may keep bees.
- **Easement Agreement – 501 E. 8th Street – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve authorization of the signing of the Easement Agreement with 501 E. 8th Street to grant access to the open space to maintain the Borough property with an expiration date of September 15, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Mayor/Police Reports**

Mayor Scioli noted the Sons of America cleanup has been postponed to the Beautify Birdsboro date of May 13. Also, himself, President Welch and Ken Imes, EMC are to schedule a meeting.

Chief Trupp noted that warning and a few citations have been issued for speeding on Hopewell Street and East and West Main Streets and East 1st Street. Noted were 148 visits to the brush pile so far. A homeless person in an SUV was causing damage to the First Baptist Church and the perpetrator was

caught and cleaned up the area. A no parking sign was placed where they were parking and the individual is no longer at that location.

President Welch had to leave the meeting at this point, 7:49 p.m., at which time Vice President McCauley began presiding over the meeting.

### **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**

- Ryan Acevedo noted that the Adult Easter Egg Hunt was a success and there were 118 registrants and the event brought in \$2,205. The park exercise equipment has been selected. A movie night will be held July 29 at Texas Ballfield.

**Emergency Management:** No new report

**Fire Department:** Report included in the Council packet

### **Council/Committee Reports**

- Councilman Myers noted that the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority has submitted their application to the Federal Railroad Administration, the application is one of 70 for new services and one of 33 for rail extensions. Positive input has been received from PADOT and Amtrak.
- Councilman Elgonitis noted the Girl Scout Glow in the Night event will be rescheduled.
- Councilman Brungard noted he spoke with the Boone Area Library Director and the library has tentatively agreed to allow a repair café utilize the library as a potential location.

**Old Business:** No old business

### **Public Comment**

- Susie Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, noted that Woman's Club of Birdsboro has been taking care of the flower beds at the sign at Mainbird Park and Vest Pocket Park and noted there was a pipe near the Mainbird Park sign and asked if that could be checked as it appeared it could be dangerous.
- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, noted that on April 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. there will be a cleanup of the rock-climbing area and on April 29 the Rotary Club will be cleaning up trash in Birdsboro.
- Rob and Lori Yanos, 224 Schuylkill Road, noted concern of dumping at the pull-off by the river behind Schuylkill Road. Also, noted were issues of the neighbor's dogs getting loose due to a faulty fence. It was recommended they submit complaint forms regarding the dumping so the Codes Officer can address the matter and they may contact the police regarding the dog issues.

### **Executive Session**

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:19 p.m. to discuss personnel. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:44 p.m. Solicitor Gombar summarized the Executive Session and noted Council discussed a Police Department contracting matter as it relates to retirement benefits and COLA's.

**MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilman Harris to deny any COLA increase for the Police Pension Plan retiree benefits, as an increase of any amount will negative impact the solvency of the Plan. Motion carried 6-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Borough Secretary