

Meeting Minutes of the  
**BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**JUNE 19, 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 n, Member - present

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

Also, in attendance were:

Anthony Scioli, Mayor  
Michael Gombar, 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 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Councilman Harris

**Visitor(s):** Nancy Kauffman, Susie and Russell Lander, Tony and Brenda Tucci, Christen Thompson, Dave Blank, Susan Cornish, Dan Trostle, Sal Folin, Rick Neith, Ken Imes, Maria Satiro, Ed Satiro

**Agenda Amendment:** None at this time

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None

**Seltzer Group – Borough Insurance Package Presentation**

Rick Neith of the Seltzer Group was present to provide information regarding a proposal for coverages for the Borough’s insurance package.

**Minutes– May 15, 2023 Council Meeting**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the May 15, 2023 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

**Bills List**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the Bills List dated June 19, 2023 (92,198.62) and Checks for Ratification dated May 16, 2023– June 18, 2023 (207,791.40). Motion carried 6-0.

**Interim Bills and Payroll**

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

### **Treasurer's Report**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the Treasurer's Report dated June 19, 2023. Motion carried 6-0.

#### Treasurers' Report

General (Surplus/(Deficit)	742,271.87
Harms (Surplus/(Deficit)	168,240.70
Liquid Fuels (Surplus/(Deficit)	(26,050.77)

### **Manager's Report**

- **Legion Field Memorial Bench – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to place a memorial bench at Legion Field along Route 724 near an existing bench, contingent upon the Legion's input. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Milling Bids – MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve advertising for milling services for the 2023 roadwork project of repaving the first and second block of Madison Street and overlay the remainder of Madison as well as both Kelly Drives and some of the surround cul-de-sacs and secondary streets. Motion carried 6-0. Vice President McCauley noted concerns regarding the condition of Washington Street.
- **Legion Field Lavatory Stalls – MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the installation of the stalls in the lavatories at Legion Field at a cost of \$2,978.43. Motion carried 5-0-1 with Councilman Myers abstaining due to his involvement with the Legion.
- **Camp Adventure Thank You Letter and Donation** – A thank you letter was received thanking Council in advance for the \$8,000 donation to Camp Adventure. **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve payment of the \$8,000 for Camp Adventure. Motion carried 6-0.
- **CELG Sponsorship – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the \$300 sponsorship to Center for Excellence in Local Government to be paid from Harms Benefit. Motion carried 6-0.

### **Engineer's Report**

- Engineer Boyer reviewed the Engineer's Report, a copy of which will be kept on file.

### **Solicitor's Report**

- **Animal Ordinance – MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the Animal Ordinance. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Board of Health Ordinance –MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers to table the adoption of the Board of Health Ordinance pending further review regarding how many members are needed on the Health Board and review of state law requirements. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Zoning Amendment** – A hearing was held this evening prior to the Council meeting for the rezoning request for the former BEC building at 400 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the 400 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Rezoning Request. President Welch asked for a roll call vote.

Robert Myers – yes  
Alen Harris, Sr – yes

Mary Ann Cotter – yes  
Neil McCauley – yes

Thomas Brungard – yes  
Matthew Welch – yes

Motion carried 6-0.

### **Mayor/Police Reports**

Mayor Scioli noted he attended a breakfast at Maple Springs and the Farmer’s Market as well.

Chief Trupp reviews his report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.

**Bus Patrol Agreement – MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Bus Patrol Agreement between BusPatrol and the Birdsboro Police Department for the enforcement of the School Bus Stop-Arm Enforcement Program. Motion carried 6-0.

### **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**

- Christen Thompson, Recreation Board President, requested \$100 for prizes for the Duck Derby.
- Agenda Amendment: **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to amend the agenda to add approval of donation of \$100 for prizes for the Duck Derby. Motion carried 6-0. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the donation of \$100 to the Recreation Board for prizes for the Duck Derby. Motion carried 6-0.
- Mrs. Thompson noted that the exercise equipment for the park is expected to be delivered Thursday and also asked Council if they would turn one of the tennis courts into a pickle ball court. Action on this requires an agenda amendment. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to amend the agenda to add under Recreation Board, approval of turning one of the tennis courts into a pickle ball court. Motion carried 6-0. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to turn one of the tennis courts into a pickle ball court. Motion carried 6-0.
- Mrs. Thompson noted that August 1 is National Night Out and the Recreation Board was looking to plan an event for that evening. At the suggestion of Chief Trupp, due to the nature of the various departments needing to be involved with the event, National Night Out will be planned for 2024.
- Mrs. Thompson noted concern regarding the vandalism in Main Bird Park, causing embarrassment at the Farmer’s Markets.

**Emergency Management:** Ken Imes, Emergency Management Coordinator, was present for discussion.

- **Berks County Hazard Mitigation Report** – the report addresses a 5-year plan, the report needs to be adopted by communities by resolution.
- **Termination of Emergency Declaration** – the emergency declaration has been terminated.
- **FEMA/PEMA Reimbursement Reporting** – FEMA puts out more grants associated with flooding. EMC Imes will present documents for FEMA/PEMA funding.

- **EMA Stipend** – EMC Imes recommended that Council consider continuing the EMC stipend. EMC Imes distributed a document containing his reporting and President Welch noted that more research will need to be done regarding the EMA stipend.

### **Fire Department**

Councilwoman Cotter noted that the Fire Department report should be reviewed and resubmitted as there are errors. Vice President McCauley noted the TowerDirect report is confusing. Councilman Brungard suggested that a representative from the Birdsboro-Union Fire Department attend a Council meeting to address questions.

### **Council/Committee Reports**

- Councilman Myers noted the next historical marker is being developed and it is to be placed at F.M. Brown's. Councilman Myers asked for a motion to approve the date of the Rotary Club Halloween Parade. **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Vice President McCauley to amend the agenda to include approval of the date of the Rotary Club Halloween Parade. Motion carried 6-0. **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the date of Thursday, October 19, with a rain date of Thursday, October 26 for the Rotary Club Halloween Parade. Motion carried 6-0. Councilman Myers asked for a motion to approve the date for Trick or Treat night. President Welch noted the matter will go on the next agenda. Councilman Myers noted that \$750,000 has been allotted by the federal government for planning of the Schuylkill River Passenger Rails project.
- Councilwoman Cotter asked if Solicitor Rauch had completed the documents for the Truist bank loan and it was noted that matter has been completed.
- Vice President McCauley noted that Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee will meet next Wednesday.
- President Welch thanked all of those who worked on the recent water main break.

### **Old Business**

- **Lease Agreement Discussion** – there was discussion regarding the lease agreements between the Birdsboro Municipal Authority and Borough for the maintenance of Texas Field and other properties. The ad-hoc committee discussed swapping of land and potential for shuffling property lines to better distribute and the properties and responsibility respectively. Councilman Myers suggested a document be provided depicting what is being proposed. Vice President McCauley asked if the Birdsboro Municipal Authority did a capital improvement on Texas Field (stadium lights) for \$187,000 and Tony Tucci noted that is correct. No action taken, ad-hoc committee to continue discussions.
- **Security Cameras for Recreation Areas** – Tony Tucci, and Chief Trupp met with representative of RMI regarding security cameras in the recreation areas. There was concern regarding the cost of the cameras and Councilman Harris questioned the need for military facial recognition grade. Councilman Myers suggested another security company provide quotes. Tony Tucci recommended taking a phased approach and President Welch suggested utilizing monies that were budgeted but are now being covered by the LSA grant funds. Councilman Brungard recommended breaking down the project in phases over three years. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard to approve 1/3 of the cost of the project of Rustic Park security cameras to be divided equally between the Birdsboro Municipal Authority and the Borough at an estimated cost of \$30,000 Borough cost. There was not seconded to the motion. The motion failed. Councilman Harris requested a more

itemized proposal. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Vice President McCauley to table the security cameras for recreation areas discussion. Motion carried 4-2 with President Welch and Councilman Brungard voting no.

- **Birdsboro Power Accommodation Fee Renegotiations** – No discussion

**Public Comment**

- Susie Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, noted she felt it was a mistake to not make a deciding vote on the security cameras. Mrs. Lander noted that the Woman’s Club of Birdsboro is not releasing funds to the Fire Company at this time and asked who may be contacted at the Fire Company regarding recent events and President Welch noted that the Borough has not standing in that case and would not know who to contact for an update.
- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, noted she is in support of the security cameras at the recreation areas and Council is vacillating too much about the cameras. Mrs. Kauffman asked if the security cameras are vandal proof and Tony Tucci noted that they are to a certain extent.
- Dave Blank, 127 Hopewell Street, noted the County’s inmate program, where inmates can do work for organizations, and noted that the program has reopened and asked Council if they would be agreeable to him looking into that for the Borough. Council was not opposed and President Welch noted it could be looked into.
- Christen Thompson, 134 Hopewell Street, noted concern about the children being in the parks unsupervised. Ideas such as signs, ordinances for enforcement and community watch were suggested. No action was taken.
- Russell Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, noted the security cameras in the recreation areas are needed and Council cannot make a decision. Mr. Lander asked about the status of Beacon Container and Vice President McCauley noted that a couple of proposal fell through. Mr. Lander asked what is going on at the Mansion and Vice President McCauley said he thought it is rehab work.
- Don Wary, 511 Jefferson Street, noted that two of three exit signs in the meeting room are not working.

**Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Borough Secretary