

Meeting Minutes of the  
**BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**JULY 17, 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  
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, Brenda Tucci, Christen Thompson, Dave Blank, Ryan Acevedo, Rick Neith

**Agenda Amendments**

**MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to add approval of the June 19 zoning hearing minutes to the agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

**MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Vice President McCauley to add discussion regarding the trash issues (especially with one particular hauler). Motion carried 7-0.

**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. This item to be addresses under the Manager's Report.

**Minutes– June 19, 2023 Council Meeting**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the June 19, 2023 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 7-0. Amendment being under the Solicitor's Report, Animal Ordinance, remove the last sentence.

### **Bills List**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Bills List dated July 17, 2023 (35,554.79) and Checks for Ratification dated June 29, 2023– July 16, 2023 (153,160.38). 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 Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated July 17, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.

#### Treasurers’ Report

General (Surplus/(Deficit)	704,496.79
Harms (Surplus/(Deficit)	130,982.69
Liquid Fuels (Surplus/(Deficit)	(30,454.42)

### **Manager’s Report**

- **Zoning Hearing Updates**
  - **540 W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street** – Eric Wagner – variance approved – front setback allowance for deck
  - **512 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street** – Capstone – variance approved – rent accessory building to same family as main house – allowing two dwelling units on one lot
  - **Route 724 and Jackson Street** – Pro Grade Supply – variance approved – allow a portion of a warehouse facility in the Highway Commercial District
- **Zoning Hearing Board Stipend** – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve a \$50 stipend for each Zoning Hearing Board member for each evening they attend a hearing or hearings. Motion carried 5-2 with Councilman Myers and Councilwoman Cotter voting no.
- **Schuylkill Highlands Mini Grant Program** – **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to authorize acceptance/execution of the grant contract form the Schuylkill Highlands Mini Grant Program for the \$500 grant (matching) for picnic tables. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Update Fee Schedule** – **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve revising (by resolution) the fee schedule to include a linear utility fee of \$85.00 for the first foot and \$1.00 for each additional foot (due to the upcoming Comcast project). Motion carried 7-0.
- **Insurance Renewals** – Action on this item tabled until after Executive Session.
- **Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC)**– Council was provided with a compensation survey for Emergency Management Coordinators in the area. Concern was noted that the EMC is receiving more compensation than others in the area. President Welch noted that expectations for that role should be figured out.

### **Engineer’s Report**

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

### **Solicitor's Report**

- **Board of Health Ordinance** –There was discussion whether to have a Health Officer or a Board of Health. No action taken.
- **Stormwater Management Ordinance** – Solicitor Gombar stated he is working on the Stormwater Management Ordinance.
- **Police Coverage Contract with Robeson** – Solicitor Gombar noted he is working on the Police coverage contract with Robeson as it relates to parks.

### **Mayor/Police Reports**

Mayor Scioli noted that other quotes are pending for the recreation areas security cameras. The Legion riders' event was held last Thursday at Anna Marie's.

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

Chief Trupp noted two donations received by the Police Department: one from the Woman's Club of Birdsboro for \$1,000 and one from the VFW for \$500.

Chief Trupp noted that the Borough Hall parking is being used for overnight parking and suggested that signage be placed in the Borough parking lot to curb such activity, unless the parking is a result of Borough business. Chief Trupp will start with the signs and if that is not effective than an ordinance would be need to be able to enforce with ticketing/towing.

Chief Trupp noted the costs being incurred due to contractors asking for road closure signage from the Police Department and at times they are only working on the project a day or two. Chief Trupp requested an ordinance be looked into the be able to charge contractors per day for the cost of labor and supplies for the road closures.

### **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 \$50 for membership to B.A.R.N. (Berks Agricultural Resource Network).
- Agenda Amendment: **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to amend the agenda to add approval cost of \$50 for membership to B.A.R.N. (Berks Agricultural Resource Network). Motion carried 7-0. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the cost of \$50 for membership to B.A.R.N. (Berks Agricultural Resource Network). Motion carried 7-0.
- Birdsboro Night Out will include the Birdsboro-Union Fire Department and Ambulance Services. Councilwoman Cotter noted that the Police Department needs to be notified if events plan to be larger than initially planned. On July 27, in Main Bird Park, there will be a Community Yard Sale from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, an evening Farmers' Market and movie as well. There will also be goat yoga for

a cost of \$35/person. A Mayor's Certificate is to be prepared for the winner of the anti-vandalism poster contest.

**Emergency Management:** No new report

**Fire Department:** Councilman Myers requested the Fire Department provide a financial report.

### **Council/Committee Reports**

- Councilman Myers distributed the next historical marker to be placed at F.M. Brown's which will depict the history of F.M. Brown's.
- Councilman Harris thanked all of those in attendance.
- Councilwoman Cotter noted the exit signs in the meeting room have been fixed. Councilwoman Cotter requested that the Public Works Department look for violations around the Borough, citing that residents do not want to submit complaints to the Borough. Manager Yanos noted that Public Works does not have the time or manpower to look around the Borough for violations. Violations are to be handled by the Borough's Codes Officer and submitting a complaint form is the proper process.
- Vice President McCauley noted that Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.
- Councilman Elgonitis stated that the Daniel Boone School District's bowling team in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the nation with 59 teams participating. Councilman Elgonitis noted he will be meeting with TowerDirect Wednesday and will provide a report to Council via e-mail. Councilman Elgonitis noted concern of the lack of visibility at the intersection at E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and S. Walnut Street. Chief Trupp noted that the Police Department can run traffic tests for possible stop signs. Chief Trupp noted that if it is a sightline issue then maybe the yellow lines can be moved.
- Councilman Brungard noted the issues with A.J. Blosenski's trash collection and requested the Borough contact the hauler to let them know the Borough's concern regarding their service to the Borough resident. **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Councilman Harris to send a letter to A.J. Blosenski regarding the concerns with the service issues. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Old Business**

- **Parks Lease Agreement Discussion** –There will be an ad-hoc committee meeting tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the parks lease agreement
- **Security Cameras for Recreation Areas** – Awaiting more camera bids
- **Birdsboro Power Accommodation Fee Renegotiations** – No discussion

### **Public Comment**

- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, noted it is preferable to have a Health Board instead of a Health Officer.
- Brenda Tucci, 341 Washington Street, noted code violations that need to be addressed. Manager Yanos noted that Mrs. Tucci's complaints have been investigated and violations must meet certain criteria to be acted upon and the complaints submitted by Mrs. Tucci were not found to meet the criteria.
- Ryan Acevedo, 647 Jefferson Street, noted the concern regarding A.J. Blosenski and the trash that is not being collected is attracting skunks, rodents, etc.

- Christen Thompson, 134 Hopewell Street, noted rubbish (mattress and bedframe), at a property on Haycreek Road and it was noted that the property owner has been cited but they live out of state and a warrant had to be issued. It was asked if the Public Works could clean up the rubbish and lien the property and Solicitor Gombar noted liability issues with doing that.
- Susie Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, asked Councilman Elgonitis to inquire about TowerDirect's response time at his upcoming meeting with them.

#### **Executive Session**

Council recessed into Executive Session at 9:14 p.m. to discuss personnel. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:26 p.m. Solicitor Gombar summarized the Executive Session and noted Council discussed a personnel matter which involved the Borough's insurance policies. **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Vice President McCauley to engage the services of Seltzer Group for the Borough's insurance renewals. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Borough Secretary