

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 5, 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 (arrived 7:04 pm)

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 Councilwoman Cotter

Visitor(s): Christen Thompson, Dave Blank, Ryan Acevedo, Denise Harner, American Legion Post 626 representatives

Agenda Amendments: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– August 21, 2023 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the August 21, 2023 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Bills List dated September 4, 2023 (15,162.34) and Checks for Ratification dated August 22, 2023– September 3, 2023 (62,889.55). Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Harris arrived (7:04 p.m.)

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

- **Roadwork Change** - Because of Comcast's construction in the Mansion View area (Kelly Drives and the surrounding cul-de-sacs), the Public Works Department recommends that roadwork scheduled for that area this year be postponed until next year. They are proposing to move forward with the paving/overlay on Madison Street and add Pear and Peach streets to be overlaid/tack-coated. As a result of the change, the estimate cost for 2023 roadwork (Liquid Fuels) would decrease from \$145,000 to \$54,000.
- **Library Grant** – This matter does not need to be addressed as the library is not applying for a Keystone Grant this year. No action needs to be taken.
- **Rustic Park Cameras – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Nextgen proposal for Rustic Park Cameras contingent upon the cameras being compatible with the current systems utilized by the Borough. President Welch asked for a roll call vote.

Robert Myers – yes
Thomas Brungard – yes
Alen Harris, Sr – yes
Matthew Welch -yes

Mary Ann Cotter – yes
Matthew Elgonitis – yes
Neil McCauley – yes

Motion carried 7-0.

- **Land Swap with BMA** – Matter to be discussed in Executive Session.
- **EMS Run Card Authorization – MOTION** was made by Councilman Elgonitis and seconded by Councilman Brungard to authorize the Fire Company (BUFD) to make changes to EMS run cards as agreed upon by both parties. Motion carried 7-0.
- **Ballfield Agreement** – A committee to be formed to discussed the American Legion Post 626 ballfield use. Vice President McCauley and Councilman Harris volunteered to be on the committee. The ballfield agreement is being prepared by Solicitor Gombar and is to be forwarded to Council for review.

Engineer's Report

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

Solicitor's Report

- **Street Closure Ordinance Amendment – MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Myers to authorize advertisement of adoption of the amended Street Closure Ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Chief Trupp reviewed his report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.
- **Stop Sign at E. 2nd Street and S. Walnut Street- MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to add two stop signs at the intersection of E. 2nd Street and S. Walnut Street. Motion carried 7-0.

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

- **Recreation Board Appointment - MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Brungard to appoint David Blank to the Recreation Board. Motion carried 6-1 with Councilwoman Cotter voting no. Councilwoman Cotter asked if the Recreation Board position was advertised and it was noted it was not but Solicitor Gombar stated that advertising of such position is not a legal requirement.
- **Octopus for Main Bird Park** – The cost of an additional octopus in Main Bird Park has increased drastically to a cost of \$7,700 for materials. It was agreed the item should be discussed at 2024 budget review time.
- **Christmas in Birdsboro Fireworks - MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilman Elgonitis to approve the cost of \$5,500 to International Fireworks for the Christmas in Birdsboro fireworks. Motion carried 7-0.
- Christen Thompson suggested a playground equipment fundraiser and request donations from local businesses.

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: No new report

Council/Committee Reports

- Councilman Brungard noted the Phoenixville Repair Café will be held Saturday.
- Councilman Elgonitis thanked Chief Trupp, Mayor Scioli and Council for the added stop signs at E. 2nd Street and S. Walnut Street.
- Vice President McCauley noted that the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee did not meet in August but the next meeting is scheduled for September 20 at 1:00 p.m. at the landfill. There is a new hotline phone number and it is listed on the landfill's website.
- Councilwoman Cotter requested the Code Enforcement report be provided.
- Councilman Harris thanked Chief Trupp for his assistance with the Rustic Park cameras and thanked Councilman Elgonitis for his work regarding the E. 2nd Street and S. Walnut Street stop signs.
- Councilman Myers noted that the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority grant decision of the Federal Rail Administration been delayed until November. Berks County awarded \$750,000 in grants and \$142,000 was received for engineering/environmental studies for the Franklin St Station.
- President Welch noted the first budget season meeting will be September 18 at 6:00 p.m. and organizations with interest in the budget will be present to address their requests.

Old Business

- **Parks Lease Agreement Discussion** –Discussions continue
- **Birdsboro Power Accommodation Fee Renegotiations** – No discussion

Public Comment

- Ryan Acevedo, 647 Jefferson Street, noted concern of Comcast not providing flaggers on closed roads.

Executive Session

Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. to discuss the Land Swap with BMA and the regular meeting reconvened at 9:43 p.m. Solicitor Gombar noted the Executive Session was to discuss a real estate matter. No action was taken.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary