

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
DECEMBER 4, 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 – absent
Alen Harris, Member –absent

Also, in attendance were:

Michael Gombar, Solicitor
Brian Boyer, Engineer
Anthony Scioli, Mayor
Todd Trupp, Police Chief
Kelly J. Yanos, Manager
Bonnie L. Frisco, Secretary/Treasurer

Call to Order: President Welch called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Councilwoman Cotter

Visitor(s): Ryan Acevedo, Sue Walley, Russ and Susie Lander, Tony Tucci, Dave Blank, Christen Thompson

Agenda Amendments: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes– November 20, 2023 Council Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the November 20, 2023 council meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Minutes– November 20, 2023 Budget Meeting

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the November 20, 2023 budget meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Bills List

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the Bills List dated December 4, 2023 (54,685.49) and Checks for Ratification dated November 21, 2023– December 3, 2023 (10,968.77). Motion carried 5-0.

Interim Bills and Payroll

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Myers and seconded by Vice President McCauley to approve the Interim Bills and Payroll. Motion carried 5-0.

Manager's Report

- **Approve the 2024 Advertised Budget– MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the 2024 budget as advertised. Motion carried 5-0.

Engineer's Report

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

Solicitor's Report

- Solicitor Gombar reviewed the Solicitor's Report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.
- **Approve the 2024 Tax Ordinance – MOTION** was made by President Welch and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the 2024 Tax Ordinance. Vice President McCauley noted concerns regarding the fire tax information included on the same ordinance as the general tax information. Solicitor Gombar noted it was appropriate to have both the fire tax and general tax information on the same ordinance. Motion carried 4-1 with Vice President McCauley voting no.
- **Conditional Use Hearing Decision – 400 W. 2nd Street** – No action to be taken as decision was rendered following the hearing prior to the Council meeting.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Mayor Scioli noted he will attend a seminar for emergency tabletop exercise procedures on Thursday and also, he is registered for a Role of the Mayor class.
- Mayor Scioli noted he will be judging the Christmas decorating contest.
- Chief Trupp noted an anticipated officer retirement in May/June of next year. Chief Trupp noted the Civil Service Commission will meet in early January, and he is requesting changes to the Civil Service Rules, including waiving the physical fitness test for older applicants who are currently certified in Pennsylvania or other state, revise the exercise requirement with a graduated scale for scoring and only required polygraph test for the two top candidates. The hiring application process to begin in January.

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

- Suzy Lander reviewed the Christmas in Birdsboro budget sheet with Council and passed around the list of sponsors.

Emergency Management: No new report

Fire Department: Fire Department bills list included in the Council packet

Council/Committee Reports

- Vice President McCauley noted that Pioneer Crossing Landfill Committee will meet Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

- Councilwoman Cotter asked Manager Yanos if H&K has responded to the issue of limestone on vehicles and properties in Maple Springs and Manager Yanos noted she sent them an e-mail but has not received a response. Councilwoman Cotter thanked all of those in attendance.
- Councilman Myers requested to meet in Executive Session at the next Council meeting to discuss bonuses for non-uniform employees.

Old Business: No old business

Public Comment

- Russ Lander, 647 Jefferson Street, noted street lights that are out and Manager Yanos noted the Borough is working to Comcast to resolve the issues.
- Tony Tucci, 341 Washington Street, noted concerns about the Civil Service Commission not working with academy for new hires and promoting hiring older officers. The concern being, the hiring of older officers will have more impact on the pension plans and Chief Trupp noted the pension plans are prorated for older officers.

Agenda Amendment

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to amend the agenda by adding an Executive Session to discuss personnel relating to the Borough's life safety services. Motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session

Council recessed into Executive Session at 7:39 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:59 p.m. Solicitor Gombar noted that a personnel matter was discussed in Executive Session, particularly the current Emergency Management Coordinator and the potential to take action to appoint Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to appoint Matthew Welch and Anthony Scioli as following Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators. Motion carried 5-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Brungard to authorize President Welch on behalf of the Borough, Mr. Tucci and Mayor Scioli to deliver the discussed information to the current Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary