

Meeting Minutes of the  
**BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**DECEMBER 18, 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 –present

Also, in attendance were:

Anthony Scioli, Mayor  
Chris Muvdi, 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 Councilman Harris

**Visitor(s):** Ryan Acevedo, Sue Walley, Steve Dragon, Suzy Lander, Tony Tucci, Dave Blank

**Agenda Amendments:** None

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None

**Minutes– December 4, 2023 Council Meeting**

- **MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the December 4, 2023 council meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried 6-0. Amendment being to note that the comments made by Vice President McCauley in the minutes referenced the Fire Tax not the EMS costs.

**Bills List**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Harris and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to approve the Bills List dated December 18, 2023 (54,685.49) and Checks for Ratification dated December 5, 2023– December 17, 2023 (257,085.95). Motion carried 6-0.

**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 6-0.

**Treasurer’s Report**

- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated December 18, 2023. Motion carried 6-0.

Treasurers' Report

General (Surplus/(Deficit)	414,523.84
Harms (Surplus/(Deficit)	323,040.45
Liquid Fuels (Surplus/(Deficit)	34,631.38

Manager's Report

- **Revised Resolution for Fire Company LSA Grant – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve Resolution No. 2023-24 for the revised Resolution for the Fire Company LSA Grant increasing the requested amount from \$57,650 to \$65,650 to comply with prevailing wage requirements. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Replace Failing Back-up System – MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilwoman Cotter to authorize replacing the failing back-up system for a monthly cost of \$400. Councilman Harris noted concern regarding the increased cost without additional hardware and secondary backup on-site. Motion carried contingent upon proper negotiations take place with IT, Aperion Systems. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Donation of \$350 for Recreation Board Shed – MOTION** was made by Vice President McCauley and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve a \$350 donation for transportation of the Recreation Board Shed. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Part-time Electrician Position** – To be discussed in Executive Session.
- **Staff Bonuses** - To be discussed in Executive Session.
- **Approval of 2024 Holiday Schedule for Non-Contracted Employees – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Myers to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule for Non-Contracted Employees as presented. Motion carried 6-0.
- **Approval of the 2024 Meeting Schedule – MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Brungard to approve the 2024 Meeting Schedule as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

Solicitor's Report

- Solicitor Muvdi reviewed the Solicitor's Report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.
- Vice President McCauley clarified his objection to the Tax Ordinance, asserting that the Fire Tax should be delineated separately from the General Fund Tax in the Tax Ordinance; and noted the taxes should be adopted in separate ordinances in order to eliminate any misconception that the Fire Tax is being eliminated and the total millage is allocated to the General Fund.

Mayor/Police Reports

- Chief Trupp noted the Civil Service Commission will meet in January.
- Chief Trupp noted the officers donated \$300 to the Legion for Christmas gifts for the troops overseas.
- Chief Trupp noted Christmas in Birdsboro was a great event and it had a good turnout.
- Mayor Scioli thanked all of those who helped with Christmas in Birdsboro.

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**

- Ryan Acevedo noted that Christmas in Birdsboro was an amazing event and thanked all of those involved, a follow-up meeting was held Monday. The Recreation Board would like to have more volunteers for next year's event. Noted was a surplus for the Christmas in Birdsboro event.

**Emergency Management:** Report included in the Council packet

### **Fire Department:**

Steve Dragon noted the Birdsboro Union Fire Department is in better financial condition than last year at this time. He also reported that BUFD received a payment from a copier lease agency which was actually meant for the Borough. The Fire Department will provide a check to the Borough.

### **Council/Committee Reports**

- Councilman Brungard shared leaving thoughts. Councilman Brungard suggested a committee of local business be created for think-tank purposes for the business commerce in Birdsboro Borough. Councilman Brungard also noted that he felt the apartments at 400 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street are a good use, as it will provide needed housing and tax revenue.
- Vice President McCauley thanked everyone for their support during his time on Council. Also, the Pioneer Crossing Landfill Advisory Committee met last Wednesday and discussed odor complaints.
- Councilwoman Cotter noted that she felt this Council worked very well together. Councilwoman Cotter thanked the Recreation Board, the churches, the Fire Department and other organizations for their assistance with Christmas in Birdsboro.
- Councilman Harris noted it has been a privilege to serve on Council and he thanked Council for their shared wisdom and knowledge.
- Councilman Myers noted that the Federal Railway Administration awarded the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail project a \$500,000 grant. Councilman Myers wished a fond farewell to his parting colleagues, President Welch, Vice President McCauley, Councilman Harris and Councilman Brungard.
- President Welch noted it has been a good four years and hopes he laid the groundwork for more good things.

**Old Business:** No old business

### **Public Comment**

- Sue Walley, 536 South Walnut Street, asked for the number for the Pioneer Crossing Landfill odor complaints and 267-933-6205 was provided.
- Anthony Tucci, 341 Washington Street, noted he declined the 2-year Council seat to which he was elected.
- Ryan Acevedo, 647 Jefferson Street, noted the Reading Eagle had a Christmas in Birdsboro article and thanked all the existing council members for serving.

### **Executive Session**

Council recessed into Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. to discuss two personnel matters. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:07 p.m. Solicitor Muvdi noted that two personnel matters were discussed in Executive Session. The following motions resulted.

- **MOTION** was made by Councilman Brungard and seconded by Vice President McCauley to hire Robert Takacs, the current Borough electrician, as a Borough employee for electrical services, on an 'as necessary' basis at \$40/hour with no benefits. Motion carried 6-0.
- **MOTION** was made by Councilwoman Cotter and seconded by Councilman Harris to approve the following annual bonuses for 2023 for non-contracted employees.

▪ Kelly Yanos	\$1,650.00
▪ Bonnie L Frisco	\$1,100.00
▪ Rebecca Aulenbach	\$550.00
▪ Robin Emerick	\$550.00

Motion carried 6-0.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Borough Secretary