

Meeting Minutes of the
BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL
JANUARY 15, 2024 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL

Council roll call:

Anthony Tucci, President – present	Matthew Elgonitis, Member – via zoom
Ryan Acevedo, Vice President - present	David Blank, Member – present
Robert Myers, Member – present	
Mary Ann Cotter, Member - present	

Also, in attendance were:

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

CALL TO ORDER: Anthony Tucci called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Opening prayer was led by Mary Ann Cotter

VISITOR(S): Steve Dragon, Suzy and Russell Lander, Matthew Welch, Christen Thompson, Neil McCauley, Nancy Kauffman, Kevin Shelton, Brenda Tucci

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

MOTION to amend the agenda to postpone the COLA discussion to the next Council meeting.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank	X		X			
Mary Ann Cotter		X	X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers			X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

MOTION to amend the agenda to remove the 2-year Municipal Authority seat appointment.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank			X			
Mary Ann Cotter		X	X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers	X		X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, noted she did not support going to one council meeting per month.

- Suzy Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, noted she did not support going to one council meeting per month and eliminating the opening prayer.
- Christen Thompson, 134 Hopewell Street, noted she did not support going to one council meeting per month and eliminating the opening prayer.

MINUTES– January 2, 2024 Council Meeting

MOTION to approve the January 2, 2024 Council Meeting minutes as presented.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo		X	X			
David Blank			X			
Mary Ann Cotter			X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers	X		X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

BILLS LIST

MOTION to approve bills list dated January 15, 2024 and checks for ratifications dated January 2, 2024 – January 14, 2024.

Bills Payable	13,580.22
Checks for Ratification	69,416.24

Anthony Tucci called for a roll call vote.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank	X		X			
Mary Ann Cotter			X			
Matthew Elgonitis		X	X			
Robert Myers			X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

INTERIM BILLS AND PAYROLL

MOTION to approve the interim bills and payroll.

Anthony Tucci called for a roll call vote.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank		X	X			
Mary Ann Cotter			X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers	X		X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

TREASURER’S REPORT

MOTION to approve the Treasurer’s Report dated January 15, 2024.

Treasurers’ Report

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

Anthony Tucci called for a roll call vote.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo		X	X			
David Blank			X			
Mary Ann Cotter			X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers	X		X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Appointment of the 2-Year Council Seat

Council seat applicants Russ Lander, Matthew Welch, Neil McCauley, and Kevin Shelton were present. The applicants responded to questions from Council. Mike Baer also submitted an application for the 2-year council seat but was unable to attend this evening’s meeting.

Anthony Tucci asked for nominations for the 2-year council seat. Robert Myers nominated Neil McCauley.

Anthony Tucci called for a roll call vote.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo				X		
David Blank				X		
Mary Ann Cotter		X	X			
Matthew Elgonitis				X		
Robert Myers	X		X			
Anthony Tucci				X		

Motion failed 2-4.

Anthony Tucci asked for nominations for the 2-year council seat. Ryan Acevedo nominated Matthew Welch.

Anthony Tucci called for a roll call vote.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo	X		X			
David Blank		X	X			
Mary Ann Cotter				X		
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers			X			

Anthony Tucci			X			
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Motion carried 4-2. Matthew Welch was sworn in by Mayor Anthony Scioli and immediately afterwards took his seat at the Council table.

Committee Assignments – Anthony Tucci

Committee assignments to be discussed later in the meeting.

Technology Upgrade – Anthony Tucci

There was discussion regarding a proposed technology upgrade for the Borough and Authority departments with an estimated cost of \$50,000.

MOTION to table the technology upgrade discussion to the next Council meeting.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank		X	X			
Mary Ann Cotter			X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers	X		X			
Matthew Welch			X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

Decrease Meeting Frequency to One Meeting Per Month – Ryan Acevedo

MOTION to decrease Council meeting frequency to one meeting per month.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo	X		X			
David Blank			X			
Mary Ann Cotter				X		
Matthew Elgonitis				X		
Robert Myers				X		
Matthew Welch		X	X			
Anthony Tucci				X		

Motion failed 3-4.

Eliminate Opening Prayer – Ryan Acevedo

MOTION to eliminate the opening prayer.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo	X		X			
David Blank				X		
Mary Ann Cotter				X		
Matthew Elgonitis				X		
Robert Myers				X		
Matthew Welch		X		X		
Anthony Tucci				X		

Motion failed 1-6

Set up Semi-quincentennial Committee (250th Anniversary) – David Blank

David Blank to establish a 250th Anniversary Committee.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Purchase Backhoe for Public Works Department

MOTION to purchase a backhoe for the Public Works Department for a cost of \$135,500.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank		X	X			
Mary Ann Cotter			X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers			X			
Matthew Welch	X		X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

Police Pension Plan Cost-of-Living Adjustment (Executive Session) – postponed to next Council meeting

Purchase Street Sweeper

MOTION to purchase a street sweeper for \$241,264 covered by LSA grant funding.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank		X	X			
Mary Ann Cotter			X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers			X			
Matthew Welch	X		X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

Tax Payments by Credit Card

MOTION to authorize preparation of the tax payment credit card resolution contingent upon the credit card transaction fee information be printed on the tax bills.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank			X			
Mary Ann Cotter	X		X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers			X			
Matthew Welch		X	X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

Borough/BMA Land Swap Negotiations

Borough/BMA land swap negotiations to be revised with the Land Swap Committee which includes Matthew Elgonitis and Matthew Welch.

Amend Snow Emergency Ordinance

There was discussion regarding amending the snow emergency ordinance to include regulations regarding requiring the removal of cars from the curbsides. Chief Todd Trupp noted concerns regarding enforcement of such an ordinance. Robert Myers requested a copy of Amity’s snow ordinance be obtained for review.

Abundant Life Egg Hunt

MOTION to approve the use of Main Bird Park for the Abundant Life Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, 2024 with a rain date of Saturday, March 30, 2024, at no charge; as well as, permission to close Water Street between E. Main Street and Beacon Street from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the date of the event.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank			X			
Mary Ann Cotter	X		X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers			X			
Matthew Welch		X	X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

- Solicitor Michael Gombar reviewed the Solicitor’s Report with Council, a copy of which will be kept on file.

MAYOR/POLICE REPORT

Amend the Civil Service Rules and Regulations

MOTION to approve the proposed testing amendments to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, as presented by Chief Todd Trupp.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo	X		X			
David Blank			X			
Mary Ann Cotter	X		X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers			X			
Matthew Welch			X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

Approval to Advertise for Applications for Patrolman

MOTION to approve advertising for application for Patrolman.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank		X	X			
Mary Ann Cotter			X			
Matthew Elgonitis	X		X			
Robert Myers			X			
Matthew Welch			X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

Declaration of Emergency Event (4) for Staffing Purposes

MOTION to approve the declaration of emergency events (4) for staffing purposes. Emergency events to include the Memorial Day Parade, National Night Out, Halloween Parade and Christmas in Birdsboro.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Ryan Acevedo			X			
David Blank			X			
Mary Ann Cotter			X			
Matthew Elgonitis			X			
Robert Myers		X	X			
Matthew Welch	X		X			
Anthony Tucci			X			

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 noted that the Farmer’s Markets will begin May 18.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Report included in the Council packet. Matthew Welch, Acting Emergency Management Coordinator, noted that one emergency was declared due to heavy rains. Also noted was an EMC page has been placed on the CodeRed site but it is not an official site of the Borough.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Report included in the Council packet

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Robert Myers noted he was impressed with all five Council applicants and noted that Mike Baer could not appear due to health issues.
- David Blank noted there are some dead trees in Rustic Park that need to be removed. David Blank asked for information regarding credit card acceptance for payments made to the Borough.
- Mary Ann Cotter thanked the employees for their work during the latest storm and agreed with Robert Myers regarding the Council applicants and thanked them for applying.
- Matthew Welch thanked Council for voting him back on Council.

- Ryan Acevedo thanked the crews for the speedy snow removal and thanked all of those in attendance.
- Matthew Elgonitis thanked everyone for their support during his recent illness and noted he was impressed with the Council seat applicants.
- Anthony Tucci noted he will be e-mailing everyone a list of committees to be created and anyone who is interested to please sign up.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, noted the Commonwealth Financial Authority is accepting grants for trails/greenways with a 15% match. She will forward the information to Christen Thompson and Ryan Acevedo. Nancy Kauffman also noted that she would like to see the Council and BMA office terms listed on the website.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco
Borough Secretary