

Meeting Minutes of the  
**BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**FEBRUARY 5, 2024 7:00 P.M. – BOROUGH HALL**

Council roll call:

Anthony Tucci, President – present  
 Ryan Acevedo, Vice President - present  
 Robert Myers, Member – present  
 Mary Ann Cotter, Member - present

Matthew Elgonitis, Member – present  
 David Blank, Member – present  
 Matthew Welch- 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:** 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):** Neil McCauley, Nancy Kauffman, Suzy and Russell Lander, Christen Thompson, Brenda Tucci, Sarina Dixon

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**CODE ENFORCEMENT PRESENTATION – SYSTEMS DESIGN ENGINEERING**

Tom Unger and Krystin Noll, of Systems Design Engineering provided a presentation for Code Enforcement services for the Borough. No action taken at this time.

**APPOINTMENT OF 2-YEAR MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY SEAT**

**Motion** to appoint Kevin Orman to the 2-Year Municipal Authority Seat, term to expire December 31, 2025.

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

**MINUTES– JANUARY 15, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING**

**Motion** to approve the January 15, 2024 Council Meeting minutes as amended. Amendments being correcting the Motions for Council appointment by reversing the Motions and seconds for each vote.

	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			

**BILLS LIST**

**Motion** to approve bills list dated February 5, 2024 and checks for ratification dated January 16, 2024 – February 4, 2024.

Bills Payable	96,794.20
Checks for Ratification	74,954.71

Anthony Tucci called for a roll call vote.

	Motion	2 <sup>nd</sup>	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			

**INTERIM BILLS AND PAYROLL**

**Motion** to approve the interim bills and payroll.

	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			

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

Approve Activities

**Motion** to approve the below activities

- Girl Scouts of Daniel Boone Glo Egg Hunt – March 29, 2024 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Memorial Day Parade – May 27, 2024
- Halloween Parade – October 17, 2024 (rain date October 24, 2024)

	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			

VFW Donation

**Motion** to approve the \$1,500 donation to the VFW from Harms Benefit Fund.

	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			

Confirm Birdsboro Municipal Authority 'BMA' Terms

**Motion** to confirm by resolution the BMA terms as listed.

- Anthony Tucci Term to expire 12/31/2024
- Kevin Orman Term to expire 12/31/2025
- Michael Mettler Term to expire 12/31/2026
- Mary Ann Cotter Term to expire 12/31/2027
- Jeff Kauffman Term to expire 12/31/2028

	Motion	2 <sup>nd</sup>	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			

Approve Replacement of Police Department Gas Furnace

**Motion** to approve the replacement of the Police Department gas furnace for a cost of \$4,300 in accordance with the quote provided by JZ Enterprises.

	Motion	2 <sup>nd</sup>	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			

Police Pension Plan Cost-of-Living Adjustment – Executive Session to be held at the end of the meeting

**ENGINEER’S REPORT**

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

Funding for Erosion at Rustic Park

**Motion** to authorize the Borough Engineer to submit a grant application for up to \$10,000 for funding for erosion at Rustic Park.

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

**MAYOR/POLICE REPORT**

Approve Police Department Intern

**Motion** to approve the Police Department Intern, Emily Kennedy.

	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			

Appoint Officer-in-Charge

**Motion** to approve appointing Sergeant Adam Borz as the Officer-in-Charge during Chief Trupp’s absence in accordance with the Police Bargaining Agreement.

	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			
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Exeter PD Range

The Exeter PD Range on Bridge Road was discussed and it was noted that Exeter is to put up berms to reduce noise impacts on W. Main Street. The PD Range will not be open to the public or other police department except for Birdsboro Police Department and no shooting will be done after 9:00 p.m.

Police Incident

Chief Trupp noted that there was a stabbing incident over the weekend, it was an isolated incident (not random) and one person has been charged as an adult and is incarcerated.

**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**

Approve Adult Easter Egg Hunt

**Motion** to approve the Adult Easter Egg Hunt on March 23, 2024 at Main Bird Park.

	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			

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Matthew Welch, Acting Emergency Management Coordinator, noted that there were two blasting notifications, and Acting EMC Welch noted that he has obtained the last certification he needed, and he has started review of the Emergency Plan.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Report included in the Council packet

**COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- David Blank noted that he believes H&K cut a Borough electric line to Rustic Park when they put up a fence. The line is to be fixed. David Blank inquired about the status of the train station and Solicitor Gombar noted that the Berks County Redevelopment Authority is still working on going out to bid to contractors for the removal of the building. Kelly Yanos to get an update. David Blank noted that the Borough is losing several light poles. Anthony Tucci asked David Blank to get a quote to replace the poles and lighting for the poles owned by the Borough. David Blank noted a sign-up sheet to help with the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
- Mary Ann Cotter noted that the lower end of E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street is very dark due to nonfunctioning streetlights.
- Ryan Acevedo asked for speed monitoring on Hopewell Street.
- Matthew Welch noted that the new owners of the former Beacon Container property installed new lighting and the lights are very bright, potentially bright enough to cause a safety hazard for travelers coming under the Jackson Street bridge.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Committee Assignments – Anthony Tucci

Anthony Tucci noted he is working on setting up committees.

Technology Upgrade – Anthony Tucci

**Motion** to approve the technology upgrades in accordance with Aperion Information Technologies quote – Option 2, cost \$36,177.02.

	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			

Robert Myers noted he voted no for the technology upgrades due to the fact that it will not be possible for the Borough to make up the costs for such upgrades over the next several years and the expense for the technology upgrades was not budgeted.

Decrease Meeting Frequency to One Meeting per Month – Anthony Tucci

**Motion** to approve going to one Council meeting a month, the third Monday, with the exception of the Council President or Vice President calling for an additional meeting for the first Monday, starting in March 2024.

	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			
Anthony Tucci	X		X			

Amend Snow Removal Ordinance – Ryan Acevedo

Ryan Acevedo requested the snow removal ordinance be better enforced. Chief Trupp noted that it is more efficient for the Police Department to enforce the snow removal ordinance, in lieu of Code Enforcement doing so. Also noted, was the parking lot owned by the Satiro’s at W. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Washington Streets was blocked off to not allow individuals to park there during the snowstorm, even though the understanding was they would not block the parking lot.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Nancy Kauffman, 7 Mansion Court E, asked if the one meeting per month will start in March and Solicitor Gombar noted that it would and also asked if monies could be spent at another announced meeting and Solicitor Gombar noted it would as long as it was on the agenda.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Council recessed into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. to discuss a police labor matter. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:44 p.m. Solicitor Gombar noted that the Executive Session was to discuss a police labor matter, specifically the pension cost-of-living adjustment.

**Motion** to approve a 1% cost-of-living adjustment for the police pension plan effective January 1, 2024.

	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			

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco  
Borough Secretary