

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

Council roll call:

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

Matthew Elgonitis, Member – present
 David Blank, Member – present
 Matthew Welch, Member - 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 7:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPENING PRAYER: Opening prayer was led by Matthew Welch.

VISITOR(S): Steve Dragon, Christen Thompson, Debbie Doaty, Mark Derer, Don Wary, Suzy and Russell Lander

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: None at this time

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

PRESENTATION – DONATION TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 626

Mayor Scioli presented Police Chief Trupp with the American Legion Post 626 donation to the Police Department.

MINUTES – MARCH 18, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

Motion to approve the March 18, 2024 Council Meeting minutes as presented.

	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			

BILLS LIST

Motion to approve bills list dated April 15, 2024 and checks for ratifications dated March 19, 2024 – April 14, 2024.

Bills Payable 69,712.14
 Checks for Ratification 139,891.10

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			
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			

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report dated April 15, 2024.

Treasurers' Report

General (Surplus/(Deficit) (169,149.06)
 Harms (Surplus/(Deficit) (153,128.15)
 Liquid Fuels (Surplus/(Deficit) 119,937.89

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			
Matthew Welch	X		X			

Anthony Tucci

		X			
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MANAGER’S REPORT

Health Board Appointment

Motion to appoint Linda Stein to the Health Board to fill John Peterson’s term which expires December 31, 2025.

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

Motion was not acted upon and the matter tabled to the next meeting, as it was suggested that the applicant attend be present at a meeting for Council to gain more information.

Event Approvals

Motion to approve the following events:

May 11, 2024 Legion flower sale in Main Bird parking lot

May 27, 2024 Lodge car show – close Washington Street from W. 2nd Street to Mansion Court

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

Birdsboro Union Fire Department

Damaged Equipment Reimbursement

Motion to reimburse \$200 for the Deputy Fire Chief’s vehicle lighting equipment.

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

There was no second, Motion failed.

Fire Investigation Training Reimbursement

Motion to approve the \$325 for the Fire Investigation Training Reimbursement.

	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			

Robert Myers noted that the Borough has not provided such reimbursements to Fire Marshal Ken Templin.

Rustic Park Power Line Restoration

Motion to approve the Rustic Park power line restoration for a cost not to exceed \$300.

	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			

Ballfield Agreement

A ballfield agreement committee was established to include Anthony Tucci and David Blank along with representatives from the American Legion Post 626, BYS, DBAA, and the school district. Mayor Anthony Scioli objected to David Blank sitting on the committee.

Rustic Park Lease/Land Swap

It was noted that the committee (Matthew Welch and Matthew Elgonitis) had a good solid meeting with the Authority regarding the Rustic Park lease/land swap.

Quote for Land Swap Subdivision Services

Motion to authorize Boyer Engineering to provide subdivision services for the land swap at a cost not to exceed \$19,365.

	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			

Birdsboro Power Accommodation Fee

Motion to maintain the current split (between the Borough and Authority) of the Birdsboro Power Accommodation Fee in accordance with the committee’s recommendation.

Anthony Tucci called for a roll call.

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

Ryan Acevedo noted he did not feel he had enough information on the Birdsboro Power Fee.

Credit Cards

Motion to proceed with the Borough establishing credit cards as a payment option.

	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			

Motion to establish that credit cards fees incurred will be passed on to the customer.

	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			

Part-time Summer Help

Motion to approve summer help for a rate of \$15/hour for a maximum of 20 hours/week, total 86 hours/month, in accordance with the Teamsters Contract.

	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			

Motion to approve summer help as stated above for one employee.

	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			

Motion to approve hiring a second summer help employee in accordance with the Teamsters Contract as the Public Works Department deems necessary.

	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			

Appoint PSAB Conference Voting Delegates

Motion to appoint Anthony Tucci as the PSAB Conference Voting Delegate and Kelly Yanos as the Alternate Voting Delegate

	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			

ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Michael Gombar reviewed the Solicitor's Report, a copy of which will be kept on file.

Polling Place Campaign Signs

Motion to authorize Solicitor Michael Gombar to advertise the political sign ordinance.

	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			

Fire Company Reimbursement for Services Ordinance

Motion to authorize Solicitor Michael Gombar to advertise the Fire Company reimbursement for services ordinance.

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

MAYOR/POLICE REPORT

Approve Firearms Purchase

Motion to approve the purchase of the firearms at a cost of \$5,716, with the \$900 for the holsters being paid with donation from the American Legion Post 626.

	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			

Agenda Amendment

Motion to amend the agenda to add under the Mayor/Police Report, hiring of a new Police Officer.

	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			

Hiring of Police Officer

Motion to allow Chief Todd Trupp to hire a police officer in accordance with the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission.

	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			

Mayor Anthony Scioli noted that Rosie the Riveter will be riding one of the floats in the Memorial Day Parade. Mayor Anthony Scioli also recommended the use of guest ministers for meeting prayer.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Anthony Tucci noted a Finance Committee is to be scheduled.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Renegotiation of the Cost Split with Union Township for Firefighting Services

Renegotiations of the cost split and Union Township for firefighting services is moving forward. Anthony Tucci and Matthew Welch are on the committee.

Discussion on Emergency Operations Center Building Renovations

Matthew Welch noted possible grant money for an Emergency Operations Center building renovations.

Matthew Welch noted that was been one event and that was a gas leak and no emergency services were needed. Matthew Welch noted he attended IST training.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: No new report

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Anthony Tucci provided an update of MS4 activities and Ryan Acevedo noted that the tennis courts are in need of repairs and they should be done sooner than later.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: No new report

RECREATION BOARD

Pickleball Court Quote

The previous approval of the Pickleball Court quote remains unchanged.

Grant Funding for Vest Pocket Park

Christen Thompson noted the grant received for handicap accessible equipment for Vest Pocket Park.

Christen Thompson distributed a Recreation Board budget.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Steve Dragon noted that he resigned from the Fire Department's Treasurer position and introduced the new Treasurer, Mark Deher.

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Mary Ann Cotter thanked the Water, Sewer and Public Works Departments for their efforts over the weekend. Mary Ann Cotter noted that the burning ordinance is not being enforced as several residents continually burn not in accordance with the burn ordinance.
- Mathew Elgonitis noted that he is the liaison for Tower Direct and noted that the Birdsboro Union Fire Department has been to a lot of the calls, and they are going to more ambulance calls than when Western Berks was the provider.
- Anthony Tucci noted that the Borough has been made aware that H&K quarry is proposing to expand into Union Township.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

PUBLIC COMMENT

Suzy Lander, 534 Silverbrook Drive, inquired about the status of the train station and Kelly Yanos noted she has spoken to Ken Pick but there are no new updates.

Mark Deher, 820 Madison Street, asked if there are special permits to park a school bus on privately owned Borough property and it was noted that there are no special permits for such use. The matter is being handled by Code Enforcement.

Christen Thompson, 144 Hopewell Street, noted that the taxpayers have contributed monies to the American Legion Post 626 ballfield and they taxpayers have not had access to utilize the field. Christen Thompson also noted that H&K quarry vehicles are running all the time, sometimes on Hopewell Street. Anthony Tucci recommended that residents contact the police when this occurs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council recessed into Executive Session at 9:02 p.m. to discuss personnel. The regular meeting will not be reconvened, no action will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie L. Frisco

Borough Secretary