



Approved and Official Minutes

BERLIN BOROUGH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

August 10, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

1. The President called the meeting to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.
3. President offered a non-denominational prayer.

ROLL CALL

Barb Zerfoss	Present
Thomas Fisher	Present
Roger Clarke	Absent
John Harding, Jr.	Absent
Eric Glotfelty	Present
Mayor Joseph Krause	Absent
Brett Custer	Present
Charles Rhodes	Present

Also in attendance were:

Thomas D. Jones Borough Executive Secretary

Members of the public: *Please see attached list.*

President's Report

Berlin Revitalization – Since 2014, this Council has numerous meetings and discussions on sidewalks and streetscapes for Berlin. This special meeting of the Borough of Berlin Council was called to meet with the public to discuss designs and plans for Phase I of the Berlin Revitalization 2017 Project. A recap of the action unanimously approved by this Council at the June, July, and August Council meetings this year to move forward with the Revitalization of Berlin is: 1) Council approved to advertise and hire an engineering firm in June; 2) Council approved to allocate up to \$100,000 in Borough funds for construction cost for Phase I; and 3) Council approved to hire Appalachian Engineering Group as the engineering firm for Phase I; 4) Council approved to hire Appalachian Engineering Group to assist with the application for set aside funds through the PennDot 2018 Transportation Alternatives Side Aside Program. Awards may range from \$50,000 to \$1 million dollars. Any funds awarded will be used for some of the following: Phase II – Main Street from Broadway Street to Cumberland Street; Phase III – Diamond Street from Station Hill Road to Washington Street; Phase IV – Broadway Street from Brotherton Road all the way to the South end of town; Phase V – Main Street from Cumberland Street to the end of East Main Street. These Phases may be adjusted as funds become available and are intended to coincide with future PennDot paving projects in these areas.

A luncheon was held for business, civic, and community leaders in the Borough Community Room on Wednesday, July 26th. More than 30 individuals attended. A shortened version of the presentation given to Council at the July meeting was made to the guests and it will be presented again in this meeting (*President Custer made the presentation via the conference large screen TV*). In order to obtain grants or other funding, the Borough must have a plan in place. At a meeting held earlier today at 5:00 p.m., the Council met with Kevin Yoder from Appalachian Engineering to discuss plans and designs. Some decisions were made and others will be decided when preliminary plans are presented by Mr. Yoder at the Streets Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd, at 3:00 p.m. West Main Street was chosen by the Council to begin the Berlin Revitalization Project since it is not a PennDot Street and will not have many of the issues and costs as Broadway Street, Main Street, and Diamond Street. Mr. Yoder plans to do a survey of West Main Street the week of August 14th. The rights of way will be determined from the Upper Diamond to the intersection of High Street. Preliminary plans for this area will be designed with a recommended sidewalk width (between 4 and 5 feet wide), the placement of trees, lights and electrical conduits, planters, crosswalks, grass strips, etc. Council will need to decide on: 1) the type of lamp; 2) decorative grates for trees or not; 3) stamped brick or brushed finished concrete sidewalks, 4) the type of trees to be planted.

Steve Spochart – Redevelopment Authority of Somerset County – Mr. Spochart stated that the Redevelopment Authority works with and for the County Commissioners in assisting with funding for borough's and townships in Somerset County. This includes local, state, and federal funds/grants that become available. Berlin is ahead of the game and is to be commended for proceeding with Phase I of the Berlin Revitalization Project at the Borough's expense. This should give Berlin an advantage for consideration of funding over other applicants. The further an applicant is in engineering, design, and construction of projects, generally lends more credibility and justification for funding requests. The Redevelopment Authority is available to assist the Borough in the application, management of, and implementation of its plans to whatever degree the Council may wish.

Council member Eric Glotfelty summarized some meetings that were held with David Lybarger of PennDot which basically reinforced Mr. Spochart's comments about the Borough having an advantage by moving forward with Phase I and the preliminary plans for other Phases of the project. A sample section of a stamped brick concrete area will be completed within the next couple of weeks. Two sections will be placed near the entrance of the Berlin Community Room. Citizens are encouraged to go visit the area after they are completed to see for themselves how it would look as a sidewalk.

Secretary Jones stated that the current sidewalk ordinance may need to be revised or replaced. The final plans should be forwarded to the Solicitor for review to get his recommendations on the ordinance.

Citizen Comments: In an open discussion some in attendance offered suggestions on the type of sidewalk, the burying of power lines, and infrastructure concerns in the streets roadways. Larry Ogline asked approximately how many equivalent tax mills it would take to generate \$100,000. President stated it would be approximately 4 mills. When asked by President if those in attendance were in favor of the Revitalization Project, all replied that they were, and are eager for the project to begin. President Custer and the Council thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting and for offering their comments, questions, and input.

*Motion by Eric Glotfelty and seconded by Tom Fisher to adjourn to executive session.
Aye: 5*

Nay: 0
Motion Passed

At 8:33 P.M. the Council adjourned to executive session to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected by law, including matters related to the initiation and conduct of investigations of possible or certain violations of the law and quasi-judicial deliberations.

Executive Session:

Motion by Eric Glotfelty and seconded by Tom Fisher to reconvene the regular meeting.

Aye: 5

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

Personnel Committee Chair Tom Fisher reported that Evan Nibert had submitted his resignation as an employee with the public works department. His last day of work will be August 25, 2017.

Motion by Eric Glotfelty and seconded by Tom Fisher to advertise for a part-time public works employee. The Council is authorizing the personnel committee to screen applications, conduct interviews, and to hire an employee on behalf of the Council as a whole.

Aye: 5

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

Electric Committee Chair Eric Glotfelty suggested that the Secretary and Brian Wiedenhoft examine some electric poles on Esken Avenue that are leaning and report back to Council with their findings.

Motion by Eric Glotfelty and seconded by John Harding to adjourn this Meeting of the Berlin Borough Council at 9:05 P.M.

Ayes: 5

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

Note: The next regular meeting of the Berlin Borough Council is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2017, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Berlin Borough Council conference/meeting room, 700 North Street, Berlin, Pennsylvania.



Thomas D. Jones
Executive Borough Secretary
August 10, 2017



Guest Registry

Berlin Borough Special Council Meeting

August 10, 2017, ⁷5:00 P.M.

Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Tom Jones		267-5618	
Jane Scarpulla		267-3778	
Linda Baker	720 South St	267-5170	
Larry Oglins		267-3696	
Cliff Enos		267-6023	
Debbie Cox		267-6023	
Deb Bunch		267 2082	
Dale Werner	198 Main St	267-4625	

If you would like to address the Council, please enter your name and the subject that you wish to discuss here:



Thank You for attending the Berlin Borough Council Meeting.

Your input is both welcomed and appreciated.

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August 10, 2017, ⁷5:00 P.M.

Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Marij Werner	198 Main	267-4625	
Dorothy Smith	724 South St	267-4023	
SUE WALKER	PO BOX 128	233-1080	
DENNIS McQuade	1603 MAIN	267-4496	
Kathy Ogline	1001 Main St	267-3696	
Steve Spockhart (RASC)		413-2780	

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