

Official and Approved Minutes

BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL

October 2, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

1. The President calls the meeting to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.
3. President Kerrie Broderick offers a non-denominational prayer.

ROLL CALL

Kerrie Broderick / President
Roger Clarke
Thomas Fisher
Eric Glotfelty (Absent)
Brett Custer
Barb Zerfoss
John Harding, Jr.
Mayor Joseph Krause

Also in attendance were:

Terry Metzgar, Borough Secretary

Members of the public:

See Attached Roster

Citizen Comments:

Cindy Fogle notified the borough secretary that she would like to address the council on the subject of asbestos remediation. (Exhibit P6)

Cindy was not present for the start of the meeting but did arrive later during executive session. She left again before the regular meeting reconvened.

4. Minutes of the September 4, 2014, Borough Council meeting for review. (Exhibit P7)

Motion by Roger Clarke and seconded by John Harding to approve and accept the minutes of Berlin Borough Council Meeting dated September 4, 2014.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Passed

President's Report

1. We are considering an upgrade to the borough's archaic municipal billing software system. Our existing Flexabil software is a refugee from the DOS World and costs us roughly \$5000 per year. Its age makes it incompatible with modern printers and it is limited to a single user at a time. So before Cindy can use it, Tammy must sign off.

As such, there are several more modern and less expensive options that we might consider before we make the yearly Flexabil payment in December. Is this something that we should explore?

The council directed the borough secretary to explore municipal billing software options and report back to the council by the November Meeting.

2. All committee chairs please post the dates of committee meetings and unofficial get-togethers.
3. Should we consider an independent code enforcement officer?
The council would like to explore this option and directed the borough secretary to invite both Dan Lewis and Clem Malot from CCIS to our next scheduled Building Permit Committee Meeting on 102114 at 7:00 PM.
4. President Broderick mentioned that the Halloween Parade will start at 6:00 PM on 103014 with the band assembling on the Upper Diamond at 5:45 PM.
5. President Broderick also mentioned that the BVFD would like to move Light-Up Night to 112114. The council agrees with this request and directed the borough secretary to notify Brad Flick to that effect.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Joseph Krause

Police Report (Exhibit P14)

Motion by Brett Custer and seconded by Tom Fisher to approve and accept the Police Report as presented.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Passed

Police Car Damage (Exhibit P21)

Committee Reports:

Electric & Equipment

Brett Custer (Chair)

Municipal Authority Update / Sewer Plant Project with further pipe delay.

Brian Wiedenhoft and prospective pole replacements?

PPA is back on track from the January Polar Vortex debacle. Do we wish to maintain it at its present level?

The council directed the borough secretary to maintain the existing PPA.

The PMEA Conference in State College will focus on Municipal Electric internal generation issues and as such, is pertinent to the borough's long term plans. (Exhibit P22)

Motion by Barb Zerfoss and seconded by Roger Clarke to send the borough Secretary to the Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association Conference in State College on 101614 and 101714 with travel expenses to be paid by the borough.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Passed

PERSONNEL & FINANCE

Thomas Fisher (Chair)

Treasurer's Report and Bills:

Motion by Brett Custer and seconded by Roger Clarke to approve the bills and Treasurer's Report as specified on Exhibit P24.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Passed

Borough Auditors are recommending that the Council give the treasurer approval to make fund transfers between systems in amounts up to a \$15,000 and anything over \$15,000 with approval of the Personnel and Finance Committee Chair. (Exhibit P38)

Motion by Roger Clarke and seconded by Barb Zerfoss to authorize the borough treasurer to make fund transfers between systems in amounts up to a \$15,000 with anything over \$15,000 requiring the approval of the Personnel and Finance Committee Chair.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Motion Passed

Tom Fisher presented the results from our meeting with Somerset Trust regarding increased interest options. (Exhibit P40)

After considerable discussion the council elected to leave accounts as they are rather than lock up the money while in in an interest rate trough.

FIRE & GARBAGE

Roger Clarke (Chair)

We're in the process of refurbishing, sandblasting, and painting our seven spare refuse dumpsters. This as part of our effort to inventory and catalog the entire fleet of dumpsters. Please note that refurbishing typically costs less than half of the price of a new dumpster.

John Harding mentioned that Jim Snyder's price for refurbishing was \$125 for 2, 4, and 6 yard units and \$350 for the 8 yard dumpster.

The council directed the borough secretary to deliver the spare dumpsters to Jim Snyder for refurbishing.

BUILDING PERMIT & PROPERTY

John Harding (Chair)

Clem and Nelson are now actively addressing the backlog issues.

Status and list of permits (Exhibit P46)

There are ongoing minor property maintenance issues that we are trying to address on an informal basis.

1. Wilson Roofing Hazard
2. Gindlesberger trailer disassembly
3. Romesberg Roof Replacement at 734 Main Street

HOUSE

Barb Zerfoss (Chair)

The electrical upgrades to Borough Building Main Distribution Panel started last Thursday. This is part and parcel to the installation of the smoke detector system. It also energizes the spouting heat tape on the north side of the building.

As part of the re-wiring process, Mr. Weighley is requesting a 30 minute scheduled commercial power outage on Monday 100614 at 06:30. This will require coordination with the fire department and the 911 center.

Remote monitoring options for the smoke alarm? The firemen prefer to have the system dial them directly. Is this OK with the council?

The council directed the borough secretary to follow the fire department's directive and apply an automatic dialer to the system.

The council also directed the borough secretary to contact George Dively at Somerset Community Hospital concerning joint beatification efforts at the Berlin Medical Center.

STREETS, STORM SEWERS & SIDEWALKS

Eric Glotfelty (Chair)

Review of the catch basin inventory and vacuum cleaning process.

Why safety reflective leggings are important. (Exhibit P49)

The borough's road salt bin is full and we're well stocked for the forthcoming winter.

POLICE

Brett Custer (Chair)

Update on police foot patrol progress?

Have we increased the frequency of foot patrol?

The Mayor and council agreed that police coverage during Friday Night Football Games would be a priority.

PLANNING & PROJECT

Barb Zerfoss (Chair)

At 07:58 PM 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.

Motion by Tom Fisher and seconded by Roger Clarke to adjourn to executive session.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

Motion by Brett Custer and seconded by John Harding to reconvene the regular meeting.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

At 09:31 PM, the council reconvened the regular meeting.

Motion by John Harding and seconded by Roger Clarke to direct our labor negotiator Dan Rullo to contact RWDSU Representative Tom Schied about the possibility of a \$23 per day Working-In Charge stipend for members of the Berlin Borough Non-Uniformed Labor Contract?

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

Motion by Roger Clarke and seconded by John Harding to advertise for a seasonal laborer.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

Motion by Brett Custer and seconded by Barb Zerfoss to adjourn this Meeting of the Berlin Borough Council at 09:35 PM.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Motion Passed

Note: The next regular meeting of the Berlin Borough Council is scheduled for November 6, 2014, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at the Berlin Borough Council conference/meeting room, 700 North Street, Berlin, Pennsylvania.

Terry L Metzgar

Terry L. Metzgar
Executive Borough Secretary
110714



