



APPROVED AND OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE WHOLE July 16, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.

1. The meeting will be held in accordance with face mask wearing required in public.
2. The President calls the meeting to order.
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

ROLL CALL

Charles E. Rhodes	<i>Present</i>
Clifford E. Horner	<i>Present</i>
John F. Harding, Jr.	<i>Present</i>
Michael A. Lottig	<i>Present</i>
Stephen E. Custer	<i>Present</i>
Thomas L. Fisher	<i>Present</i>
Thomas W. Jones	<i>Present</i>
Mayor Joseph Krause	<i>Present</i>

Also, in attendance is Thomas E. Glessner, Executive Borough Secretary.

Members of the public: **Please sign the Guest Registry:**

President's Report

Due to computer problems and issues, the budget review will be next month.

CCIS – Report is provided for the month of June. (exhibit 1)

Roger Clark – Land Use agreed to remove hazardous Chimney and open sidewalk by July 31.

Roy Ogburn – Land Use agreed to remove hazardous Garage at 111 Cumberland by July 31.

Weeds on Main St. and Broadway – cleanup required. ***Look at Jimmy Sarver/Scheller/Ross properties.***

Complaints-received regarding vehicle parked without registration – Joe to contact.

Outline Face mask coverings - from Diane Bosak - Executive Director - PMEIA (exhibit 2)

Jill Walker established a fundraiser for the Humane society in memory Kaylyn Marie Deem who died on July 4 in an ATV accident. Donations accepted on July 25th in the borough parking lot.

Our condolences to her family.

Charles read the Letter from JB Schrock playground.

Charles said keep track and follow up on Roger and Roy.

Joe Mayor said that is FOY Typical fashion if not now next week.

The following have asked to address the Council:

Charles Merkle – *Let his wife speak Brandy Merkle* – *Let Brian Speak first*

Brian Coughenour – *Wants to know why no parking signs on his street and why the placement on 1 side of the road and not to Main St. Charles Rhodes explained from the Lower Diamond to Washington St there is new sidewalks going in the next couple month and we didn't want to put them in and have to take them out for construction.*

This is a PennDOT project and the signs are dictated by the borough.

Brian asked how signs can be part of a beautification project when its in his front yard.

Brian asked why not no-parking on both sides of the street.

Tom Fisher – explained the Beautification project and the bike trail.

Brian said for 24years no one has parked on one side of the street.'

Brandy Merkle – Questioned parking for her clients and where are her clients to park on the opposite side of the roadway. On the other way there is a bank – and no way to access.

The speed limit in town is 25mph and not pause or wait for car to return.

Brian – Why is no parking not obvious to allow parking on both sides.

Brandy Merkle -? the ordinance regulations and said we can verify with Brad Allison.

Tom G- Need to Call Brad regarding the regulations

Brandy? why there was no notification to residents.

That no parking is going to reduce the property value and limit the # of parking spaces.

She is going to encounter possible wage losses.

She may have to visit her client's homes and cost more.

She may have to go Ethics Committee

And in June she had Brian Fochtman COP look into state ordinance to allow parking in the grass.

She is not comfortable – taking pictures of parking/resident/Clients are disrobing in her house and people can see. She commented to understand as a woman how she felt.

Charles Merkel asked for council to consider signs removed.

Charles asked for questions

No Personal Issues from Council

Council Members reviewed now parking.

Charles read Fogle letter addressed to him on the N bound Vs S. Bound and they have lived there since 2003 and no parking except for delivery – 600 block and not in favor of signs for No parking allowed or option to paint on curb or sidewalk.

Allow Council to Reconsider take them down until required by 911 bike trail.

Motion by Steve Custer and seconded by John Harding to remove “No Parking” signs on Diamond Street until the 911 bike trail signs are in place.

Roll call vote requested by Charles Rhodes.

Charles E. Rhodes Y Clifford E. Horner Y John F. Harding, Jr. Y Michael A. Lottig Y Stephen E. Custer Y Thomas L. Fisher Y Thomas W. Jones N

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1

Motion: Carried

Charles asked for audience – Gindlesberger sister said she has been harassed by Brian Gindlesberger. She sent Video to the borough Tom Glessner.

Tom G – explained he shared the video with the mayor and the police.

She said Brian shot cannon off at the kids.

On 7/6 – at 2 am he drove on her property with a 4-wheeler.

The police won't do anything about it.

She was told the property line is a civil manor

Yet he drives a 4-wheeler on road and drinking.

Brian Fochtman – explained that Brian G will receive citations for 2 Different incidents.

She said she lost her Brother/Father/ and what next her son???

If something isn't done.

On 6/19 Brian G was cursing at sister and Officer Gonzales told him to stop but didn't

Brian F COP explained why & timing of Threats & Direction.

Tom Fisher explained the issue.

She said the DA said talk to council.

COP Brian said don't hesitate to call police again.

Brian – Turtle – Won a settlement

Discussion ended.

Executive Session proposed time. _____

Are there any questions or comments?

Committees:

GARBAGE COMMITTEE – John Harding – (Chair)

1. Review of the photos from June through July 12 – have resulted in the following: (exhibit 3)
Residents have been identified and those listed that have ordinance violations. There was one non-account customer putting tires in the dumpsters during this time period.
2. The recycling dumpster was 3/4 full of aluminum on July 3rd and over the July 4th weekend the dumpster was filled with garbage and had to be sent to the landfill. Joe is to reposition the camera to include the recycle dumpster for the upcoming week.
3. The second dumpster was labeled with a decal “ALUMINUM RECYCLING ONLY”.
4. Somerset county commissioners contacted Tom G to question the progress of the borough's recycling program. Comment was that in approximately 30 days the borough recycled 6 yards of aluminum and continues to recycle. The borough also disposed of 3 more yards of aluminum.

Charles said Garbage Committee should discuss and any other direction and dumpsters for DEMO.

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE – Clifford Horner – (Chair)

1. Treasurer's Report and Bills: - The reports for June 2020 have been included in the Council Meeting packets (exhibit 4&5)
2. Insurance quote received from current carrier Doner-Farber in relation to the Fire Department property and equipment. (exhibit 6)

3. Insurance quote received from current carrier IOI Insurance Office in relation to the Berlin Building, Driver, Equipment, and Liability Insurance. (exhibit 7)
4. Disconnection notices will be sent on July 16th to three customers that were 3 months past due last month and were not disconnected during that period of non-disconnection and those customers that are past due on July 15 and will be disconnected on July 31, 2020.
5. Personnel, Procedures and Recommendation/Discussion – Executive Session Required.

Motion by Mike Lottig and seconded by Tom Fisher to approve the Bills and Treasure’s Report as specified for June 2020 on Exhibit 4 & 5.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Steve Custer and seconded by Mike Lottig to accept the fire department insurance and approve the insurance premium from Doner-Farber company in the amount of \$11,369.00.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Mike Lottig and seconded by Cliff Horner to accept the Borough building, driver, equipment, and liability insurance and approve the premium from IOI insurance company in the amount of \$41,982.00.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by John Harding and seconded by Mike Lottig to Hire Dean Oakes as a Part-time borough employee.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

FIRE & POLICE COMMITTEE – Tom Fisher – (Chair)

1. The borough employees have painted lines for the police to deter speeding and issue tickets.
2. The school continues to plan for opening September 1st.
3. 2020 school contract continues.

Crosswalks have been completed and will continue with those near the school as we near the start of school.

ELECTRIC & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE – Mike Lottig – (Chair)

1. Generator Update – The generators operated for 7 hours and 22 minutes under Load. 5 hours and 56 minutes was on June 10th to establish 1CP for Peak Shaving. The 1 hour and 26 minutes was started by utility. The generators had repairs on multiple days in June and accumulated 3 hours and 17 minutes of run time in TEST mode. (exhibit 8)
2. The 2020 peak shaving was based on multiple days in December 2019 and January 2020 with Penelec load ranging from 2,571 to a high of 2,666 on 12/20/19. The first two weeks of July with extremely high temperatures has created all 1 thru 5 peaks ranging from 2,713 to 2,941 on July 9th, surpassing the projected peak of 2,849. (exhibit 9)
3. The projected increase in temperatures next week could increase our load and change the Peak levels once again. This is important for AMP customers and for Berlin – specifically Penelec transmission customers.
4. Main Street electric outage was planned and completed on July 8th to complete service upgrade from prior pole replacements
5. We have accumulated multiple transformers that require testing and disposal.
6. Reliable Meter Service, LLC would like to schedule two days to inspect and meters throughout our system. He has 2 days over the Labor Day weekend that he is available and in the area. The proposal is based on \$95.00 per hour plus travel time. Approximate cost of

2 days of inspection would be \$2,000.00 dollars. A copy of the proposed scheme of services. (exhibit 10)

7. AMP has provided additional information to review regarding the proposed metering system for both Electric and Water meters.
8. The police car was scheduled for body work this week at East End auto body.
9. The borough weed eater requires repair again or trade-in for a replacement.
10. The Jailhouse and Playground have unmetered electric – do you want to install meter system for record keeping purposes.

Motion by Tom Fisher and seconded by Cliff Horner to approve Reliable Meter Service to review the meter system on Labor Day Weekend for approximately in the amount of \$2,000.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion by Mike Lottig and seconded by Cliff Horner to approve the replacement of the weed eater for the borough employees, at estimated amount of \$300.00.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

HOUSE COMMITTEE – Stephen Custer – (Chair)

1. On July 8, 2020 Tom's laptop computer registered an error on the system and upon start up, the computer would not startup. Called Jordan at George and Bob's and took it to their shop. The computer had a fried motherboard, and all the data was lost. They are trying to retrieve data from the hard drive.
2. Coronavirus (COVID-19) on July 9th the number of cases hit a daytime high of 923 cases since the middle of May and after going GREEN. The state reaches a death toll of 6,931. Our community now has 4 confirmed cases.
3. Computers for the police Office was installed by Tom Jones on July 13th and 14th.
4. Census 2020 During the weekend of July 24, 25 & 26, the Census Bureau is asking Faith-based communities to participate in the Faith Communities Census Weekend of Action. During that weekend, churches and organizations are encouraged to encourage their congregants and members to respond to the census by placing information in their bulletins, on their websites, in their social media posts, from their pulpit announcements and even in their sermon messages. Who can help send the message? (exhibit 11)

Motion by Tom Fisher and seconded by Steve Custer to approve the purchase of the computer laptop from George and Bob for the Executive Secretary in the amount of \$575.00.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

STREETS, STORM SEWERS & SIDEWALK – Thomas Jones – (Chair)

1. **Columbia Gas project – Phase II** – East Main St. to 12th St.
 - a. AEG prepared an adjusted plan in relation to the ADA ramps.
 - b. Request sent to MandB Construction regarding plan.
 - c. PennDOT to be notified.
2. **Columbia Gas project - Phase I** - 12th Street to Cassel in front of school
 - a. Contract document received from AEG on July 8 and presented to Bidder on July 9th.
 - b. Permits have not been received by Columbia Gas as of July 14th.
 - c. Meeting update on July 14th.
 - d. Application for the Borough has been submitted for the 5th time, permit not received.
3. **Columbia Gas project Phase III** – SR160 Seg0370 Offset 0700 to Seg0380 Offset 2700.

- a. Meeting with companies on July 14th Columbia Gas, Crilon, Charles Rhodes, Tom Jones, and Tom Glessner to discuss timing and preparation planning.
 - b. Columbia Gas – has not received permit as of July 14th, for this section, which includes phase I in front of the school.
 - c. Borough has not received permit as of July 14th.
 - d. Trees were removed on Cumberland Street.
- 4. Diamond street project** — Redevelopment authority funds \$244,405.
- a. PennDOT comments received on July 9th, AEG to return reply letter on July 15th.
 - b. Borough Costs associated with the Electric Pole replacement approximately \$18,000.
 - c. Cost to replace water line in this project \$2,000.
 - d. Engineering Cost for this project \$21,676 + \$2,980 = \$24,656
 - e. Advertisement July 18 and 22nd with a Let date is August 11th.
- 5. Main Street Revitalization.**
- a. Chris Hull notified us that the project was advertised for Bid on Thursday July 9th.
 - b. The let date was scheduled for August 6th.

Executive Session

There are contractual and personnel matters that Council needs to discuss privately.

Motion by Tom Fisher and seconded by Cliff Horner to recess to executive session.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

At 5:46 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.

Motion by Mike Lottig and seconded by Cliff Horner to reconvene the regular meeting.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

At 5:53 P.M., the council reconvened the regular meeting.

Motion by Steve Custer and seconded by Mike Lottig to adjourn this Meeting of the Berlin Borough Council at 6:10 P.M.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Motion: Carried

Note: The next regular meeting of the Berlin Borough Council is scheduled for Thursday August 6, 2020. The next scheduled meeting of the Berlin Borough Council Committee of the Whole is scheduled for Thursday August 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., at the Berlin Borough Council Conference/Meeting Room, 700 North Street, Berlin, Pennsylvania.