



**Borough of Berlin
700 North Street
Berlin, PA 15530**

Regular Council Meeting

February 2, 2023 – 4:30 P.M.

Approved and Official minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Charles Rhodes

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was quoted.

Council Attending:

Charles Rhodes – Present

Michael Lottig – Present

Clifford Horner – Present

John Harding – Present (arrived at 4:47 p.m.)

Marshal Engleka – Present

Stephen Custer – Present

Thomas Fisher – Absent

Mayor Joseph Krause - Present

Others Attending – Traci Horning, Executive Borough Secretary.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Clifford Horner, to approve the January 5, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Marshal Engleka, to approve the Police Report for January 2023. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Park and Planning

Outside maintenance hours currently are 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with no lunch. Council members were approached to change the hours from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with no paid lunch. It was discussed to leave the hours as they are now.

Garbage ordinance needs to be updated and finished to have approved at next meeting.

Miller Memorial Center on North Street has a board of 13 members one whom has passed. Dr. Joseph Jurgevich was the dentist who practiced in Berlin until his passing in 2019. No dentist has replaced the vacant office. The equipment is outdated and if a dentist would come into the office all the equipment would have to be replaced. Council members was asked to give it some thought to help Miller Memorial Center to get a dentist in the vacant office.

A request was made for Traci Horning, Executive Secretary to participate in the Municipal Code Enforcement Tips and Tricks Webinar for March 1, 2023.

A motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by Stephen Custer, to approve Traci Horning, Executive Secretary to participate in the Municipal Code Enforcement Tips and Tricks Webinar. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

A request was made to give the Municipal Authority a raise since the last raise was twenty years ago. Currently the Chairman is paid \$1,500 a year and the other council members are paid \$1,200 a year.

A motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer, to approve a pay raise of \$200 a year for the Municipal Authority. Yearly wage for Chairman will be \$1,700 and the other council member will be \$1,400. Ayes 4, Nays 0, Abstain 2. Motion carried.

Garbage

A discussion among council about increasing monthly garbage dumpster rates for the March 2023 billing. The decision was made to increase non-curb collection for the elderly or physical infirmity to \$20, ash collection for the borough or rural residents where service is available to \$35 and change dumpster connection – monthly charges as follows:

Residential Service

Residential Service Rate: From \$17.00 to \$20.00 per month.

Rural Pickup Customers Rate: From \$22.40 to \$25.00 per month.

Rural Customers that bring into town rate: From \$17.00 to \$25.00 per month.

Non-curb collection for the elderly or physical infirmity the rate: \$20.00 per month.

Ash Collection for the borough or rural residents where service is available:

\$35.00 per year/\$2.92per month added to your rate.

Commercial Service

Dumpster Connection – Monthly Charges

P/U # Per Week	1	2	3	4	5	6
2 Cubic Yard	82.00	146.00	205.00	265.00	321.00	380.00
4 Cubic Yard	140.00	263.00	371.00	479.00	587.00	695.00
6 Cubic Yard	199.00	351.00	503.00	655.00	806.00	958.00
8 Cubic Yard	257.00	438.00	622.00	810.00	991.00	1,175.00
P/U # Per Week	7	8	9	10	11	
2 Cubic Yard	397.00	497.00	555.00	614.00	672.00	
4 Cubic Yard	804.00	912.00	1,020.00	1,128.00	1,236.00	
6 Cubic Yard	1,110.00	1,262.00	1,414.00	1,563.00	1,717.00	
8 Cubic Yard	1,359.00	1,543.00	1,727.00	1,911.00	2,095.00	

A motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Michael Lottig, to approve the monthly garbage dumpster rate increase for the March 2023 billing. Increase non-curb collection for the elderly or physical infirmity to \$20, ash collection for the borough or rural residents where service is available to \$35. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Personnel and Finance

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Marshal Engleka to approve a phone allowance of \$20 per month for Cindy Flamm and Roger Platt. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the January 2023 bills. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report for January 2023 was not available.

House

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Marshal Engleka to approve the invoice for \$1,800 from Roger Clarke to replace the stone sign at the Community Building. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Clifford Horner, seconded by Marshal Engleka to approve the quote from Tim Weighley Building and Remodeling 656 Cumberland Highway, Berlin, PA in the amount of \$5,800 labor and materials to replace two windows on North side of Borough Building ground level. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer to donate the piano in the Community Hall to a local pastor for his home. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Council members would like to leave the projector for the Community Hall portable and not to have it mounted from the ceiling. Will need to get a cable and HDMI cable to hook it up.

Streets, Sidewalks, Storm Sewers

A special public meeting needs to be scheduled for February 23, 2023 at the Community Hall to present to the public and to discuss plans for the Main Street sidewalk project from North Street to Cassel Street and 10th Avenue to Hay Street. Public comments and participation encouraged.

Main Street to South Street sidewalk project income study has been updated and submitted to Somerset Redevelopment Authority for possible grant money.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Michael Lottig to approve the request from Robert Ansell 1013 Main Street to tie into the storm sewer for his down spouts from his house with a tap in fee of \$300. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Electric & Equipment

Wiedenhoft Electric provided a list of all projects started within the borough that is not finished.

Borough building has a A-Base meter and Council would like to have Wiedenhof Electric to look at the meter to have it updated to code.

Need to get a quote on a new John Deere backhoe like the last one that was bought from Foster Wineland, Inc.

Fire & Police

Police Coverage hours:

December 25 – December 31

FT hrs = 98.5 (W. Gonzalez 50, B. Barron 48.5)

PT hrs = 0 (K.Huzsek 0, M.Craig 0)

January 1 – January 7

FT hrs = 88 (W. Gonzalez 40, B. Barron 48)

PT hrs = 0 (K.Huzsek 0, M.Craig 0)

January 8 – January 14

FT hrs = 91 (W. Gonzalez 50, B. Barron 41)

PT hrs = 4.5 (K.Huzsek 0, M.Craig 4.5)

January 15 – January 21

FT hrs = 80 (W. Gonzalez 40, B. Barron 40)

PT hrs = 3.5 (M.Craig 3.5)

January 22 – January 28

FT hrs = 90 (W. Gonzalez 50, B. Barron 40)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve the quote from Tim Weighley Building and Remodeling 656 Cumberland Highway, Berlin, PA in the amount of \$1,400 labor and materials to install a sliding window in the lobby of the Police Station. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Internals Affairs Policy & Procedures for the Police Department contact Lois Caton from Fike, Cascio & Boose to get this done.

Meyersdale Borough Police requested permission to purchase the armor/safety vest of Officer Kevin Huzsek who resigned from Berlin Borough.

Other Information

Berlin Lions Club is hosting "A Night at the Races" on Saturday March 18, 2023 as a fundraiser to benefit the Berlin Backpack Program.

Edward Slifco, supervisor for outside maintenance will be attending the Somerset County Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Road Program 2023 ESM Training April 12-13, 2023 at Seven Springs.

Motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the purchase of 24 traffic cones in the amount of \$855.80. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Joe Krause left the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Executive Session

Motion to adjourn to executive session at 5:39 P.M. was made by Michael Lottig, seconded by Clifford Horner. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

At 5:39 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 and 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 to adjourn to regular session at 5:47 P.M. was made by Michael Lottig, seconded by Clifford Horner. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve Lois Witt Caton of Fike, Cascio & Boose to serve as the Borough of Berlin's solicitor. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Need to send a letter to Brad Allison to release him as the current solicitor for the Borough of Berlin. Need to release all current files to the Borough of Berlin.

To accept the resignation of Jessica Vaughan office clerk effective February 1, 2023.

Municipal Authority Update

None.

Adjournment

At 5:50 P.M. a motion was made by Stephen Custer, seconded by Michael Lottig to adjourn this meeting. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Traci Horning

Submitted By: Traci Horning, Executive Secretary