



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

## **Regular Council Meeting**

**June 1, 2023 – 4:30 P.M.**

### **Approved and Official Minutes**

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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  
Marshal Engleka – Present  
Stephen Custer – Present  
Thomas Fisher – Present  
Mayor Joseph Krause - Present

Others Attending – Justin Gerber; Bret Horning; Gary Ohler; Rocky Ohler; Martin Cain, Dylan Energy; Joy and Don Gardner; Tom Miller; Melissa Miller; Tacy Wilson; Jeanne Johnson; Brad Leydig; Dave Wilson; Trevor Pritts and Traci Horning, Executive Borough Secretary.

Martin Cain, Dylan Energy presented to the council board information about Dylan Energy. Dylan Energy is a steam generating system focused on new clean green off-grid technologies. The system exhibits extraordinary efficiencies in steam production, but this system can be easily retrofitted to burn a variety of fuels. These fuels include natural gas, oil, coal, and box store cardboard in addition to renewable fuels such as wood pellets and landfill gasses.

The meeting was moved upstairs to the community hall due to the number of borough residents present to discuss side-by-side (UTV) and garbage dumpsters. Numerous residents of the borough presented to the borough council about the council passing/approving an ordinance to ride side-by-side (UTV) within the Berlin Borough limits. The Borough Council will do research on this and get a copy of nearby municipalities ordinance that have approved an ordinance on side-by-side (UTV) within the municipality. Will have information for the next meeting July 6, 2023.

A resident presented to the Borough Council her concern about the borough eliminating the dumpsters at the maintenance shop on Stewart Street. It was explained the DEP made a visit to the borough and it was explained the borough was considered a transfer

station for garbage and needed to be permitted. At the time the borough was not permitted to be a transfer station, so the dumpsters were taken away. After research the borough would incur costs of application fee, permit fee, monthly reports, and testing. The concerned resident asked if the borough would see what the total costs would be and pass the costs to the people who used the dumpsters. The resident was told more research will be done and would be contacted.

A resident presented to the Borough Council his concern of the garbage, rubbish ordinance that was passed/adopted in May 2023. The weigh limit of 35 pounds per bag, the size of the garbage can and lose garbage within the can he felt was not right. Feels the residents of the borough should have had a say into what the ordinance said. Also felt the residents should have been told the ordinance was being looked at to be changed. He was told it has been a discussion since November, December of 2022. The minutes are on the borough web site.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Thomas Fisher, to approve the May 4, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by John Harding, to approve the Mayor and Police Department's Report for May 2023. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### Park and Planning

Jeffrey McCauley, 911 National Memorial Trail Alliance offered Berlin Borough a bike fixit station to be placed at the lower diamond at the clock.

#### Garbage

Presented to council a refuse tonnage comparison sheet.

#### Personnel and Finance

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve the May 2023 bills. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve the hiring of Lucas Coughenour of Berlin, PA as Part-Time outside worker at an hourly rate of \$15.00, effective June 1, 2023, upon completion of all pre-employment testing and requirements. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Offer Roger Platt, meter reader and worker Full-Time employment at \$17.50 per hour and no benefits. If accept offer will approve the July 6, 2023, meeting.

Motion by Thomas Fisher, seconded by Michael Lottig to accept the resignation of Barry Barron, Somerset, PA from his position as Full-Time Police Officer, effective May 20, 2023. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer to stay with Agent Teeter Group Insurance of 3375 Lynwood Drive, Altoona, PA 16602 for the Property, Fire and Liability Insurance Policy (EMC Insurance). Ayes 6, Nays 0, motion carried.

### House

Elkay wall mount ADA water fountain has been installed.

HRM Pavement Maintenance of Boswell, PA is coming June 24-25, 2023, to sealcoat, crack fill and paint all parking lot spaces lines.

### Streets, Sidewalks, Storm Sewers

Signs at the upper diamond, lower diamond and along Main Street need to get a quote on No Loitering signs and get how many we need.

Borough street list has borough streets that do not have a cartway and right of way listed. Charles Rhodes to look into this.

Lead line replacement on Main Street have two more to complete.

### Electric & Equipment

Contact Holy Trinity Church to see if willing to deed the white building on the corner of Vine Street and Fletcher Street.

Need to find the coroner's/property lines for the property at the Penelec. Charles Rhodes is to look into this.

### Fire & Police

Police Coverage hours:

April 30 – May 6

FT hrs = 90.5 (W. Gonzalez 50 B. Barron 40.5)

PT hrs = 4 (M.Craig 4)

May 7 - May 13

FT hrs = 74 (W. Gonzalez 50, B. Barron 24)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

May 14 – May 20

FT hrs = 41 (W. Gonzalez 40, B. Barron 1)

PT hrs = 9 (M.Craig 9)

May 21 – May 27

FT hrs = 58 (W. Gonzalez 58)

PT hrs = 3 (M.Craig 3)

Set up interviews for the applications received for the Full-Time Police Officer position.

Berlin Borough Police have an Internal Affairs Policy. Solicitor is reviewing.

### Other Information

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Michael Lottig to approve the donation of \$1000 to the grove fireworks display on July 4, 2023. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Somerset County Boroughs Association Dinner Meeting Thursday June 29, 2023, at the Somerset County Club at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Marshal Engleka to approve the Clean Indoor Air Act to have no smoking in any borough vehicle/equipment effective June 1, 2023. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### Executive Session

At 6:29 P.M., Michael Lottig made the motion, seconded by John Harding for 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. Ayes 7, Nays 0, Motion carried.

At 6:36 P.M. John Harding made the motion, seconded by Michael Lottig to have the council reconvened the regular meeting. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by John Harding to approve Jennifer Swope of Berlin, PA a pay raise of \$2.50 per hour bring her pay rate to \$17.50 per hour, effective June 4, 2023. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### Municipal Authority Update

None.

#### Adjournment

At 6:37 P.M. a motion was made by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer to adjourn this meeting. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Traci Horning

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Submitted By: Traci Horning, Executive Secretary