



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

## **Regular Council Meeting**

**May 4, 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 – Robert Spochart, C. Scott Miller, Berlin Area Historical Society; Ken Miller, Berlin Area Historical Society; John Long, Berlin Area Historical Society; Stewart Saylor, Berlin Area Historical Society; Cindy Flamm, Treasurer and Traci Horning, Executive Borough Secretary.

John Long stated the Berlin Area Historical Society had the lot on the corner of Mulberry Street and Vine Street donated to place a log home there. A log home has been found and is in the process of taking it down. Was informed that there is a storm sewer line running through the lot and not sure how deep the line is. The Historical Society is asking the Borough Council what options are available regarding the storm sewer. Charles Rhodes stated can look to move the storm sewer line to Mulberry Street and Vine Street since there is a catch basin on the West side of Vine Street. May need to get an easement or right of way along Vine Street. John Long asked about a building permit if one will be needed not looking to put water and sewage in the log house. Cindy Flamm talked to the Commonwealth Code Agency and stated it will be up to the borough if one will be needed. Charles Rhodes stated the Borough will work with the Historical Society with the permit.

Robert Spochart has no business to discuss, just offered his help if needed anywhere.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Thomas Fisher, to approve the April 6, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

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

#### Park and Planning

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

The kiosk for the lower diamond at the clock is being worked on.

J.B. Schrock Community Playground Board of Directors sent a letter to extend their appreciation to the Borough for all the Borough have done to help keep the playground safe for the children of the Berlin Community.

#### Garbage

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by John Harding, to approve Ordinance No. 361 An ordinance establishing a municipal service for the collection and disposal of all garbage, demolition material, building material, construction material, rubbish and ashes accumulated in the borough; prescribing regulations for the storage, disposition and collection of same, and for the establishment of fees for the collection and disposal thereof; and prescribing penalties for violations. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### Personnel and Finance

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the April 2023 bills. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Marshal Engleka to approve the Treasurer's Report for April 2023. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by Michael Lottig to approve the hiring of Harmon Custer of Berlin, PA; Blane Quinn of Berlin, PA; and Nicolas Gerber of Berlin, PA as Part-Time Flagger at an hourly rate of \$15.00, effective May 4, 2023, upon completion of all pre-employment testing and requirements. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### House

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve the purchase of an Elkay wall mount ADA water fountain in the amount of \$619.00 for the Community Building. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Michael Lottig to approve the estimate from HRM Pavement Maintenance of Boswell, PA in the amount of \$4,876.78 to sealcoat, crack fill and paint all parking lot spaces lines. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Voting for the Primary Election is Tuesday May 16, 2023 from 7 A.M to 8 P.M.

#### Streets, Sidewalks, Storm Sewers

Discussion among council regarding all parking signs at the upper diamond, lower diamond and along Main Street.

Motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve the removal of all parking signs at the upper diamond, lower diamond and along Main Street. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

A request was made to remove the 15 mph sign at 290 Vine Street and to add to the existing drive way.

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

RFP for an Engineer has been put on hold till further notice.

Borough street paving proposals have been reviewed by PennDOT and waiting for approval to put out for bid.

Council had a discussion regarding the sewer line crossing through the Historical Society lot.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve the move of the storm sewer line and to make all necessary repairs. Move the storm sewer line to the intersection of Mulberry Street and Vine Street. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

A discussion among council on the stop signs that are at the upper diamond. The one on Main Street and Broadway Street and the one at West Main Street and Broadway Street. Why does there have to be stop signs when there is red blinking lights? Put a white line across Main Street and West Main Street for traffic to stop behind. Need to contact PennDOT to see if stop signs need to be there and if still need to have blinking lights.

#### Electric & Equipment

Penelec approved the placing of a fence around the Borough's electrical equipment at the substation on Vine Street. Need to get a quote on a fence.

No need to place a fence/gate at the generators.

#### Fire & Police

Police Coverage hours:

April 2 – April 8

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

PT hrs = 3.5 (M.Craig 3.5)

April 9 - April 15

FT hrs = 86 (W. Gonzalez 45, B. Barron 41)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

April 16 – April 22

FT hrs = 93.25 (W. Gonzalez 50, B. Barron 43.5)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

April 23 – April 29

FT hrs = 73.25 (W. Gonzalez 40, B. Barron 33.25)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

Berlin Borough Police have an Internal Affairs Policy. Need to have solicitor to review for next meeting.

Borough Council had a discussion on hiring another police officer and the current police contract to expire December 31, 2023.

#### Other Information

Letter from Corsa as the Borough has been identified as a landowner or municipality within affected area or adjacent to the affected area of RoxCoal, Inc., Barbara No 1 & No 2 Mines for which bond release is requested.

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

Clean Indoor Air Act has been presented to Council to review for the next meeting June 1, 2023.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the purchase of two Physio Control Lifepak 1000 AED graphical display AED in the amount of \$3,136.75 to be paid for by the Municipal Benefits Services Medical Program. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### Executive Session

At 6:27 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 6:37 P.M. Michael Lottig made the motion, seconded by Stephen Custer to have the council reconvened the regular meeting. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### Municipal Authority Update

None.

#### Adjournment

At 6:38 P.M. a motion was made by Stephen Custer, seconded by Michael Lottig to adjourn this meeting. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Traci Horning

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Submitted By: Traci Horning, Executive Secretary