



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

Regular Council Meeting

December 7, 2023 – 4:30 P.M.

Approved and Official Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Michael Lottig

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was quoted.

Council Attending:

Charles Rhodes – Absent
Michael Lottig – Present
Clifford Horner – Present
John Harding – Present
Marshal Engleka – Present
Stephen Custer – Present
Thomas Fisher – Present
Mayor Joseph Krause - Present

Others Attending –Bret Horning; Traci Horning, Executive Borough Secretary

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Stephen Custer, to approve the November 2, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by John Harding, to approve the Mayor and Police Department's Report for November 2023. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Park and Planning

None.

Garbage

New garbage truck is currently at M&K. Will be delivered in the next week. The 1994 garbage truck will be put out for bid to sell.

The League for Human Decency is accepting recyclables on the first Friday of every month in 2024 at the Giant Eagle 1606 North Center Avenue, Somerset, PA from 4 pm to 5 pm. There is a copy of what is being accepted on the Berlin Borough's website at www.berlinborough.org.

Personnel and Finance

Motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2023. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the November 2023 bills. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by John Harding to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2023. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve and adopt the Berlin Borough Budget as presented for 2024. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by John Harding to approve and adopt Ordinance No. 363 An Ordinance of the Borough of Berlin, County of Somerset, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Fixing the Tax Rate for the year 2024. Tax rate for general purpose the sum of 0.00 (ZERO) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation on real property as follows. Ayes 5. Nays 0. Motion carried.

As follows:

ORDINANCE

No. 363

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AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2024.

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BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Berlin, County of Somerset, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

That a tax be and the same is hereby levied on the real property within the Borough of Berlin subject to taxation for the fiscal year 2024 as follows:

Tax rate for general purposes, the sum of 0.00 (ZERO) mills on each Dollar of assessed valuation on real property.

That any ordinance, or part of ordinance, conflicting with this ordinance be, and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this ordinance.

Adopted by the Borough Council enacted and ordained this ____ day of December 2023.

ATTEST:

Executive Borough Secretary

Borough Council President

Approved this _____ day of December 2023.



Mayor, Borough of Berlin

Motion by Thomas Fisher, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve the appointment of Charles Rhodes to the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Berlin for a five year term January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Drug and Alcohol, Abuse Policy and Statement has been distributed to the council members to review. Council members had a discussion and tabled till the January 2024 meeting.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Clifford Horner to advertise for a Full-Time Outside/Garbage Worker starting at \$15.50 per hour. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the Anniversary Awards as presented and outlined on the sheet. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Clifford Horner, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve Christmas Bonuses as presented and outlined on the sheet, FT \$200, PT \$150 and crossing guards \$50. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve the 2024 wages for all non-uniformed borough employees as per the sheet submitted to council. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

House
None.

Streets, Sidewalks, Storm Sewers

Discussion among council to place a sign on Shady Lane at Glade View Drive alert drivers to slow down due to glare off sun.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Marshal Engleka to approve placing a sign on Shady Lane at Glade View Drive to alert drivers to slow down due to the glare on the sun. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Discussion among council to place a sign on Main Street from Meadow Street to Vine Street for No Parking. It was tabled for now.

Discussion among council to update the current Ordinance 213 Parking and Misuse of Sidewalks. Will work on the new ordinance and present to council in the spring.

Application for Signs for Posting All-Terrain Vehicle Roads has been submitted to DCNR.

Electric & Equipment

None.

Fire & Police

Police Coverage hours:

October 29 – November 4

FT hrs = 88 (W. Gonzalez 48, R. Norman 40)

PT hrs = 8 (M.Craig 8)

November 5 - November 11

FT hrs = 94 (W. Gonzalez 50, R. Norman 44)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

November 12 – November 18

FT hrs = 92.25 (W. Gonzalez 48.25, R. Norman 44)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

November 19 – November 25

FT hrs = 91 (W. Gonzalez 50, R. Norman 41)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

November 26 – December 2

FT hrs = 100 (W. Gonzalez 50, R. Norman 50)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

Motion by Clifford Horner, seconded by John Harding to approve Resolution No. 120752023 A resolution Eliminating Police Officers' Contributions to The Police Pension Plan for The Year 2024 as follows. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

BOROUGH OF BERLIN

RESOLUTION No. 120752023

A RESOLUTION ELIMINATING POLICE OFFICERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
POLICE PENSION PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2024

WHEREAS, Act 600 previously provided for the elimination of members' contributions if certain criteria were met, and

WHEREAS, Act 30 amended Act 600 by eliminating certain criteria for the elimination of contributions, and

WHEREAS, the only criteria for the elimination of contributions accordingly to Act 30 are:

Any reduction or elimination of contributions shall be authorized on an annual basis by resolution or ordinance, and

WHEREAS, Berlin Borough has reviewed this amendment and criteria, and unanimously Approves the elimination of members' contributions by the Police Pension Plan members for the Year 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Berlin Borough does hereby ratify and affirm the elimination of members' contributions to the Police Pension Plan by its members for the Year 2024.

BE IT, AND THE SAME IS HEREBY RESOLVED, this _____ day of _____.

BERLIN BOROUGH

BY: _____
Michael Lottig
Council Vice-President

ATTEST:

Traci Horning
Executive Borough Secretary

Secret Service Agent has provided the Borough with information on open cases.

The Berlin Fire Department has provided a detailed explanation of the \$3,500 donation the Borough gave.

A discussion among the council regarding the Police Officer Staff with updates and concerns.

Other Information

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve the donation of \$100 to The Children's Aid Home Programs of Somerset County. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

J.B Schrock Community Playground sent a thank you letter for the donation the Borough gave.

Human Society sent a thank you letter for the donation the Borough gave.

Municipal Authority Update

None.

Executive Session

At 5:45 P.M., John Harding made the motion, seconded by Thomas Fisher 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 6, Nays 0, Motion carried.

At 6:10 P.M. John Harding made the motion, seconded by Marshal Engleka to have the council reconvened the regular meeting. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 6:11 P.M. a motion was made by John Harding, seconded by Michael Lottig to adjourn this meeting. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Traci Horning

Submitted By: Traci Horning, Executive Secretary