



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

Regular Council Meeting

March 7, 2024 – 4:30 P.M.

Approved and Official Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Lottig

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was quoted.

Council Attending:

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

Others Attending –Larry and Kathy Ogline, Mandy Lauer, Nathaniel Custer and Traci Horning, Executive Borough Secretary

Mandy Lauer and Nathaniel Custer representing Western PA Sports Medicine in regards to the sidewalk project that is soon ready to start. There is a concern with the projected sidewalk that will be in front of the building how it will impact handicap parking and the transportation van that drops off patients for therapy. Mandy and Nathaniel is asking if there is a way that a compressed curb could be put in to continue to allow the transportation van to drop of patients.

The Council is willing to call Kevin Yoder, Appalachian Engineering Group, LLC and discuss what options can be done to accommodate the Western PA Sports Medicine drop-off area.

Larry and Kathy Ogline have a concern with the side by side/4 wheeler sign that is going to be placed in their yard. They would like to have the sign be placed either in the sidewalk or on the other side of the street on the sign post for 10th Avenue. There is a concern with the sidewalk project that is going to be in front of their house. They have a drain that is behind their retaining wall that comes through the wall and drains the water onto the sidewalk and drains to the storm sewer. With the new sidewalks being put in the drain will be covered and the water will have nowhere to go. There was a past incident where a car ran up over the sidewalk and hit their retaining wall. The new projected sidewalk will not stop this from happening again so they would like the sidewalk to stay the way it is

now that the curb is higher than the sidewalk which stops a car from hitting the retaining wall.

Motion by Stephen Custer seconded by John Harding, to approve the February 1, 2024, Regular Council Meeting. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Thomas Fisher, to approve the Mayor and Police Department's Report for February 2024. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Park and Planning

None.

Garbage

There were no bids received for the 1994 GMC Autocar garbage truck so another newspaper advertisement will need to be placed.

Motion by Clifford Horner, seconded by Marshal Engleka, to approve the advertisement in the Daily American to accept sealed bids until April 4, 2024, at 4:30 pm at the Borough of Berlin Office at 700 North Street. Berlin, PA 15530 for the 1994 GMC Autocar garbage truck with a minimum starting bid of \$10,000. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Personnel and Finance

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by John Harding to approve the January 2024 bills. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas Fisher, seconded by John Harding to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2024. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve the February 2024 bills. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2024. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

The Drug and Alcohol, Abuse Policy and Statement was given to the union representative for the maintenance workers and is currently in negotiation.

Borough auditor currently has a vacancy. There were multiple people asked to take the position and no one accepted the position. Need to contact the borough solicitor to what options to fill the vacancy.

The outside supervisor position is still being reviewed to fill the position.

UniFirst Uniforms contract is due to be renewed. A customer service agreement was presented.

Motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the UniFirst Customer Service Agreement for a five (5) year term beginning 2/2025. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve the hiring of Rita Shaulis of Berlin, PA, Amy Foy of Berlin, PA and Justin Engle of Berlin, PA as flaggers on a as needed basis an hourly rate of \$16.50, effective March 7, 2024, upon completion of all pre-employment testing and requirements. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

House

A house meeting was held February 28, 2024, at 6 pm with JoAnne Dively and Carrie Croner with the women's auxiliary, Brad Flick and Tim Rhodes of the Fire Department and Marshal Engleka, Thomas Fisher, John Harding, Council Board Members and Traci Horning, Executive Secretary to discuss any issues or concerns with the borough building.

Heat cases that cover the thermostat need to be updated due to the temperature is being adjusted. The roof needs to be replaced/repared due to water leaking. Need to contact contracts to get an estimate.

Motion by Michael Fogle, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the borough maintenance guys to no longer set tables up for the tables for the banquets the ladies auxiliary or fire department have. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

There is one (1) dumpster that needs to be fixed. Clifford Horner will call to have it scheduled to be fixed.

Streets, Sidewalks, Storm Sewers

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve Resolution No. 03072024 Resolution Authorizing the Placement of Veteran Banners Within The Borough of Berlin Limits Along The State Highway or Within The State Highway Right Of Way. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Resolution reads as follows:

BOROUGH OF BERLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. 03072024

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF VETERAN BANNERS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN LIMITS ALONG THE STATE HIGHWAY OR WITHIN THE STATE HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation Publication 46, Section 2.10, states the requirements for displaying and overhead sign or banner; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Berlin has single events, recurring events, and multiple events that occur throughout the year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, the Borough of Berlin, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby resolved as follows:

Conditions for banner placement:

Borough of Berlin desires to hang Veteran Banners on poles along State Route 2030 - Main Street, Segment 0010 to 0010, Offset 501 to 2341; State Route 2047 - Broadway Street, Segment 0250 to 0280, Offset 21 to 1034; State Route 2033 - Diamond Street, Segment 10 to 20, Offset 0 to 1246; State Route 0160 PA 160 - Segment 370 to 390, Offset 147 to 570; State Route 2023 - Whitehorse Road, Segment 0100 to 0100, Offset 121 to 992; State Route 2023 - Salco Road/Hay Street, Segment 0090 to 0090, Offset 31 to 845.

The minimum vertical clearance will be seventeen feet and six inches (17' 6") above the roadway.

The Borough of Berlin assumes full responsibility for erecting, maintaining, and removing the device and all liability for damages occurring to any persons or property arising from any act of omission associated with the banner.

Berlin Veterans Home organized the banner program to display these beautiful 24" X 48" patriotic banners honoring our veterans and active-duty service members will be displayed with a Picture of Honoree, Honoree's Name, Service Dates, Service Branch, War/Conflict Era, Rank, Award/Medal; and

The patriotic banners will be displayed from Memorial Day through Veterans Day then stored till the following year to be displayed again. Banners will be erected starting up to one month prior to Memorial Day and removed one month after Veterans Day.

Banners promoting community events shall be permitted. Banners shall concern events related to a national, state, regional, local function, or charitable affair. Banners may be displayed by local nonprofit organizations such as veterans' organizations, charitable, educational, or businesses for the purpose of [promoting an event in support of a charitable organization or cause. Banners primarily promoting retail or wholesale businesses and/or commercial enterprises, private groups or political candidates or issues are prohibited. No more than twenty percent (20%) of the message on the banner shall relate to naming or advertising a commercial product, enterprise, business, or company. The message on the banner may not contain vulgar or obscene language.

While erecting, maintaining, and removing the banner traffic control will be performed in accordance with the most current Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Publication 213, Temporary Traffic Control Guidelines.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF BERLIN

BY: _____

Traci Horning
Executive Secretary

Michael Lottig
Borough Council President

Historical Society would like to have a handicap parking area on Vine Street across from the entrance of the Historical Society building. Will have one spot painted on Vine Street and one in the parking area off Mulberry Street.

ATV signs are currently being placed on the designated streets that DCNR has advised the borough to put them.

Marshal Engleka left the meeting at 6:00 pm and John Harding left the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Electric & Equipment

American Municipal Power (AMP) is planning to be in Berlin to scan the electric lines the week of March 18-22, 2024.

When Wiedenhoft Electric is called out to look at a resident for an electrical issue and the borough is not at fault for the issue the homeowner will be charged for the call if it is not an emergency, or it is an emergency call effective March 7, 2024.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve the quote from T&R Electric for 6 pole mount 50KVA transformers in the amount of \$11,400. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Cliff Horner, seconded by Michael Fogle to approve the 2024 material list from Wiedenhoft Electric for supplies. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Michael Fogle, Michael Lottig and Clifford Horner is going to do research for a new truck to replace the 2006 GMC.

Contact Kevin Yoder, Appalachian Engineering Group, LLC to survey the fence area at the Penelec substation on Vine Street. Need to mark the corners.

Fire & Police

Police Coverage hours:

January 28 – February 3

FT hrs = 90 (W. Gonzalez 50, R. Norman 40)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

February 4 - February 10

FT hrs = 92.75 (W. Gonzalez 50, R. Norman 42.75)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

February 11 – February 17

FT hrs = 90 (W. Gonzalez 50, R. Norman 40)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

February 18 – February 24

FT hrs = 90 (W. Gonzalez 50, R. Norman 40)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

February 25 – March 2

FT hrs = 93 (W. Gonzalez 50, R. Norman 43)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

Fraternal Order of Police Contract January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2027 – Article No. 7 Compensation – Section 2: Should the Borough designate one Chief of Police/Officer in Charge, that officer shall have two thousand five hundred (\$2,500) dollars added to the Full-Time Officer's annual compensation prorated but not compounded each year.

Motion by Thomas Fisher, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve Officer William Gonzalez as the Chief of Police/Officer in Charge effective January 1, 2024. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Other Information

Joseph Krause and Roger Platt will attend the Somerset County Dirt & Gravel/Low Volume Road Program to get ESM training on March 20-21, 2024, in Cambria County.

Council members had a discussion of the letter received from Paul Yesconis of EnviroTrac about placing monitoring wells on North Street in the right of way of Berlin Borough. This is due to a petroleum leak in 2021 on the Valero premises. The decision for EnviroTrac was to deny placing the monitoring wells on North Street in the right of way.

Motion by Clifford Horner, seconded by Thomas Fisher to deny EnviroTrac of 176 Thorn Hill Road, Warrendale, PA 15086 to place monitoring wells on North Street in the right of way of Berlin Borough. This is all due to the petroleum leak in 2021 on the Valero Station premises at 404 Broadway Street, Berlin, PA. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Municipal Authority Update

None.

Adjournment

At 7:00 P.M. a motion was made by Stephen Custer, seconded by Thomas Fisher to adjourn this meeting. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Traci Horning

Submitted By: Traci Horning, Executive Secretary