



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

## **Regular Council Meeting**

**October 5, 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

Marshal Engleka – Present

Stephen Custer – Present

Thomas Fisher – Present

Mayor Joseph Krause - Absent

Others Attending –Traci Horning, Executive Borough Secretary

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Stephen Custer, to approve the September 7, 2023, Regular Council Meeting. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

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

### Park and Planning

None.

### Garbage

Garbage truck waiting on back order of parts that are to come middle of October.

### Personnel and Finance

September Bills and Treasurer's Report will be presented at the next meeting November 2, 2023.

Discussion among the Council of the 2024 budget if there are any requests or suggestions to put into the budget.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the Municipal Real Estate/Per Capita Rate Reporting Sheet Tax Year 2024. Borough/Township Discount Rate 2%, Penalty Rate 5%. Per Capita Tax Rate \$5.00. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by John Harding to approve the Tax Collection Committee (TCC) Resolution to appoint Primary Delegate: Traci Horning, First Alternate Delegate: Tiffany Glessner and Second Alternate Delegate: Rachel Prosser effective immediately and shall continue until successors are appointed. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by John Harding to approve the Pollution Liability Insurance Policy with Agent Teeter Group Insurance of 3375 Lynwood Drive, Altoona, PA 16602 in the amount of \$4,400 for the period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by John Harding to approve the Cyber Solutions Liability and Data Compromise Insurance Policy with Agent Teeter Group Insurance of 3375 Lynwood Drive, Altoona, PA 16602 in the amount of \$590 for the period of January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Discussion of part-time outside worker position had been tabled till spring.

#### House

Pious Spring Women's Club presents Christmas Togetherness. Bazaar & Home Tours Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>, Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds from the home tours goes back into the community. A discussion among Council to charge the club the \$150 per day for 3 days.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve the wavier of the rental of the Community Hall for \$150.00 per day for three days. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Stephen Custer, to order a new microphone for the Community Hall. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### Streets, Sidewalks, Storm Sewers

Council members had a discussion of the presentation on September 7, 2023, from Paul Yesconis and Scott Merrit of EnviroTrac about the groundwater treatment system to be installed due to a petroleum leak in 2021 on the Valero premises. The decision for EnviroTrac was to deny access to the storm sewer system.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Michael Lottig to deny EnviroTrac of 176 Thorn Hill Road, Warrendale, PA 15086 to discharge the treated groundwater into the Berlin Borough's storm sewer system from the petroleum leak in 2021 on the Valero Station premises at 404 Broadway Street, Berlin, PA. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

A resident has a concern with the sidewalks where they were dug up to repair the lead line to main water line. Was wondering if something can be done for winter to cover up the shale that was put into the hole to back fill the hole. When snow blowing or shoveling

snow around the shale will possibly throw the stones. A discussion among Council regarding this concern with a resident has made a decision to cover the shale areas with cold patch for the winter.

#### Electric & Equipment

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Michael Lottig to approve the purchase of a John Deere RC78B Rotary Cutter from Foster F. Wineland, 2519 Cove Mountain Road, Martinsburg, PA 16662 in the amount of \$10,145.00. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

#### Fire & Police

##### Police Coverage hours:

September 3 – September 9

FT hrs = 82 (W. Gonzalez 50, R. Norman 32)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

September 10 - September 16

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

PT hrs = 4 (M.Craig 4)

September 17 – September 23

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

PT hrs = 6.5 (M.Craig 6.5)

September 24 – September 30

FT hrs = 90.25 (W. Gonzalez 50.25, R. Norman 40)

PT hrs = 0 (M.Craig 0)

Berlin Borough Police Department Union Contract has been tabled till the next meeting November 2, 2023.

Motion by Thomas Fisher, seconded by Marshal Engleka to approve the request for Investigation Course training for Officer Gonzalez December 4-7, 2023, at Washington County Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$495.00. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

John Harding left the meeting at 5:25 pm.

#### Other Information

Department of Emergency Services sent a letter about the Somerset County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Emergency Services along with the HMP Planning Team is having a meeting on October 25, 2023, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Somerset County/Region 13 Hazmat Building at 113 Runway Road, Friedens, PA.

Andy and John Pribelsky have requested permission to have a Chicken BBQ on the Lower Diamond at the clock on October 14, 2023, from 7 am to 2 pm.

Motion by Clifford Horner, seconded by Marshal Engleka to approve Andy and John Pribelsky to have a Chicken BBQ on October 14, 2023, at the clock on the Lower Diamond. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

J. B. Schrock sent a letter about the improvements that have been made to the playground and what is still in need of repair.

PA State Association of Boroughs is offering a Webinar: Preparing for a New Council on October 25, 2023, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. No one can attend due to other obligations.

Municipal Authority Update

None.

Adjournment

At 5:37 P.M. a motion was made by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer to adjourn this meeting. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Traci Horning

---

Submitted By: Traci Horning, Executive Secretary