Borough of Berlin
700 North Street
Berlin, PA 15530

Council Meeting of the Whole

December 15, 2022 – 4:00 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 – Absent
Marshal Engleka – Present
Stephen Custer – Present
Thomas Fisher – Present
Mayor Joseph Krause - Absent

Others Attending – Traci Horning, Executive Borough Secretary.

Motion by Stephen Custer, seconded by Thomas Fisher, to approve the December 1, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Park and Planning
Need to contact Mr. Gross to see when the kiosk can be started.

Garbage
None

Personnel and Finance
Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve and accept the Berlin Borough Budget as presented for 2023. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Clifford Horner, seconded by Michael Lottig to approve the Municipal Real Estate/Per Capita Rate Reporting Sheet Tax Year 2023. Borough/Township Discount Rate 2%, Penalty Rate 5%. Per Capita Tax Rate $5.00. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Marshal Engleka, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve Ordinance No. 360 An Ordinance of the Borough of Berlin, County of Somerset, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Year 2023. Tax rate for general purpose the sum of 0.00 (ZERO) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation on real property as follows. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

As follows:

ORDINANCE
NO. 360
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AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2023.

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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 2023 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That any ordinance, or part of ordinance, conflicting with this ordinance be, and the same is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this ordinance.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 Berlin Borough Council enacted and ordained this _____ day of December 2022.

ATTEST:

_____ _____

Executive Borough Secretary Borough Council President

Approved this _____ day of December 2022.

BERLIN BORO, PENNSYLVANIA CORPORATE SEAL INCORPORATED 1857

_____

Mayor, Borough of Berlin

Wages for Non-Uniformed Borough Employees to be discussed at the January 5, 2023, meeting.

Schedule an interview for the Part-Time Outside worker.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve the November 2022 bills. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas Fisher, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2022. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

House
Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve Resolution No. 12152022-01 Emergency Operations Plan December 2022 as follows. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

BOROUGH OF BERLIN

RESOLUTION No. 12152022-01

WHEREAS, Section 7503 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services Code 35 Pa. C.S. Section 7101 et seq. mandates that Berlin Borough prepare, maintain and keep current an emergency operation plan for the prevention and minimization of injury and damage caused by a major emergency or disaster within this borough: and

WHEREAS, in response to the mandate stated above, this Borough has prepared an emergency operation plan to provide prompt and effective emergency response procedures to be followed in the event of a major emergency or disaster; and

WHEREAS, this Borough has also prepared an emergency operation plan to reduce the potential effects of a major emergency or disaster and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned Council of The Berlin Borough does hereby approve, adopt, and place into immediate effect a revised Emergency Operations Plan for the Berlin Borough that conforms with the requirements of the Somerset County Emergency Operations Guideline.

I, Traci Horning, the Executive Borough Secretary for the Borough of Berlin, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, do hereby certify and attest that the foregoing Resolution No. 12152022-01 was adopted by unanimous vote of the Berlin Borough Council at their legally held December 15, 2022, public meeting.

Traci Horning
Executive Borough Secretary

Charles E. Rhodes
Berlin Borough Council President

Letter was written to the Berlin Fire Department regarding the fire whistle being wanted turned off from 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. Letter states the council made a motion at the October 20, 2022, meeting and the motion failed for the whistle to be turned off.

Discussion about the water spouting leaking above the fire department doors. Dave Bowser looked at the spouting and will need someone with a boom on a truck. Wiedenhoft Electric was mentioned to have look at when in town to use his bucket truck.

Streets, Sidewalks, Storm Sewers
Discussion on the sidewalks at the school that Crilon was to fix. Per email from Kevin Yoder the sidewalks were done. Council wants to know when sidewalks were done.

Electric & Equipment
Currently have three people who have not responded to the letters that the borough sent out to have the A-Base meters updated from 60-amp service to 100-amp service. Send out a third letter stating in one month the meters will be red tagged due to safety concerns and not having any contact from the homeowners to have the service upgraded.

Fire & Police
Police Coverage hours:

November 27 – December 3
FT hrs = 90 (W. Gonzalez 50, B. Barron 40)
PT hrs = 0 (K.Huzsek 0, M.Craig 0)

December 4 – December 10
FT hrs = 80 (W. Gonzalez 40, B. Barron 40)
PT hrs = 5 (K.Huzsek 0, M.Craig 5)

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve Resolution No. 12152022-02 A resolution Eliminating Police Officers' Contributions to The Police Pension Plan for The Year 2023 as follows. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

BOROUGH OF BERLIN

RESOLUTION No. 12152022-02

A RESOLUTION ELIMINATING POLICE OFFICERS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE POLICE PENSION PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2023

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 2023.

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 2023.

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

BERLIN BOROUGH

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Charles E. Rhodes
Council President

_____
Traci Horning
Executive Borough Secretary

A discussion among the Council members about the Internal Affairs Policy & Procedures for the Police Department. Need to contact the Mayor and the Borough Solicitor to see if this policy is already if effect.

Police department employees need to work one (1) full year to receive vacation.

Council had a discussion regarding overtime hours for the Police Department. One Part-Time Police Officer providing hours to the borough. Getting an estimate of 90 to 95 hours per week of patrol time.

Thomas Fisher to get with Mayor regarding some houses that are an eyesore.

Other Information
None

Municipal Authority Update
None

Executive Session
None

Adjournment
At 5:00 P.M. a motion was made by Michael Lottig, seconded by Thomas Fisher to adjourn this meeting. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Traci Horning

Submitted By: Traci Horning, Executive Secretary