Borough of Berlin
700 North Street
Berlin, PA 15530

Council Meeting of the Whole

November 17, 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 – Present
Marshal Engleka – Present
Stephen Custer – Present
Thomas Fisher – Present
Mayor Joseph Krause - Present

Others Attending – Traci Horning, Executive Borough Secretary, Cindy Flamm, Treasurer.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer, to approve the November 3, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Park and Planning
Robert Ziegler quoted $100 to do the powder coating for the Kiosk.

Motion by Thomas Fisher, seconded by John Harding to approve the quote of $100 from Robert Ziegler to do the powder coating of the Kiosk. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Need to purchase 2 yards to fix the sidewalk at the Historical Society but can purchase a total of 4 yards at the same price. Discussion among council to determine where the additional 2 yards can be used to fix areas of the sidewalk that has been damaged. Thomas Fisher and Clifford Horner to look at various places that need to be replaced. Want to wait till spring to start the concrete due to the weather.

Garbage

1219 Main Street Will's swimming pool has no fence surrounding the pool. Mayor to talk with Matthew Will regarding the code and rules of having a fence around the pool.

Discussion among Council with the amount of garbage that is being put into the dumpsters at the maintenance garage. Contractors are using the dumpsters to dispose their construction materials and only paying the residential rate. Borough rates for the disposal of garbage at the landfills have increased. Garbage committee to set a meeting to discuss an action plan with the garbage concerns.

Personnel and Finance

Discussion among the Council of the 2023 budget. Budget will be open to the public to review from December 2 to December 15, 2022. Council will approve the budget at the December 15, 2022, meeting.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2022. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

American Legion Post 445 donated to Berlin Borough Police Department in appreciation for participation in the Halloween parade safety. Council has denied accepting the check and have it returned to the American Legion Post 445.

Law Offices Fike, Cascio & Boose has been asked to represent Berlin Borough for special counsel for labor contract negotiations with Unit D, Allegheny Regional Joint Board, Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union, AFL-CIO-CLC.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Clifford Horner to approve the representation from Law Offices Fike, Cascio & Boose for labor contract negotiations with Unit D, Allegheny Regional Joint Board, Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union, AFL-CIO-CLC. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Act 57 of 2022 – Effect of Failure to Receive Tax Notice. Will need to do a Resolution directing Berlin Borough's tax collector to implement the act's provisions for the tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023. Need to adopt the resolution at the next meeting on December 1, 2022.

House

Projector for the Community Building has been purchased. Stephen Custer has requested to be reimbursed in the amount of $121.90 for the purchase of the projector.

Motion by Thomas Fisher, seconded by John Harding to approve the reimbursement of $121.90 to Stephen Custer for the purchase of a projector to be used in the Community Building. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Streets, Sidewalks, Storm Sewers

John Harding spoke with Anthony Tataleba 103 Cumberland Street regarding the porch post that was knocked down. M & B Services provided pictures before doing work and the porch post was already knocked over and laying on the porch. Mr. Tataleba stated he will take care of the post.

Marshal Engleka spoke with Steve Spochart, Somerset County Redevelopment Authority to any available grants or programs to make improvements to the bike trail coming into Berlin by 3 Seasons Church on South Street and the Lower Diamond. Mr. Spochart will check to see what is all available and get back with Council.

Electric & Equipment

None

Fire & Police

Police Coverage hours:

October 30 – November 5
FT hrs = 84 (W. Gonzalez 40, B. Barron 44)
PT hrs = 0 (K.Huzsek 0, M.Craig 0)

November 6 – November 12
FT hrs = 81 (W. Gonzalez 41, B. Barron 40)
PT hrs = 0 (K.Huzsek 0, M.Craig 0)

Council had a discussion regarding overtime hours for the Police Department. Part-Time Police Officers have not been able to provide any hours to the borough. With only 80 hours per week of patrol time the borough is not being safely covered. Council has discussed of giving the full-time officers 10 hours each of over time to be worked on Saturday from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Thomas Fisher to approve 10 hours of overtime for each full-time officer to be worked Saturday from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Fire Department does not need to give a detailed explanation of the $3,500 donation the Borough gives as a donation to them.

Other Information

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by John Harding to advertise the 2023 Regular Meetings the first Thursday of each month starting at 4:30 p.m. Dates for the meetings are as follows: January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, December 7, 2023. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

GIS training for having accurate maps for the Borough has been tabled for now.

Municipal Authority Update

Waterline is functioning well with no problems. Culvert issue on Whitehorse Road is

PennDOT's issue not the Boroughs. Joyce Hay has been supplied with the cattle gate and is all done.

Mayor Joseph Krause as left the meeting at 5:12 p.m. due to going into Executive Session.

Executive Session

At 5:12 P.M., John Harding made the motion, seconded by Michael Lottig 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 5:21 P.M. Michael Lottig made the motion, seconded by John Harding to have the council reconvened the regular meeting. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Personnel and Finance

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by John Harding to approve the hiring of Kristi Davis of Berlin, PA as Full-Time Assistant Treasurer at an hourly rate of $15.00, effective November 17, 2022, upon completion of all pre-employment testing and requirements. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Garbage

The wire fencing cage for appliance needs to be move to the black top by the building shed which needs to be moved to the end of the equipment shed. Have Ed Slifco make the changes.

Resident 737 North Street needs to be addressed regarding the roof falling in on the garage and the house roof also needs attention.

Adjournment

At 5:27 P.M. a motion was made by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer to adjourn this meeting. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

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Submitted By: Traci Horning, Executive Secretary