APPROVED AND OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE WHOLE

January 16, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.

1. The President calls the meeting to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

ROLL CALL

Charles E. Rhodes	***Present***
Clifford E. Horner	***Present***
John F. Harding, Jr.	***Absent***
Michael A. Lottig	***Present***
Stephen E. Custer	***Present***
Thomas L. Fisher	***Present***
Thomas W. Jones	***Present***
Mayor Joseph Krause	***Absent***

Also, in attendance is Thomas E. Glessner, Executive Borough Secretary and Jr. Council Member – Josh Bonadio - ***Absent.***

Affidavit of Residency – required for Council members – Cindy to Notarize.

Members of the public: **Please sign the Guest Registry:**

Executive Session proposed time. _____

The following have asked to address the Council:
Steve Spochart - Redevelopment Authority of Somerset County
Josh Sechler – Somerset Trust ***Markus Yoko – Somerset Trust***

Steve Spochart – explained the Diamond St. project and AEG cost proposal. He recommended the Council approve the $21,767 for engineering and use the funds provided from the commissioners for construction. If we add the Main St. project portion of the lower diamond to diamond St. it would cost an additional $5,000 for AEG. He expects the funds to go to Washington St. and possibly do more in the lower Diamond.
Tom G – explained the Main St. costs, sections and possible plans.
See the motion listed under Streets to approve the $21,767 for AEG.
Steve departed at 4:20 pm

Markus and Josh – presented to Council the expansion of the Berlin office is a hub location and future plans. The Berlin office is the 2nd largest branch, its employees 23 graduates from Berlin 2 are current residents. 5% of the workforce is from Somerset county. 24 emp's are from Meyersdale. Somerset Trust donated $42,000 in 2019. They have watched competitors

and businesses leave town and they are still very strong. Josh suggested we contact Marcus with any issues.
Tom G – confirmed the Bank has been extremely helpful.
Josh continued with the expansion in 2019 included offices in Uniontown, Shellsburg, and Greensburg.
The Berlin office includes all interior changes and no exterior changes.
Somerset trust has been in business for 131 years and in the cook family. Three of the family intend to retire in 2020, as this is a 6th generation business.

Charles made a recommendation for the Wes Lewis Jr as he is interested on being on the Municipal Authority. He has made gates, worked at the sewer plant, lives in Brothersvalley township. Mike Brant moved into Bunny Bauchis home.

Motion by Charles Rhodes and seconded by Tom Fisher to appoint Wes Lewis Jr. to the Municipal Authority for a five-year term.
Ayes_6__
Nays___ Motion CARRIED

President's Report

Census 2020 – April 1, 2020 is Census Day please ask everyone to participate.
Committee Chairperson and participants.
Berlin Area Ambulance Assoc. request donations for purchase of a new $150,000 Ambulance.
Mitigation Meeting January 21, 2020.
Brothersvalley Township Public meeting January 24th 4:00pm – Solar panel fields for Electricity.
Berlin Fire Department - Dinner Banquet Invitation – January 25th – 6:30 pm Required RSVP by January 17 - ***Charles, Cliff, Mike, Stephen will attend***
PennDOT – Public Officials meeting January 29th 4:00 pm – PA31 Stonycreek Bridge 1
PennDOT – Public plans display 6:00pm-7:00pm - PA31 Stonycreek Bridge 1
Statement of Financial Interest – required for Elected Officials. ***Due by May 1st***

APPOINTMENT OF VACANCY BOARD CHAIR:
BOROUGH OF BERLIN RESOLUTION NO. 01162020-01

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of Chair of the Berlin Borough Vacancy Board; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Borough Code provides that the Borough Council shall appoint a registered elector of the Borough as to that position.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby resolved that the Borough Council of the Borough of Berlin appoints ***James Walker*** to serve in that capacity as the law provides.

Motion by Mike Lottig and seconded by Cliff Horner to adopt Resolution No. 01162020-01 appointing James Walker Chair of the Berlin Borough Vacancy Board with term expiring on December 31, 2020.

ROLL CALL *(Secretary Glessner will call the roll)*
YES Charles E. Rhodes
YES Clifford E. Horner
John Harding, Jr. ***Absent***
YES Michael A. Lottig
YES Stephen E. Custer
YES Thomas L. Fisher
YES Thomas W. Jones
Ayes_6__ Absent_1
Nays___ Motion CARRIED

~~**APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS:**~~

~~**BOROUGH OF BERLIN RESOLUTION NO. 01162020-02**~~

~~WHEREAS, **three** vacancies exist in the position of Borough Auditor for the Borough of Berlin because no one was elected to these positions during the past municipal election; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Borough Code provides that the Borough Council shall appoint a registered elector of the Borough as a Borough Auditor when a vacancy exists in that position.~~

~~NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, and it is hereby resolved that the Borough Council of the Borough of Berlin appoints _____ and _____ and _____ as Borough Auditors for the Borough of Berlin to serve in that capacity as the law provides.~~

~~***Motion by _____ and seconded by _____ to adopt Resolution No. 01162020-02 appointing _____, and _____, and _____ as borough auditors with terms expiring on December 31, 2020.***~~

~~**ROLL CALL** ***(Secretary Glessner will call the roll)***~~

~~_____ Charles E. Rhodes~~
~~_____ Clifford E. Horner~~
~~_____ John Harding, Jr.~~
~~_____ Michael A. Lottig~~
~~_____ Stephen E. Custer~~
~~_____ Thomas L. Fisher~~
~~_____ Thomas W. Jones~~
~~***Ayes___***~~
~~***Nays___ Motion_____***~~

Tom Fisher request how much do we or can we pay? Suggested $15.00

Committees:

GARBAGE COMMITTEE – John Harding – (Chair)

1. Tires and TV's placed at dumpsters – issues to be addressed by the Mayor, with notices, letters, and citations.
2. Ash customers audit and 3 customers discontinued.

Charles Rhodes read the committee notes in the absence of John Harding.

Garbage – TV's have been set at the dumpsters and required borough employees to take them to Shanksville.

PERSONNEL & FINANCE COMMITTEE – Clifford Horner – (Chair)

1. Financial plan and projections to be completed by committee prior to 02/06/2020.
2. Contract and Personnel Recommendation/Discussion – Executive Session.
    a. Personnel
    b. Contract issue

Motion by Tom Fisher and seconded by Stephen Custer to approve the advertisement for borough positions.
Ayes_6__
Nays___ Motion CARRIED

Advertisement approved for the Somerset paper – be sure to advertise as Full time.

FIRE & POLICE COMMITTEE – Tom Fisher – (Chair)

1. Fire Sirens – scheduled to be installed by the end of the month.
2. Base station installation in the radio room, antenna required as current antenna is not compatible.
3. Gerry Perry and Brad Flick communicated with Joel Landis requested sirens not be activated during the hours of 10PM -- 6AM for fire or accident – Only during weather emergency.

Stephen Custer asked if any fires have been since installed and not yet.
Tom Jones Said MEI he has quotes that are very costly.

ELECTRIC & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE – Mike Lottig – (Chair)

1. PowerSecure on site 1/13-15/2020 – Volvo bulletin to replace thermostats on all units.
2. School meeting scheduled for 1/22/2020 – transformer project electrical engineer.
3. PowerSecure to confirm AMP usage of fiber line.
4. Police car is at Team Force getting upfitted minimum 3weeks to complete.
5. PJM requirement for our BTMG. We are required to operate during PJM max generation emergencies or face a reduction in our peak shaving savings. AMP will control activation of our units.

Mike Lottig explained voltage and transformers to the council.
Tom G – explained PJM requirements and that it is not an issue as AMP monitors this for us.

STREETS, STORM SEWERS & SIDEWALK – Thomas Jones – (Chair)

1. **Cumberland Street Update.**
   a. Project sidewalk – PennDOT reviewed and approved on 01/09.
   b. Darr construction, request payment work completed – Borough amount $38,089 + $725 = $38,814 for additional cutting and liquid fuel amount of $1,800. (exhibit)
2. **Columbia Gas project – Phase II** – East Main St. to 12th St.
   a. Invoice sent to Columbia Gas
3. **Columbia Gas project - Phase I** - 12th Street to Cassel in front of school
   a. Presentation and reviewed drawings and plan with school on 1/13/2020.
   b. Steven Dratter 1101 Main St. – contacted to review plan for crosswalk.
   c. Proposed start date of April 2020.
4. **Columbia Gas project Phase III** – SR160 Seg0370 Offset 0700 to Seg0380 Offset 2700.
   a. Notes for distribution by location for discussion. (exhibit)
   b. Columbia Gas – sidewalk raise to curb and installation of curb requirement.
   c. 10th Avenue and Stewart street.
5. **Diamond street project —**
   a. Presentation by Steve Spochart. Funding in the amount of $244,305 for Diamond St.
   b. AEG proposal for Diamond St. approval required for it to be bid in concurrence with the Main St. project. (Exhibit)
   c. AEG Survey lower diamond area for $800 in conjunction with proposal.
6. **Main Street Revitalization.**
   Cost estimate updated by AEG – for Main Street.
   a. Committee Meeting 01/08/2020 –AEG, Tom Jones, Steve Spochart and Tom Glessner reviewed Budgets and Diamond Street direction.
   b. AEG to provide Diamond St Cost estimates $89,000 min that affects Main St. project.
   c. Tree cutting completed on Main Street and some stones removed at lower Diamond.
   d. Lights from American Gas are approved, researching different poles.

Tom Fisher brought up the issue in front of the Lutheran Church suggested we look at the sidewalk thickness. And confirm the light is used.

*Motion by **Mike Lottig** and seconded by **Cliff Horner** to approve the payment of contract for the construction of curb and sidewalk on Cumberland St. by **DARR Construction** in the amount **$66,389**.*
Ayes_6__
*Nays___ Motion **CARRIED***

*Motion by **Tom Fisher** and seconded by **Tom Jones** to approve the payment from liquid fuels of the ADA ramp on Cumberland St. by **DARR Construction** in the amount **$1,800.00**.*
Ayes_6__
*Nays___ Motion **CARRIED***

*Motion by **Tom Jones** and seconded by **Mike Lottig** to approve the proposal by **AEG** for the engineering of Diamond St. project, in the amount **$21,767**.*
Ayes_6__
*Nays___ Motion **CARRIED***

*Motion by **Mike Lottig** and seconded by **Tom Jones** to approve the proposal by **AEG** for the Surveying of the lower Diamond Area, in the amount **$800.00**.*
Ayes_6__
*Nays___ Motion **CARRIED***

HOUSE COMMITTEE – Stephen Custer – (Chair)

1. Comcast vs Verizon cost comparison.
2. Water fountain at the shop needs to be replaced. Quote for $379.95 + shipping. This is the same unit as the school purchases.

*Motion by **Mike Lottig** and seconded by **Cliff Horner** to approve the purchase of a water fountain for use at the shop in the amount of **$379.95 plus shipping**.*
Ayes_6__
*Nays___ Motion **CARRIED***

Executive Session

There are contractual and personnel matters that Council needs to discuss privately.

*Motion by **Mike Lottig** and seconded by **Tom Jones** to recess to executive session.*
Ayes_6__
*Nays___ Motion **CARRIED***

At ***4:54*** P.M. 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 or 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.

*Motion by **Mike Lottig** and seconded by **Cliff Horner** to reconvene the regular meeting.*
Ayes_6__
*Nays___ Motion **CARRIED***

At ***5:01*** P.M., the council reconvened the regular meeting.

*Motion by **Stephen Custer** and seconded by **Mike Lottig** to adjourn this Meeting of the Berlin Borough Council at _____ P.M.*
Ayes_6__

Nays___ *Motion **CARRIED***

Note: The next regular meeting of the Berlin Borough Council is scheduled for Monday February 6th, 2020. The next scheduled meeting of the Berlin Borough Council Committee of the Whole is scheduled for Thursday February 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m., at the Berlin Borough Council Conference/Meeting Room, 700 North Street, Berlin, Pennsylvania.