Borough of Berlin
700 North Street
Berlin, PA 15530

Regular Meeting

August 4, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.

Official and Approved Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Charles Rhodes.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was quoted.

Council members attending were Charles Rhodes, Michael Lottig, Clifford Horner, Marshal Engleka, Thomas Fisher, Stephen Custer, John Harding and Mayor Joseph Krause.

Others Attending – Traci Horning, Executive Borough Secretary

Sealed bids were opened at 7:05 p.m. for various street paving within the borough. Bidders are as follows: Quaker Sales Corporation of P.O. Box 880, Johnstown, PA 15907 with total bid amount of $66,575.00, New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. of P.O. Box 77, 3912 Brumbaugh Road, New Enterprise, PA 16664 with total bid amount of $124,787.00 and Keystone Lime Co., Inc. of P.O. Box 278, Springs, PA 15562 with total bid amount of $64,448.50. Bids will be looked over and approved to the lowest bidder at the next meeting on August 18, 2022.

A motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Stephen Custer, to approve the July 21, 2022, Council of the Whole meeting minutes. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

A motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by Marshal Engleka, to approve the Police Report for July 2022. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Park and Planning
Shawn Gross to get an estimate for the powder coating for the kiosk. Waiting for him to get his building built.

Garbage
Stephen Custer presented an estimate for a 10-ft L X10-ft W X 6-ft H preassembled fence for metal recycling. Have Edward Slifco, outside supervisor look for an area to place the fence.

Michael Lottig made a motion, seconded by John Harding, to approve the purchase of a 10-ft L X10-ft W X 6-ft H preassembled fence for metal recycling. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Discussion among the board regarding complaints at 307 Broadway Street, Berlin, PA 15530. Resident is placing garbage at the top of his property on Fletcher Street on Monday morning after garbage has been picked and the garbage sits there till next pick up the following Monday. Garbage can is overflowing and with garbage bags laying on the ground with other garbage not in garbage bags. Discussion in changing the current garbage ordinance.

Borough garbage cans that residents have need to be collected.

Personnel and Finance

Thomas Fisher made a motion, seconded by John Harding, to approve the July 2022 bills. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

The time spent on one Right to Know was one hour for July. Right to Know request was from an entity outside the Borough.

Current employee requested information regarding the Commercial Driving License (CDL). Somerset County Technology Center offers CDL classes which includes 200 hours for class time and road driving for the cost of $5,500.00. Four borough workers have CDL licenses. Current employee contract is due to expire December 31, 2022, need to discuss what changes can be made to the new employee contract which will go into effect January 1, 2023, regarding the CDL's.

Clifford Horner made a motion, seconded by Stephen Custer, to approve the Accidental Death and Accidental Medical Benefits Policy with Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company, One Bala Plaza, Suite 100, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004, in the amount of $300.00 for the period of September 3, 2022, to September 3, 2023. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

House

Borough Building Sign still waiting on Roger Clark to get a quote on the flagstone and to engrave. Clifford Horner and Stephen Custer looked at the Borough sign and the marble is cracked. Replacing the Borough sign with flagstone is not going to last as long as the marble.

Fire & Police

Police Coverage hours:

July 17 – July 23 FT hrs = 40, PT hrs = 17 (K. Huzsek 7, M. Craig 10)
July 24 – July 30 FT hrs = 40, PT hrs = 2.5 (K. Huzsek 0, M. Craig 2.5)

Interview scheduled for Monday August 8, 2022, for the Full-Time Police Officer position.

Michael Lottig made a motion, seconded by Marshal Engleka to rescind the motion of July 21, 2022, to approve the advertisement of the 2009 Chev Impala the oldest police car for a minimum bid of $500. Ayes 6, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Thomas Fisher, seconded by Stephen Custer to approve the advertisement of the 2009 Chev Impala the oldest police car for a minimum bid of $2,000. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by Clifford Horner, seconded by John Harding to approve the purchase of two DVM-800 Complete Kits (dash cameras) from Digital Alley of 14001 Marshall Drive, Lenexa, KS 66215 in connection with the two police officer cars in the amount of $8,110.00. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Marshal Engleka approached the Council regarding a training he attended that spoke about Internal Affairs Policy and Procedures. Highly recommended that all Boroughs adopt this policy. Purpose to having this policy is to protect the police officers and the Borough. Going to check into getting a sample for the Council to look over.

Streets, Sidewalks, Storm Sewers

Joseph Krause, Mayor approached the Council in regards of tractor trailers and semi-trucks making deliveries to the school and exiting behind the school to 10th Avenue and proceeding to

Main Street. When the trucks proceed to turn onto Main Street Larry Ogline's retaining wall is getting damaged. Discussion among the Council to see if the school would be willing to put a NO TRUCK TRAFFIC sign at the yellow gate which is at the middle school parking lot exiting the school to the little league field. Need to have the trucks to return to Main Street by circling back to the main entrance of the school.

On July 31, 2022, Jim Walker at 1407 Main Street, Berlin, PA 15530 had water coming into his basement. Manhole was opened at the bottom of his driveway to discover clumps of grease and paper towels backed up. Randy Younkin was contacted to come and use his snake/easel with a camera to see find the blockage and open. Municipal Water Authority going to have a discussion on this issue to where the grease and paper towels is coming from.

Motion by Michael Lottig, seconded by John Harding to approve sending letters to all surrounding property owners within 200 ft of Stephen Custer at 743 Washington Street, Berlin, PA 15530 for a change in variance and set meeting date of August 18, 2022, to approve or disapprove the request. Ayes 6, Nays 0, Abstain 1 Stephen Custer. Motion carried.

Electric & Equipment

Motion by Thomas Fisher, seconded by Michael Lottig to approve Windy Ridge Tree Care of 135 Walker Grove Road, Somerset, PA 15501 to remove two trees on the coroner of Main Street and Cumberland Street in the amount of $2,400.00. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Michael Lottig to approve the purchase of a Volvo VHD64B300 Daycab truck at M & K Truck Center of Somerset, LLC 178 Lewis Drive, Somerset, PA 15501 in the amount of $160,818.72. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Motion by John Harding, seconded by Michael Lottig to approve the purchase of a Leach 2RIII 25 Yard High Compaction Rear Loader Total Equipment Solutions 16344 Annesley Road, East Liverpool, OH 43920 in the amount of $107,822.00. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Discussion among Council in regard to the energy portfolio with American Municipal Power, Inc (AMP). Leave the portfolio as is.

Adam Ward of American Municipal Power, Inc. sent Information introducing a new program called Community Energy Savings: Smart Thermostat Program where participating members are anticipated to see approximately 1-KW of saving for each enrolled thermostat per peak event. $80/thermostat enrollment per year fee. Council wants to look over information till next meeting to decide.

Other Information

Darryl Maust, 821 Diamond Street, Berlin, PA 15530 would like to have the alley vacated next to his properties. Mr. Maust is going to wait till estate is settled and reapproach in October 2022.

Multiple complaints at 209 West Main Street, Berlin, PA 15530 regarding the high grass/weeds, 309 Broadway Street, Berlin, PA 15530 regarding grass/weeds and 728 Main Street, Berlin, PA 15530 regarding the high weeds in the garden area. Joseph Krause, Mayor going to check into these for next meeting.

A question was asked if there is an ordinance regarding the height of trees in the Borough. No current ordinance for the height of trees. Currently there are two trees on the property of Walter Augustine at 1407 Brubaker Street, Berlin PA 15530 that are a concern with his neighbors regarding the height of the trees.

Council would like to thank the flower committee Mary Lynn Boswer, Nancy Bittner, Trisha Paul, Darlene Beachley, Charlene Murray, Cheryl Hay, ladies @ Somerset Trust and the ladies @ Berlin Pharmacy who is taking care of the flowers along Main Street.

Linda Karchner of J. B. Schrock Community Park spoke with Edward Slifco outside supervisor in regard to the Borough giving manpower help in placing the mulch that is needed by the state guidelines to have the play ground to code. Concern with activity at the playground after hours requesting to have the police department to patrol the playground in the evenings.

Municipal Authority Info
None

Motion to adjourn to executive session was made by John Harding, seconded by Michael Lottig. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Executive Session
At 8:25 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 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.

Motion to adjourn to regular session was made by John Harding, seconded by Thomas Fisher. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

At 8:32 P.M. the council reconvened the regular meeting.

Motion at 8:33 P.M. to adjourn this meeting was made by John Harding, seconded by Stephen Custer. Ayes 7, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Submitted By: Traci Horning, Executive Secretary