

BIRDSBORO BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 1, 2010, 7:00 P.M. . BOROUGH HALL

MINUTES

PRESENT: Aaron J. Durso, President
Steve Lusky, Vice President
Thomas Kanuck, Member
Kenneth J. Templin, Member
Nancy Kauffman, Member
Neil McCauley, Member
Angelene McKinney, Member
Karen T. Willman, Borough Manager
Robert M. Myers, Mayor
Theodore R. Roth, Chief of Police

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Durso called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Don Wary, 511 Jefferson Street, commented on the recent snow removal activities and thanked Mr. Durso for responding to a complaint.

MINUTES: The 2/8/10 meeting minutes will be considered for approval at the next meeting on 3/8/10.

BILLS LISTS:

- a. Accounts Payable dated 3/01/10: **Upon motion made** by Ms. Kauffman and seconds by Mr. Kanuck, Bills List dated 3/01/10 was unanimously approved.
- b. Checks for Ratification: **Upon motion made** by Mr. Templin and seconded by Mr. McCauley, checks written for the period of 2/8/10 through 2/28/10 were unanimously ratified as presented to Council.

BROWN & BROWN OF LEHIGH VALLEY: Presentation of the proposal for Life, AD&D and Short-term Disability Insurance was postponed to the 3/8/10 Council meeting.

MAYOR/POLICE REPORTS

Retirement/Sandra Feick: Mayor Myers announced that Sandra Feick, the police department secretary, will be retiring effective 4/1/10. With sincere regret, he asked that Council accept her retirement.

Upon motion made by Ms. McKinney and seconded by Mr. Lusky, Council unanimously accepted Sandra Feick's retirement.

Chief Roth reviewed two options for advertising the upcoming vacancy and requested authorization to advertise.

Upon motion made by Mr. McCauley and seconded by Ms. Kauffman, authorization to advertise for the position on Friday Saturday and Sunday in the Reading Eagle and Pottstown Mercury, once in the Berks Mont News and the borough's website and to begin the interview process was unanimously granted.

Chief Roth advised that Mr. Durso will participate in the interviews with the applicants. Mr. Lusky commented that we should have a salary range in mind before conducting interviews. He also asked Chief Roth if it would be possible to make the secretary's position a part-time position in order to save money, but the Chief said that is not possible. Ms. Kauffman commented that she feels the police secretary should work from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. instead of the current 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Mayor Myers advised that he received a copy of a letter from a resident on E. 8th Street regarding recent snow plowing activities and several activities performed by borough employees. The borough manager will look into the complaints and respond back to the resident. Chief Roth commented that the borough employees did a great job of snow removal during the last two back-to-back snow storms.

Mayor Myers commented that some time ago, he was criticized for his membership in ~~Mayors~~ against Illegal Guns; he reminded everyone that the operative word is ~~Illegal~~. The Mayor said that he is a gun owner and hunts as well, but feels strongly that illegal guns are a problem and it needs to be addressed. To that end, ~~Mayors~~ against Illegal Guns has drafted an ordinance and a resolution which, if enacted, would require that owners of handguns that are stolen must report the incident to the police department. Mr. Durso read a letter of support for the mayor's request that Council consider adoption of the ordinance and resolution.

Mutual aid agreement with Robeson Township: **Upon motion made** by Ms. Kauffman and seconded by Mr. Templin, authorization to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with Robeson Township, subject to Robeson Township accepting a 90-day notice of termination, was granted. It is noted that Mr. Durso voted no. Motion passed 6 to 1.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Tom Yuhas of Horizon Engineering was present and reviewed engineering activities for the month of February.

ADA Requirements: Mr. Yuhas clarified that anytime borough roads are resurfaced, we are required to bring the handicap ramps up to PennDOT ADA requirements. Mr. McCauley commented that handicap ramps were brought up to specifications in the last few years; PennDOT subsequently changed those specifications. He also said to do it again is cost prohibitive for the borough.

Grease Trap Requirement: Mr. Yuhas commented that there is an ordinance on the books relative to businesses which requires that they have a grease trap installed. It was council's consensus that a letter quoting the ordinance be sent out to any businesses in Birdsboro and Union Township using the sewer plant in Birdsboro advising of this ordinance and asking for their help in minimizing the problem.

Upon motion made by Mr. Lusky and seconded by Mr. Templin, authorization was unanimously granted to the Engineer of Record, in cooperation with the Birdsboro Municipal Authority, to send a letter to businesses (i. e., restaurants, garages, etc.) restating the ordinance requirements.

PWD Facility Expansion: Mr. Yuhas advised that the specifications for the Public Works Department facility expansion are ready to advertise for bids. Some discussion took place regarding awarding the project to a contractor vs. having the borough employees do the work. While there is no obligation for the borough to award the project, it would be helpful to go out for bids.

Motion was made by Ms. Kauffman and seconded by Mr. Kanuck to authorize advertisement of the Public Works Department facility expansion project for bids. It is noted that Messrs. Lusky and Durso voted against the motion. Motion passed 5-2.

Maple Springs and Cocalico Road Paving Project: Letters advising residents of the impending road paving and their responsibility with regard to sidewalks have been prepared and are ready to be mailed. Mr. Yuhas suggested that the road paving should wait until school is out for the summer in order to prevent disruption of school bus service.

Motion was made by Ms. Kauffman and seconded by Mr. Kanuck, to authorize mailing letters to residents of Maple Springs and Cocalico Road advising them of the impending roadwork and their responsibility with regard to curb and sidewalk.

Sidewalk on Water Street: Mr. Yuhas advised Council that if sidewalk is to be installed on Water Street along with curbing, the project will need to be re-estimated. This project includes sidewalk at Vest Pocket Park, around the bridge at E. First Street and the west side of Water Street.

Upon motion made by Mr. Kanuck and seconded by Mr. Lusky, authorization was unanimously granted to include the addition of sidewalk on the west side of Water Street.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Traffic Counting: Ms. Willman advised that beginning in March and ending in June, 2010, Tri-State Traffic Data, Inc. will be conducting traffic counts in PennDOT District 5; this data is used by the Federal Highway Administration in a federal funding allocation formula which determines the amount of money the state receives from the Federal Government.

General Code: Ms. Willman advised that she has placed several calls to General Code regarding the codification project, but has not yet received a response.

Main Bird Parking Lot: Ms. Willman commented that she asked and Amarack (the forestry company working for MetEd) to trim some trees within the borough and to remove two trees in Vest Pocket Park. This work was done for the borough and the Amarack trucks are now gone from the parking lot.

Dump Truck Transmission: **Upon motion made** by Ms. Kauffman and seconded by Ms. McKinney, authorization to expend \$2,500 to replace the transmission in the 1999 dump truck with a rebuilt transmission was unanimously granted.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Mr. Imes advised Council of an emergency management meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, 3/11/10 at the Union Township municipal building.

COUNCIL/ COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Kanuck reminded everyone of the municipal officials dinner and program being held on Thursday, 3/4/10, at the Reading Country Club.

Ms. McKinney reminded council members of the Community Meal on Tuesday, 3/2/10, being held at the Boone Area Library.

Mr. Lusky announced that the Recreation Board has arranged the "Taste of Berks", a food festival with up to 50 area restaurants. Various culinary teachers and students will do the judging. Registration cost is \$50 and applications will be distributed and can also be picked up at borough hall. He also said the Berks Baseball Association Tournaments will also be held the same weekend.

Mr. Lusky advised that the Birdsboro Economic Development Committee met on 2/25/10 at Italian Delite. Most attendees were Birdsboro business owners who discussed a multitude of topics. The next meeting will be held on 3/25/10 at 12:00 Noon at Italian Delite. It was suggested that businesses and civic groups have a link on the borough website and vice versa. Mayor Myers added that it is important to recognize that businesses are vital to the revitalization of Birdsboro.

Ms. Kauffman said that it would be beneficial that the consultant who is doing the Compatible Economic Study attend the Birdsboro Economic Development Committee meeting since funds may available for other projects.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered into executive session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss employee matters and Armorcast litigation procedures. Council resumed its regular session at 10:25 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion made by Ms. Kauffman and seconded by Ms. McKinney, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen T. Willman
Borough Manager