

**BOROUGH OF BERLIN  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 28, 2010  
BERLIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
59 SO. WHITE HORSE PIKE  
BERLIN, N.J.  
7:00 PM**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR ARMANO.**

**FLAG SALUTE LED BY MAYOR ARMANO.**

**SUNSHINE NOTICE:** Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice has been advertised in the Courier Post and posted on the Borough Hall Bulletin Board at the Berlin Hotel giving the date, place and time of said meeting.

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor John Armano, Council President Nick Maccaroni, Council members Scelso, Sahina, and Bilella were present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Council meeting of December 6, 2010. Motion to approve minutes made by Scelso and seconded by Bilella. All were in favor.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2010:**

Tax collector's report in the amount of \$3,149,612.25.

Water and sewer report in the amount of \$82,560.83.

Construction report in the amount of \$4,160.00.

Municipal clerk's report in the amount of \$4,090.28.

Municipal clerk's report in the amount of \$8,177.86.

Motion to approve department reports for the month of November made by Bilella and seconded by Scelso. All were in favor.

**PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:**

No one addressed council.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

· MAYOR ARMANO presented a plaque to Councilman Joe Sahina for his service as a councilman for the community. Councilman Sahina told the council that it was a pleasure serving with them all. /Mayor Armano passed out a drawing of the community center floor that Councilman Casey helped design./The Mayor explained Resolution R12-24 regarding the entering into an agreement with the Cumberland County SPCA Animal Shelter explaining that the Camden County Animal Shelter in Blackwood is raising their fees from \$7920.00 to \$8976.00 for the year 2011. He also explains that the billing is based on 135 animals being picked up a year and the number of animals picked up in Berlin Borough for 2010 was only 53. Both he and the administrator spoke to the shared service coordinator Lou DeAngelo from the County in an effort to stay with the county. Lou informed them that the county could not lower the fee. Administrator expressed that another benefit that will be reaped from Cumberland is that there is a vet on staff, whereas, the borough has to pay approximately \$1000. or more vet bills during the course of a year for animals that have to be attended to from the borough when picked up. /Cell phones will be upgraded back to Sprint. Cost is a little cheaper and Sprint is offering one month free.

· BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, Chairman Scott Scelso reports that all grounds were cleared well from the snow storm. /Wishes all a Happy New Year and tells Councilman Sahina he will be missed on council.

· STREETS & ROADS, Chairman James Bilella states that the snow has held up some of the road program, however, the Park Avenue drainage and curbing is complete. Commends the DPW for the good job of plowing during the snow storm. /Thanks Councilman Sahina stating it was a pleasure working with him.

· WATER & SEWER, Chairman Joe Sahina reports that there was a water main break on Franklin Avenue the day of the snow storm. Commends the DPW for their efforts and for them always going the extra mile and doing

· PUBLIC SAFETY, Chairman Dennis Chance was absent.

· HEALTH & RECREATION, Chairman Bill Casey was absent.

· FINANCE, Chairman Nick Maccaroni states that because a State of Emergency was declared for this last snow storm the borough should be able to apply for FEMA funding. /Thanks Councilman Sahina for his work as a Councilman.

· SOLICITOR, George Botcheos was not at this meeting.

· ADMINISTRATOR, Charleen Santora. Administrator gave the report on the snow removal hours noting that the two foremen started at 2 pm on Dec. 26, the rest of the DPW crew with the exception of two men started at 3:30 pm. Two men were called in at 11:30 pm and the shift ended at 3:30 pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> with the exception of five men who had to stay until 5:00 pm to finish the water main break. All hours were at double time. The approximate cost of the storm will be around \$12,000. Half of these salaries will be paid for 2010 and the other half for 2011. She is hopeful that the FEMA money of \$18,000 that is due the borough will be received before the end of the year. /Explains the resolution on agenda for the transferring of funds noting that

none of these transfers were due to over spending that could be helped. All extra money needed in line items were operating costs that could not be determined when the budget was adopted./Commends the job Foreman Joe Lubrano is doing during the absence of Superintendent Mark Mauger along with the entire DPW department. Explains that Vital Communications, Inc. of Trenton, N. J. who is doing our re-evaluation is complete and a letter will be sent out from them the first week of January, 2011 with all home owners' new assessments. This letter explains the process and what, if in the event, a tax payer wishes to appeal, how they can do so. All appeals will be heard by appointment the entire month of January set up by Vital she states.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

Meeting open to the public on Resolutions R12-16; 2010 through R12-25; 2010.

Motion to close public hearing made by Scelso and seconded by Bilella. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION R12-16; 2010, AUTHORIZAITON TO APPROVE APPROPRIATION TRANSER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,350.00 FROM INSIDE THE CAP TO INSIDE THE CAP.

RESOLUTION R12-17; 2010, APPROVAL TO TRANSFER \$49,633.05 FROM THE REFORESTATION GRANT FUNDS TO THE GENERAL FUND.

RESOLUTION R12-18; 2010, AUTHORATION TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL AGREEMENT WITH COUNTYWIDE ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL FROM NEWFIELD, NJ FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2011 FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$7200.00.  
(CERTIFICATIONS OF FUNDS APPROVED BY CFO)

RESOLUTION R12-19; 2010 AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF OUTSTANDING CHECKS TOTALING \$5195.64.

RESOLUTION R12-20; 2010, A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO EXEMPT THE RESERVE FOR UNCOLLECTED TAXES FROM THE 2% CAP.

RESOLUTION R12-21; 2010, AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE A MERCANTILE LICENSE FOR DIANA A. THISTLE, T/A MOM'S MADNESS LLC LOCATED AT 126 SO. WHITE HORSE PIKE BERLIN FOR THE SALE OF HAIR SALON PRODUCTS.

RESOLUTION R12-22;2010, AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE A MERCANTILE LINCENSE FOR MARLA FASTI, T/A M & M MERCHANTS STORE # 319 LOCATED AT 41 CLEMENTON ROAD FOR THE SALE OF CLOTHING.

RESOLUTION R12-23; 2010, AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE A MERCANTILE LICENSE FOR TARA L. HUSTER, TA/A TRAR LEE'S SALON LOCATED AT 360 SO. WHITE HORSE PIKE FOR THE SALE OF HAIR PRODUCTS.

RESOLUTION R12-24;2010, AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A ONE YEAR AGREEMENT WITH CUMBERLAND COUNTY SPCA AND ANIMAL SHELTER, VINELAND, NJ FOR ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2011.

RESOLUTION R12-25; 2010, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN AUTHORIZNG 4<sup>TH</sup>. QUARTER 2010 UTILITY BILL ADJUSTMENTS.

Motion to adopt Resolutions R12-16 through R12-25; 2010 made by Sahina seconded by Bilella. Councilman Scelso asks for an explanation to Resolution R12-16:2010. The administration goes into detail as to when and why transfers are done by Municipalities. Ayes; Maccaroni, Scelso, Sahina and Bilella to all Resolutions. Councilman Scelso abstains on Resolution R12-21; 2010.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE END OF YEAR 2010** IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 315,813.29, Motion made by Maccaroni and seconded by Bilella. All were in favor.

Motion to recess this council meeting until Re-organization meeting of January 7, 2010 at 7:00 pm made by Scelso seconded by Bilella. All were in favor.

Meeting was recessed at 7:40 pm. Will resume at 7:00 pm, January 7, 2011 at the Municipal Building, 59 South White Horse Pike, Berlin.

Charleen Santora, RMC