

**BOROUGH OF BERLIN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2012
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 SO WHITE HORSE PIKE
BERLIN N J 08009
6:30 PM**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR ARMANO.

FLAG SALUTE LED BY THE MAYOR.

SUNSHINE NOTICE: Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Pursuant to Public 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice has been advertised in the Courier Post and Philadelphia Inquirer showing the date, place and time of said meeting.

ROLL CALL: Mayor John J. Armano, Council President Scott Scelso, Council members Maccaroni, Chance, Bilella, and Pearce were all present.

PRESENT ALSO: Solicitor George Botcheos.

SERGEANT PROMOTION:

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANT WITH CONFIRMATION FROM COUNCIL TO APPOINT PATROLMAN MILLARD WILKINSON TO THE POSITION OF SERGEANT FOR THE BERLIN BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 6, 2012.

Motion made by Chance, Seconded by Maccaroni. All governing body members present were in favor.

OATH OF OFFICE: Officer Millard Wilkinson was sworn in by Mayor John Armano. His wife Jamie and son Millard Cameron held his personal Bible.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

CFO STEPHEN MILLER: Discussion on the completion of the 2011 audit report noting that there were no deficiencies again this year comparing with the 2007 audit that had a total of 25 comments and recommendations as well as 100 discussion items. Borough is doing a good job Miller states. /67% of this year's budget has been spent to date being right on his target projection. He will update the council in October for the upcoming 2013 budget./He explains that the borough will lose some of the Safe and Secure grant money due to the fact that we were short the number of police officers needed to fulfill this grant but this will change when a new officer is hired.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT MARK MAUGER:

July was busy with the usual work and the July 4 holiday preparations and then the July 4 clean up./54 fire hydrants have been painted./He is considering the purchase of a new dumpster with recycling funds to allow DPW to take metals to Camden or Egg Harbor and keep the proceeds for the borough rather than have the current verbal agreement with a salvage yard in Waterford keep the proceeds when they haul away the metal.

MAYOR ARMANO STATED THAT THE MECHANICS GARAGE LOOKS GREAT AND HAS BEEN CLEANED UP NICELY.

THE COMMUNITY CENTER AIR CONDITIONER DOES NOT HAVE A FILTRATION SYSTEM AND BECAUSE OF THIS THE AIR CONDITIONER IS COLLECTING DUST. THE COST WILL BE ABOUT \$2,000.00 FOR FILTRATION SYSTEM.

CHIEF MICHAEL DELORENZO PROVIDED A REPORT FOR JUNE. PLEASE SEE ATTACHED REPORT.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Caucus meeting of May 29, 2012

Caucus/council meeting of June 26, 2012

Council meeting of July 2, 2012

Motion to approve the minutes made by Chance, Seconded by Scelso. All governing body members present voted in favor.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE; 2012.

Construction department \$11,707.00

Municipal Clerk's report \$21,422.85

Animal report \$4,061.00

Tax collector's \$144,328.47

Tax collector's utility \$535,944.34

Court administrators

Bureau of Fire Prevention \$6,980.10

Ambulance Calls 190

Zoning report (copied)

Motion made by Maccaroni, Seconded by Bilella. All governing body members present were in favor.

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR:

MILLARD WILKINSON, 9 TAVISTOCK DRIVE – SPOKE ABOUT COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN REGARD TO WITHDRAW FROM CAMDEN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM – SEE ATTACHED REPORT

TRISHA STRONG, 14 NEW YORK AVENUE – TRISHA SUGGESTED THAT THE BOROUGH SIT DOWN AND SPEAK WITH COUNTY ABOUT WITHDRAWING FROM THE CAMDEN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM. SHE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RAMIFICATIONS IN REGARD TO THE RESIDENTS OF BERLIN BOROUGH.

MAYOR ARMANO EXPLAINED THAT HE AND MILLARD WILKINSON DID REACH OUT TO THE COUNTY FREEHOLDERS AND HAVE NOT GOTTEN ANY RESPONSE. ALSO, ABOUT \$360,000.00 GOES TO THE COUNTY FOR SERVICES AND THE BOROUGH WOULD RATHER HAVE THE MONEY GO DIRECTLY TO THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY IN AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE MORE VALUABLE RESOURCES AND BRING THE LIBRARY UP TO SPEED. THERE WILL BE AN AMOUNT OF ABOUT \$267,000.00 AVAILABLE TO THE LIBRARY IN DOING SO. THERE WILL BE A REFERENDUM ON THE BALLOT FOR THE COMMUNITY TO BE ABLE TO VOTE ON THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CAMDEN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM.

BETTY VELIE, 230 ROOSEVELT BLVD – BETTY STATED THAT THERE IS CONFUSION ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THE LIBRARY. SHE ASKED IF THERE WILL BE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO LIBRARY EMPLOYEES, PREFERABLY A BULLET LIST IN LAMENT TERMS, SO THEY CAN BETTER EXPLAIN TO THE PATRONS WHAT IS GOING ON.

MAYOR ARMANO SAID THE BOROUGH IS GOING TO PROVIDE A CIRCULAR AND LETTER WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS SO THEY ARE INFORMED OF THE FACTS. THE BOROUGH IS NOT SELLING THE LIBRARY OR SHUTTING IT DOWN; THE BOROUGH IS PLANNING ON MAKING THE LIBRARY STRONGER FOR THE COMMUNITY AND MAKING IT A FREE LIBRARY.

NICK GUERERE, 12 GLENVIEW AVENUE – MR. GUERERE ASKED WHAT THE COST WOULD BE FOR THE BOROUGH FOR THE TWO YEARS THAT REMAINING WITH THE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HAVING A GRAPH OR A VISUAL THAT GIVES A BREAKDOWN WILL BE VERY HELPFUL AND IT WILL BE APPRECIATED BY THE RESIDENTS.

TRICINA BEEBE, 3 CONSTITUTION BLVD – ASKED THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: DOES THE GOVERNING BODY PLAN TO PUT SOMETHING IN WRITING ABOUT BREAKING AWAY FROM THE COUNTY LIBRARY?; WILL THE LIBRARY STILL PROVIDE THE SAME TYPE OF SERVICES SUCH AS DOWNLOADS?; WILL THERE BE A TAX INCREASE DUE TO THE NEW SERVICES THAT WILL BECOME AVAILABLE?; IS THE HOTEL GOING TO BE USED FOR THE LIBRARY?; WHAT WILL THE NEW TAX RATE BE?; AND WILL RESIDENTS STILL BE PAYING THE SAME AMOUNT?

MAYOR ARMANO PROVIDED EXPLANATIONS FOR EACH QUESTION ASKED. ALSO, MILLARD WILKINSON GAVE INSIGHT ABOUT THE DEED OF TRUST REGARDING THE LIBRARY.

MAYOR ARMANO CLOSED PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR.

COUNCIL WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION TO HOLD INTERVIEWS

FOR CLASS II OFFICERS FOR THE BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Motion to go into closed session made by Chance, Seconded by Bilella. All governing body members present were in favor.

Motion to go back into open session made by Pearce, Seconded by Bilella. All governing body members present were in favor.

Motion to appoint Class II Officers, Joshua F. Smith and Ryan M. Heron, made by Pearce, seconded by Maccaroni. All governing body members present were in favor with the exception of Councilman Chance who voted no.

COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

MAYOR JOHN J. ARMANO DISCUSSED A LETTER RECEIVED FROM DODD'S REALTORS IN REFERENCE TO 131 SOUTH WHITE HORSE PIKE. THERE IS SOMEONE INTERESTED IN RENTING THE PROPERTY AND UTILIZING IT AS A WEDDING CHAPEL AT A COST OF \$1195.00 INCLUDING UTILITIES. THIS WOULD BE AN 18 MONTH LEASE. COUNCILMAN MACCARONI EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT PARKING ISSUES IF USED AS WEDDING CHAPEL. ALSO, COUNCILMAN MACCARONI ASKED IS THERE IS A FINANCIAL HISTORY AVAILABLE ON THE PROSPECTIVE RENTER. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION BETWEEN MAYOR ARMANO AND THE GOVERNING BODY THEY DECIDED TO PUT THE OFFER BACK ON THE TABLE.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, CHAIRMAN SCOTT SCELSON REPORTED ON 16 HAINES AVENUE STATING THAT ON AUGUST 13, 2012 THE UTILITIES WILL BE DISCONNECTED AND THEN WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO AFTER THAT THE BUILDING WILL COME DOWN. COUNCILMAN SCELSON ALSO COMMENTED ON RESOLUTION 8-10; 2012 IN REGARD TO THE CLEAN ENERGY GRANT. THE GRANT WILL ALLOW FOR MORE EFFICIENT UPGRADES WHICH WILL ENABLE THE BOROUGH TO SAVE MORE MONEY.

WATER & SEWER, CHAIRMAN LYNN KUPCHIK WAS ABSENT.

STREETS & ROADS, CHAIRMAN JIM BILELLA REPORTED ON THE 2011 ROAD PROGRAM STATING THAT IT WILL BE WRAPPED UP IN NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. AS FAR AS THE 2012 ROAD PROGRAM GOES, THE PUNCH LIST WILL BE DONE BY FALL. COUNCILMAN BILELLA ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE CDBG GRANT AND INFORMED THE GOVERNING BODY THAT THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING AVAILABLE IS NOT GROWING ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.

HEALTH & RECREATION, CHAIRMAN JIM PEARCE DISCUSSED ORDERING A NEW MECHANISM FOR THE LOCK BOX AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT A COST OF \$1,000.00. ALSO, DEBBIE SIMONE WILL NOW HAVE 2 ADDITIONAL KEYS AVAILABLE FOR THE COMMUNITY CENTER. COUNCILMAN PEARCE COMMENTED THAT TONIGHT THERE WILL BE A SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE 2012-12 IN REGARD TO STORAGE USE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER. ALSO, CAMP LONG A COMING DIRECTOR, EILEEN JOHNSON HAS RESIGNED FROM HER POSITION AND SHE WILL MAKE SOME RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO WHO SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO FILL HER POSITION. LASTLY, COUNCILMAN PEARCE REPORTED THAT THE TENNIS CAMP WAS NOT AS SUCCESSFUL AS IT WAS HOPED TO BE.

PUBLIC SAFETY, CHAIRMAN DENNIS CHANCE SPOKE IN REGARD TO A LETTER WRITTEN TO FREEHOLDER, LOUIS CAPPELLI ABOUT THE CALLS THE POLICE HANDLED IN THE BERLIN PARK. ALSO, COUNCILMAN CHANCE REPORTED THAT THE BOROUGH BILLED THE COUNTY FOR TIME SPENT. COUNCILMAN CHANCE THANKED THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMAN BILELLA FOR THE SPEED BUMPS PUT IN PLACE ON HAINES AVENUE; MANY GREAT COMPLIMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

FINANCE, CHAIRMAN NICK MACCARONI COMMENTED ON THE AUDIT REPORT ON PAGE 112. THIS IS THE SECOND YEAR THAT THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY RECOMMENDATIONS. THE BOROUGH IS GOING IN A REALLY GOOD DIRECTION AND IT IS A GOOD REPORT TO SEND OFF TO THE STATE.

SOLICITOR, GEORGE BOTCHEOS DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO REPORT.

ADMINISTRATOR, CHARLEEN SANTORA REPORTED ON THE BID OPENING THAT TOOK PLACE IN REGARD TO THE CHLORINATION SYSTEM. THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER WAS LEVEL I CONSTRUCTION FROM WILLIAMSTOWN, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$108,000.00.

RESOLUTION R8-14; 2012, A RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE CAMDEN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM.

Motion made by Pearce, Seconded by Chance. All governing members present were in favor.

Questions;

All governing members present were in favor.

ORDINANCES

2nd. Reading

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-11, AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING THAT THE CLERK OF CAMDEN COUNTY INCLUDE A PUBLIC QUESTION ON THE OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION IN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN.

Motion to open public hearing; _____, Sec.; _____, RCV_____.

Motion to close public hearing; _____, Sec.; _____, RCV_____.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No 2012-11 made by Pearce, Seconded by Chance. All governing members present were in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-12, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN ENTITLED, "COMMUNITY CENTER, USE OF".

Motion to open public hearing; _____, Sec.; _____, RCV_____.

Motion to close public hearing; _____, Sec.; _____, RCV_____.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-12 made by Pearce, Seconded by Bilella. All governing members present were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

Meeting open to the public on Resolutions R8-1 through R8-9; 2012 and R8-13; 2012

Meeting closed to the public.

RESOLUTION R8-1; 2012; A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE YEAR 34 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT AGREEMENT.

RESOLUTION R8-2;2012, A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ENTERING INTO A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT APPLICATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013 WITH GIBBSBORO BOROUGH AND VOORHEES TOWNSHIP.

RESOLUTION R8-3; 2012, 2011 AUDIT COMPLIANCE APPROVAL.

RESOLUTION R8-4; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DUE DATE FOR TAX BILLS TO BE EXTENDED TO AUGUST 20, 2012.

RESOLUTION R8-5;2012, AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE A REFUND OF PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12.00 FOR A CAMP LONG A COMING T SHIRT TO CHRISTOPHER MALONE, 22 ARISTONE DRIVE, BERLIN NJ.

R8-6; 2012, A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN ARBITRAGE POLICY TO COMPLY WITH INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICES REQUIREMENTS.

RESOLUTION R8-7; 2012, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF DEVELOPER ESCROW BALANCES FOR;

BLOCK 801, LOT 17, \$53. 00

BLOCK 2008, LOT 9 \$90.50

BLOCK 518, LOT 1 \$123.75

BLOCK 1304, LOT 11 \$1616.25.

RESOLUTION R8-8; 2012, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH AUTHORIZING THE SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND OF \$401.60 FOR HYDRANT METER RENTAL BY SAIC ENERGY COMPANY.

RESOLUTION R8-9; 2012 (Resolution not needed. Number voided)

RESOLUTION R8-10; 2012 APPROVAL TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CLEAN ENERGY GRANT WITH HUTCHINSON SERVICES OF CHERRY HILL NJ, THE STATE APPROVED CONTRACTOR FOR THIS GRANT FOR THE CLEAN ENERGY DIRECT INSTALL PROGRAM TO REAP AT ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS TOTALING \$21,506.66 FOR THE POST OFFICE, LIBRARY AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING ENERGY UPGRADES.

RESOLUTION R8-11;2012, APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO AN APPEAL WITH 68 OTHER MUNICIPALITIES REGARDING HOPEWELL V VERIZON IN AN EFFORT NOT TO LOOSE VERIZON'S BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES AT A COST OF \$220.00, (PO # 12 01073)

RESOLUTION R8-12; 2012, APPROVAL TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR CHLORINATION SYSTEM FOR WELL NO. 15 TO THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, LEVEL 1 CONSTRUCTION OF WILLIAMSTOWN, NJ FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$108,000.00. (CFO HAS CERTIFIED THE FUNDS)

RESOLUTION R8-13;2012, MERCANTILE LICENSE APPROVAL FOR ANTIJUAN MILLS, T/A BABY BOOM TALENT AGENCY LOCATED AT 125 SOUTH WHITE HORSE PIKE FOR SPECIALIZING IN KIDS TALENT BUSINESS.

Motion to adopt Resolutions R8-1 through R8-9; 2012 and R8-13; 2012 excluding Resolution # 8-9 made by Chance, Seconded by Pearce. All governing body members present were in favor.

PAYMENT OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2012 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,120,144.71.

Motion made by Bilella, Seconded by Scelso. All governing members present were in favor.

Motion to adjourn made by Pearce, Seconded by Bilella. All governing members present were in favor.

Charleen Santora, RMC