

**BOROUGH OF BERLIN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 27, 2012
6:00 PM
MUNICIPAL BLDG.
59 SO. WHITE HORSE PIKE
BERLIN N J 08009**

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 Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice has been advertised in the Courier Post showing the date, place and time of said meeting.

ROLL CALL: Mayor John J. Armano, Council President Scott Scelso, Council members Maccaroni, Bilella, and Pearce were all present. Councilwoman Kupchik was absent and Councilman Chance arrived at 6:50 pm.

PRESENT ALSO: Solicitor George Botcheos, Special Counsel Attorney Stuart Platt and Planner Brian Slaugh.

- **SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICER.**

Steven M. Palma from Blackwood, NJ was sworn in by Mayor Armano to the position of Berlin Borough Police Officer effective January 1, 2013. Steven's wife Jennifer held the Bible.

ORDINANCES:

2ND. READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-19, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 335, ZONING AND LAND USE, TO CREATE THE R-5 ZONING DISTRICT FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

Hearing open to the public.

Hearing closed to the public.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-19 was made by Maccaroni seconded by Scelso. All were in favor.

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-20, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 193, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AND CHAPTER 335, ZONING AND LAND USE, TO CONFORM WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.A.C. 5:96-1 ET SEQ. AND N.J.A.C. 5:97-1 ET SEQ.

Hearing open to the public.

Hearing closed to the public.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-20 was made by Maccaroni seconded by Bilella. All were in favor.

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Will be on re-organization agenda for approval.

- **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2012.**

Tax Collectors report	\$3,084,604.54
Utility report	82,915.17
Construction report	18,023.00
Court report	16,489.68
Zoning Permits fees	195.00
Rental resale inspections	200.00
Community Center rental	975.00
Municipal Clerk's report	2,978.00
Bureau of Fire Prevention inspections	3,226.00
Fire Rescue Calls	51
Zoning/Construction report	

Motion to approve made by Scelso seconded by Bilella. All were in favor.

- **TAX COLLECTOR LISA EGGERT**

Lisa reports that as of this date the tax collection rate is 94.97% noting that rate will affect the 2013 budget in a negative way. She gave a list of the ten top delinquent taxpayers in the borough noting that the Days Inn and Armstrong Capital were two of the ten. Mr. Patel from Days Inn was at this meeting requesting a one time payment plan that by statute he is entitled to. Lisa notes that there are strict requirements for payment plans and does not recommend this due to Days Inn's past history of always being late in paying their taxes. The council made it very clear to Mr. Patel that if he takes the plan and does not meet the requirements of the plan, his property will go up for tax sale. Mr. Patel understood this and stated so on the record. As of this date the amount owed is \$8606.00/Discussion on Armstrong Capital and what they owe and how that affects the 2013 budget also.

A motion was made to approve the one time payment plan for the Days Inn by Pearce seconded by Bilella. Ayes, Scelso, Bilella and Pearce. Councilman Maccaroni voted no.

- **ARCHITECT ALAN BLAIR WILL PRESENT TO COUNCIL PLANS FOR THE NEW ADDITION FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND RENOVATIONS FOR 59 SO. WHITE HORSE PIKE.**

Mr. Blair went over the preliminary plans for the new addition (police station) and the renovation of 59 South White Horse Pike. Councilman Bilella had many questions and does not feel that we are ready to move on any approval to just preliminary drawings. Councilman Pearce feels that we should postpone any approvals until the New Year when Councilman Elect Knight will chair buildings and grounds. There was a lot of discussion in regards to the phases of the project, who was going to be the general contractor, etc. At this time it was decided that the amount of money needed to put a bond in place was not clear yet, however, a motion was made by Scelso to have Mayor Armano discuss with the CFO setting up a requisition to pay Alan Blair a percentage to date from the line item renovations to municipal buildings seconded by Pearce. All were in favor.

At this time there were four residents from Winslow Township at the meeting to speak on public hearing of Ordinances that was originally advertised for 7 pm but was changed to 6 pm.

Doreen Hyde, 514 Riggs Avenue, Winslow Twp., NJ

Anita Rivera, 524 Riggs Avenue, Winslow Twp., NJ

Osborn, 536 Riggs Avenue, Winslow Twp., NJ

All had questions and concerns about the Nexus settlement, however, did state they understood that there wasn't any choice regarding the approval. Council explained that any project will have to go in front of the planning board for all approvals and all of them being within 200 feet of the project will be notified and afforded the opportunity to attend all planning board meetings.

- **COUNCILMAN CHANCE RECOGNIZED:**

Mayor Armano presented Councilman Chance with a plaque congratulating and thanking him for his service to the community as councilman for the past three years. Councilman Chance thanks the Mayor and council.

- **COUNCIL MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**
- MAYOR JOHN ARMANO

The mayor thanks Councilman Pearce and Kupchik for attending the candlelight vigil held in Berlin Township in regards to the Connecticut shootings. /He wrote to the Camden County Freeholders stating that the borough is requesting \$18,000 towards policing the county parks.

- BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, Chairman Scott Scelso wishes all a happy new year.
- STREETS & ROADS, Chairman James Bilella wishes all a happy new year.
- WATER & SEWER, Chairman Lynn Kupchik was absent.

- HEALTH & RECREATION, Chairman Jim Pearce Community Center's sign is in and will be installed. /Interviews will be held for the replacement of the Camp Director for 2013. /Rotary is working on the purchasing of a defibrillator for the senior center. / Wishes all a Happy New Year.
- PUBLIC SAFETY, Chairman Dennis Chance wishes all a happy new year and again thanks the council.
- FINANCE, Chairman Nick Maccaroni Collector rate is down, however, the borough may be able to income average from the last three years collection rate.
- SOLICITOR, George Botcheos Dismissal without prejudice was concluded for Michael DeLorenzo.
- ADMINISTRATOR, Charleen Santora wishes all a happy new year.

ORDINANCE'S

2ND. READING

ORDINANCE NO. 2012-21, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 129 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN ENTITLED, "CONSTRUCTION CODES, UNIFORM"

Hearing open to the public.

Hearing closed to the public.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-21 made by Pearce seconded by Scelso. All were in favor.

RESOLUTIONS:

Meeting open to the public on Resolutions R12-18 through R12-26; 2012.

Meeting closed to the public.

RESOLUTION R12-18;2012, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 3RD. QUARTER 2012 UTILITY BILL ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,318.33 DUE TO OVERESTIMATION.

245 CUSHMAN AVE	-31.85
345 TOOMER AVE	-1176.50
383 THURMAN AVE	-958.98
175 S. W. H. P.	-54,913.50
100 PIEDMONT BLVD.	-715.00

RESOLUTION R12-19;2012, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX REFUND FOR BLOCK 2100 LOT 2.21 DUE TO REFINANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3383.77.

RESOLUTION R12-20; 2012, AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH COUNTYWIDE ANIMAL CARE OF NEWFIELD NJ FOR THE YEAR 2013 FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE UNCHANGED AMOUNT OF \$7200. FOR THE YEAR. (CFO HAS CERTIFIED THE FUNDS)

RESOLUTION R12-21; 2012, AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CUMBERLAND COUNTY SPCA OF VINELAND NJ FOR THE YEAR 2013 FOR ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES USING THE FEE SCHEDULE USED ONLY WHEN ANIMALS ARE SHELTERED.

RESOLUTION R12-22; 2012, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF POLICE ESCROW OUTSIDE SERVICES FEE TO THE BUCKLEY CABLE CONSTRUCTION CO. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$260.00

RESOLUTION R12-23; 2012, APPROVAL OF MERCANTILE LICENSE FOR LEE WELLER, T/A BERLIN BLOSSOM SHOPPE LOCATED AT 136 SO. WHITE HORSE PIKE FOR THE SALE OF FLOWERS.

RESOLUTION R12-24; 2012, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT PLAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8606.05 FOR 311 ROUTE 73.

RESOLUTION R12-25; 2012, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF WILLIAM BEHNKE AS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2012.

RESOLUTION R12-26;2012, APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATION TRANSFER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,950.00 FROM INSIDE CAP TO INSIDE CAP, \$8000.00 TRANSFER FROM WATER UTILITY TO WATER UTILITY AND \$1800.00 FROM SEWER UTILITY TO SEWER UTILITY.

Motion to adopt Resolutions R12-18 through R12-26; 2012 made by Chance seconded by Bilella. All were in favor.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 578,692.82 FROM NOVEMBER AND PART OF DECEMBER, 2012. Motion made by Maccaroni seconded by Bilella. All were in favor.

Mayor Armano wishes all a very happy new year.

Meeting will be recessed until January 5, 2013 at 1:00 pm.

Charleen Santora