

BOROUGH OF BERLIN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

FLAG SALUTE

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 showing the date, place and time of said meeting.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Jim Bilella, Council President Jim Pearce, Council members Kupchick, Badolato, Rocco, Buchanan

ABSENT: Council Member Miller

PRESENT ALSO: Solicitor Howard Long, Acting Municipal Clerk Lois Sahina and Administrator/CFO Mike Kwasizur

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS FOR THE MONTHS OF JUNE & JULY 2016

JUNE

Clerk's Report \$19,481.86

JULY

Clerk's Report	\$ 9,009.80
Tax Collector's Report-	\$ 1,242,797.87
Utility Report-	\$ 130,584.38
Court Administrator –	\$ 21,595.29
Permit Fees-	\$ 112,426.00
Zoning Fees-	\$ 1,790.00
Resale Inspections	\$1,600.00
Rental Inspection Fees-	\$ 3,000.00
Re-inspection Fees-	\$ 150.00
Community Center Fees-	\$ 1,075.00

Motion to Approve: Councilmember Buchanan, **Sec.:** Rocco,
RCV All present were in favor. Council President Pearce, Council Members -
Kupchick, Badolato, Buchanan, Rocco
Absent – Council Member Miller

- **COUNCIL REPORTS:**
- **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**, Chairman Len Badolato

The front entrance to Borough Hall had a leak which is now been fixed. There was a gutter problem at the side entrance near the police station. This created an icy walk way weather last winter. This problem has also been fixed.

Public works is in the process of removing the glass enclosure at the Borough Hall and insulating the doors.

We are also in the process of replacing the Lone- a- Coming sign on the front lawn of Borough Hall. This sign that the history of our town.

Our new administrator and clerk have been working on getting the problem with our video system fixed. It has been identified as a problem with the program. The company that installed the system will be out to fix this problem.

- **STREETS & ROADS**, Chairman Michael Buchanan

There will be a higher priority in regard to our streets that need the most attention first. Two new roads that have been added to the list to be repaired and repaved are Split Rail Court and Brill Ave. We are working on obtaining more DOT Grants because we don't want to run out of funding before the work is completed. We did receive a \$200,000 DOT grant to fix Atlantic and Cushman Ave which is a dead-end street but is in need of great repair.

Franklin Ave/Clementon Road will be restriped and the start date for the Blackwood Clementon Road Diet Project is September of 2016. This road will be redesigned from a four-way road to a two-way road. The shoulders on each side will be marked and created into bike lanes. This will help slow traffic down and create safer road conditions for the community. Arwark Paving will be making these improvements.

We are still in the process of determining where DPW will be installing speed humps.

The storm water sewer castings will be installed to make it safer for bicyclist to travel on our roads. They will lay flatter to the ground.

- **WATER & SEWER**, Chairman Ron Rocco

2016 reports for Mid-summer second quarter sewer and water income was reported along with the connection fees.

DPW repaired and 8inch water main leak on Clementon Road along with a repair on Tansboro Road. Water services on Atlantic Ave. were completed, checked and replaced.

A study is needed at the Chestnut Ave and Franklin Ave water towers. Borough Engineer, Pennoni has reported in three years the Chestnut Ave tank will need to have minor repairs done along with being painted on the interior and exterior. In five years, the Franklin Ave tank will also need minor repairs.

The Katherine Ave & Mt. Vernon water main project will be starting in August 2016 and targeted to finish by December 2016. Mount Constructions bid came in at \$211,000.00 and our estimated budget for this project was \$289,00.00. The work will be performed by Mount Construction.

Temporary emergency repairs were done at the Lake Worth station. We are currently waiting for pricing to make a permanent fix to this location.

All of the hydro flushing is complete and mains have been replaced including Berlin Estates. We will have to consider rehab to the sewer pipes in the future excluding Tansboro Road.

- **HEALTH & RECREATION**, Chairman Rick Miller

No report was given

- **PUBLIC SAFETY**, Chairman Jim Pearce

Statistical Reports were given for July in the areas of service calls, summons issued, arrests made, drug arrests, motor vehicle accidents and number of injuries resulting, and DWI. There were 8685 total miles put on our borough vehicles.

During our last big snow storm we received a \$21,000.00 check from FEMA for relief. We are trying to look out for our tax payer's dollars.

- **FINANCE**, Chairman Lynn Kupchik

A reminder to attend Fall Fest which will be on October 1, 2016. It is a very nice community event held on Broad Street

- **MAYOR**, Jim Bilella

Thank you to our Police Chief and Police Department for a very successful "National Night Out". It was a great event for the whole community. Thanks again to all our officers who came out and made this a fun event for all.

I had an opportunity to meet with Christen Martella, the new superintendent of the Berlin Community School and Frank Domain. We are working together to try and combine services in the area of solar power to help with the costs spent on electric while helping to improve our environment. She discussed her goals for the school and ultimately the borough and the school are working for the same tax payers and trying to improve our community events together.

- **SOLICITOR**, Howard Long

No report was given

- **ADMINISTRATOR/CFO**, Mike Kwasizur

No report was given

RESOLUTIONS

Meeting open to the public on Resolutions R8-01 through R8-3; 2016

RESOLUTION R8-01; 2016 - A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AWARDED ANDES JUNCTION - JEFFERSON AVENUE & MARSHALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS TO J. DAUNORAS INC. AS THE LOW QUOTE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,495.00. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED.

RESOLUTION R8-02; 2016 - A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDING ALL LATE MERCANTILE LICENSE FEES COLLECTED DURING JULY & AUGUST OF 2016.

RESOLUTION R8-03; 2016 - A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO WAIVE THE POSTING OF A PERFORMANCE & MAINTENANCE BOND FOR SCHAFFER FAMILY HOMES, BLOCKS 2211 LOTS 5.01 & 14 ..., THE BOROUGH ENGINEERS, PENNONI ASSOCIATES INC. HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO A WAIVER. INSPECTION ESCROW OF \$781.00 SHALL BE DEPOSITED.

RESOLUTION R8-04; 2016 - A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AWARDED A CONTRACT TO NAT ALEXANDER COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$293,749.99. THE QUOTE IS OVER 10% LESS THAN STATE CONTRACT A-80961.

Meeting closed to the public on Resolutions.

Motion to Approve Resolutions R8-1 through R8-4; 2016 Council President Pearce, Sec.;;
Councilman Badolato

RCV All present were in favor. Council President Pearce, Council Members -
Kupchick, Badolato, Buchanan, Rocco

**CHIEF De LORENZO – TO PRESENT VIRTUA AWARD AND PRIVATE CITIZEN
AWARD**

Chief De Lorenzo addressed Jim Noonan, Virtual Hospitals Director of Operations of EMS and Debbie Moran, from Community Based Services for their donation of the two new defibrillators. This will make for a quicker response for those members of our community who are in need of this heart saving device. A plaque was presented to them from the borough.

On May 20, 2016, a 911 call was received from resident, Nicholas Bill. He was home alone in the basement of his home when he heard a loud bang, breaking glass and footsteps on the main floor above. Because of Nicholas's courage and for though he immediately called 911. Police were immediately dispatched. The two assailants were apprehended and were found to have committed several prior robberies. On behalf of the Berlin Borough Police Department Nicolas was presented with a "Private Citizen" award for your bravery and quick action.

PRESENTATION TO CHIEF DE LORENZO

Mayor Biella presented Chief De Lorenzo with a retirement plaque for 27 years of service. Five of those years he served as Chief of Police for the Borough of Berlin. The Mayor commented how Chief De Lorenzo started as a patrolman on August 14, 1989 and moved through the ranks. As we all know, there is always constant change in this area of government. Chief De Lorenzo has taken our police force to the next level. He has set the bar very high and now he retires on August 31, 2016. Many congratulations and well wishes were extended to him in his retirement.

Chief De Lorenzo expressed his gratitude and thanks and stated that he couldn't have worked for a better town in the last 27 years. Their a great bunch of people and they took me in as family and made me feel like family the whole time. The police department is what it is today because of their work hard and they do a great job. I just ask you to continue to support their, efforts because they are going to always need that.

SWEARING IN OF NEW POLICE CHIEF- SERGEANT MICHAEL W. MILLER

Sergeant Michael W. Miller approached the front of the court room while Mayor Bilella swore in our new Chief of Police of Berlin Borough with his three children holding the bible.

The police officers were than dismissed.

- **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** - none
- **PAYMENT OF THE BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,560,964.90**

Motion – Council President Pearce **Sec.** Council Member Buchanan

RCV- All Council present were in favor President Pearce, Council Members - Kupchick, Badolato, Buchanan, Rocco

Absent – Council Member Miller

Motion to adjourn: – Council President Pearce **Sec.** Council Member Buchanan

RCV- All Council present were in favor President Pearce, Council Members - Kupchick, Badolato, Buchanan, Rocco

Absent – Council Member Miller

Lois J. Sahina
Acting Municipal Clerk/CMR
August 11, 2016