

BOROUGH OF BERLIN
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 SOUTH WHITE HORSE PIKE
BERLIN, NJ 08009
7:00 P.M.

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 Miller, Badolato, Rocco, Buchanan, & MacDonnell.

PRESENT ALSO: Solicitor Howard Long, Acting Municipal Clerk Lois J. Sahina and CMFO/Administrator Michael T. Kwasizur

Mayor Bilella announced that the JIF Training meeting will be held at the end of tonight's meeting

- **COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**
- BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, Chairman Len Badolato
 - Councilman Badolato explained that rights must be obtained before we can officially use the Berlin Long-A-Coming signage for the PNC bank sign. Cindy Williams from the DVRC informed us that we currently we do not own these rights, which was confirmed by Howard Long our Borough solicitor. This is being looked into.
 - Going forward we are looking to set up a meeting with the AA, Mayor Bilella and Brad Hoffman concerning the AA. We want to make sure that the money stays with the Berlin kids.
 - Drainage from the fields continues to be a problem and a topic of discussion of who will be funding this project. The ultimate decision will be in the hands of the Mayor and Council.

- **STREETS & ROADS, Chairman Dan MacDonnell**
 - The blocked trench near Leroy Avenue is being cleaned out by our DPW department on May 3, 2017.
 - Mayor and myself are meeting with the County to discuss the light on Crosskeys Road. The County has looked at the engineer report. We are asking for two traffic lights at both developments, Lone- a- Coming and Centennial Square.
 - I have been approached by residents about installing more stop signs. The local road program will be looked into in the summer. A few of the areas being considered are in the Belair section and The Woods.
 - Councilman Rocco questioned if we could look into a directional light at the intersection of Franklin and the White Horse Pike. Mayor Bilella stated that we can look into this but because it is a County/State road it is doubtful that we will be able to obtain.
 - Councilman Badolato expressed his concerns about how badly the traffic backs up at the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Clementon Road. If a bus is at the light on Franklin and is making a left hand turn it only allow the bus to go through the light. Council President Pearce remarked that there is no room to make the road at this location any bigger.

- **WATER & SEWER, Chairman Ron Rocco**
 - No report was given at this time, it will be given at the council meeting on May 11, 2017.

- **HEALTH & RECREATION, Chairman Mike Buchanan**
 - The Berlin Park Cleanup day will be on Saturday, May 13, 2017. After the cleanup, there will be a macro invertebrate demonstration at the lake.
 - The lost and found items at the community center continues to be a problem.
 - There are also a number of bikes that the police have found and not claimed. Our administrator Mike Kwasizur stated that he will be listing them on Gov. Deal or they can be donated.
 - The Berlin AA has asked if the Borough could supply them with trash cans at the snack stand. Council President Pearce commented that when he was on this committee he was also approached with this request; however, the problem is if the DPW trucks can get back to this area to empty the cans.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY, Chairman Jim Pearce**
 - There are two upcoming resolutions in reference to the new K-9 dog. Council President attended a Public Safety Meeting this week and the numbers are below what was expected with relationship to the dog and the lieutenant
 - Chief Miller has suggested that we promote (this difference of \$2000.00) and put a Class II SLEO Officer for street duty for the long term.
 - Councilman Rocco announced that there will be a candle light service held on May 4, 2017 at OLMC church.

- FINANCE, Chairman Rick Miller
 - Later on, our CFO will be talking about the property located on Jackson Road.
 - Councilman suggested that we look into a more updated process of obtaining a yard sale permit.
 - Councilman Miller questioned how we could have the trucks that are parked in the K-Mart shopping center removed. They are and eyesore.
 - Councilman MacDonnell commented that we could pass an ordinance, however this is only a temporary situation until Tansboro Road Project is completed.

- MAYOR, Jim Bilella
 - The DeSorte property, block 1502 lot 12, is a four-acre property that is land locked. This is because there is no street frontage. This makes the property undevelopable and the owners are trying to sell. They have asked for an easement. We have one of our pump stations on this property and that area is deemed borough property. If we declare this a public right away it will make the property sellable. There is no cost involved to the borough to deem this a right of way and it will raise the value of the property and produce a higher tax base for someone else to develop. There is a possibility of two or three homes that could be built on this land.
 - Council President Pearce asked if gets developed with something that we don't want in our community?
 - Mayor Bilella explained that this property is zoned R1 and this is how it must be developed. It can be subdivided for this purpose, however some of this property is in the pinelands. He also explained the this will be a backstreet access. An ordinance can be done by Mr. Long which will include and intro and adoption.

- SOLICITOR, Howard Long
 - I will need to go into closed session in order to a discuss land acquisition report.

- CMFO/ADMINISTRATOR, Michael T. Kwasizur
 - The sewer project bid came in much lower than expected.
 - I looked into a new program called "School Dude". This program would be used to assist Public Works. This program would allow the residents to log into this website and create a work order for problem areas that need to be addressed within the borough, for e.g. pot holes in the road or trash issues. This order would go directly to Public Works and they would be able to respond more quickly and sigh of directly after the problem was resolved. This would create a better line of communication for the residents to address this type of issue. The cost is approximately \$300.00 per year.
 - Chief Behnke also requested that the fire bolts on the hydrants be replaced because the ones we have currently are extremely hard to get off.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: No one spoke

MAYOR ASKED FOR MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Motion; Councilman Mac Donnell
Sec; Councilman Badolato
Voice Vote; All present were in favor

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND AQUISITION

Motion to go into open session; Councilman Mac Donnell
Sec; Councilman Badolato
Voice Vote; All present were in favor

Solicitor Howard Long, presented the JIF Training to Mayor and Council. He went over the ethical obligations of representing Berlin Borough as a governing body member. Explanation of full disclosure and indirect and direct conflicts were presented along with the consequences of your actions. Meeting lasted approximately one half hours.

Motion to adjourn; Council President Pearce
Sec.; Councilman Buchanan
Voice Vote; All present were in favor

Lois J. Sahina
Registered Municipal Clerk
May 2, 2017