

BOROUGH OF BERLIN
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 SO 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 Administrator/CFO Mike Kwasizur

Mayor Bilella presented Officer John Feger and his wife and child- Nora with a proclamation. He proclaimed February 7th – 14th as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week. His daughter has under gone many heart surgeries because of a heart defect that she was born with at birth. Her next surgery is upcoming in April. Through this proclamation, the Mayor and Council want to bring more awareness of this defect. It hits very close to home as Officer Fieger is an officer on the Berlin Police Department. Mayor Bilella explained that over 100,000 people have this problem and sometimes it is not diagnosed for years. With this proclamation, we support solutions and cure. There will be a Congenital Heart Defect Walk in June and the Mayor asks for support of Team Nora. More information will be posted on our website.

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

Councilman Badolato handed out the objectives that are planned for the upcoming 2017 year. The drainage problem at the ballfield and the HVAC system in the community center need to be addressed. We would also like to fix up the meeting rooms at the community center. There are some dead trees in town and we are looking at grants to help fund these projects.

- **STREETS & ROADS, Chairman Dan MacDonnell**

We are continuing to work on ongoing projects. We are looking at pedestrian crossing signs for the downtown area for some of the cross streets on the White Horse Pike. We are currently working with the County to have a traffic light installed on Cross Keys Road because of the increased traffic along this road.

We came in under budget on the 2016 Road Program and are in the process of deciding how and where to use the remaining money.

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

On January 25, 2017, I met with the supervisor of DPW and our engineers Pennoni Associates. We met to discuss the infrastructure of the water in town. The exterior of Well 1 & 2 have been completed. We replaced the lines on Franklin & Hayes Ave and completed a study on Hayes to Park Drive. In 2017 we hope to replace 275 pumps that are currently over 40 years old. We also completed a study that was done on Grover and Harrison and we are still working on the study in the Berlin Estates. We are looking into a trenchless sewer technology which would not require us to dig trenches. The technology is done by a remote control non-cutting device which would be joint-less and cause no corrosion to the pipelines. The bid quotes for this type of system came in lower than we had expected. Our funding for this project comes from our Water and Sewer Capital Fund. We will first focus on the water main and two water pumps and finishing of the water study in the Berlin Estates and the trenchless system.

- **HEALTH & RECREATION, Chairman Mike Buchanan**

We are looking at the cost to recover the chairs in the community center. The County also has a trail system which they are trying to encourage people to use. We are having our free Rabies Clinic on April 1, 2017 at the DPW. We also encourage residents to use Uber if they need to get from one end of town to the other, it is only \$6.00.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY, Chairman Jim Pearce**

We are in the process of the contract negotiations. We have been meeting a lot to discuss the contract, but can't disclose this information at this time, as we need close sections to discuss these matters.

- **FINANCE, Chairman Rick Miller**

I have met with our CFO to discuss the temporary budget. The financial statement and debt statement are completed at this time.

- **MAYOR, Jim Bilella**

I have met with Virtua Hospital in Berlin to push them to do more with their hospital property. We would like to see them expand their operations and do more advertising to let the public know that they still operate an ER and it has the lowest wait time and lab work and tests can still be done at this location. They are expanding their employees and programs on the 40 acres of property.

- **SOLICITOR, Howard Long – No report at this time**

- ADMINISTRATOR/CMFO, Michael T. Kwasizur

The new phone system will soon be installed in the library and DPW by J.R. Associates. The new DPW trash, recycle and bulk week magnets will be going out this week to all residents.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: No one spoke

Motion to enter into Closed Session; Councilman Miller
Sec.; Council President Pearce
Voice Vote – All in favor

Council entered into Closed Session to discuss collective bargaining issues. Mr. Long stated closed session will be approximately 15 -20 minutes long.

Motion to close Closed Session; Councilman Pearce
Sec; Councilman MacDonnell
Voice vote – All in favor

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

Lois J. Sahina
Acting Municipal Clerk
February 7, 2017