



BOROUGH OF BERLIN
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 SOUTH WHITE HORSE PIKE
BERLIN, NJ 08009

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021 – 7:00 PM

Mayor Rick Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He stated that adequate notice of this meeting had 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 said meeting's date, place, and time.

After the salute to the Flag, the following roll call was taken:

Present: Councilmembers: Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce and Mayor Miller
Absent: None

Also, Present: Howard Long, Solicitor
Dwayne Harris, Clerk/Administrator
Michaela Bosler, Deputy Clerk
Millard Wilkinson, Police Chief

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 2, 2021	Reorganization Meeting
February 11, 2021	Workshop Meeting
February 11, 2021	Regular Meeting
February 11, 2021	Executive Session

Motion to Approve Minutes

Moved by: Hohing; **Seconded by:** Simone

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6)

Yes: Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

- **BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION** – Councilman Len Badolato reported that the lights in the Borough garage have been updated. Additionally, the DVRC has gone through with restructuring their organization. Appointed officers are now Carrie Alper as President, Chris Wilhelm as Vice President, Joe Cruz as Secretary, and Joe Hoffman as Treasurer.

Councilman Badolato commented that he has been elected as a DVRC board member for a one year term, and that Councilman Hohing will be the new Council liaison for the DVRC.

- PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS - Councilman Andrew Simone reported DPW demobilized the snow removal equipment as the weather forecast doesn't indicate anymore incoming storms. DPW will now focus on seasonal organic clean up schedule. For streets and roads, Councilman Simone reported that the Borough is in discussion with county and utility companies for upcoming streets and road improvement projects. Additionally, there is a crew for DPW that will be repairing potholes around the municipality.
- WATER & SEWER - Councilwoman Patricia Cummings reported that phase 1 of meter replacement project is still continuing with approximately 600 meters replaced. For water department, 60 utility mark out request completed and routine monthly maintenance at water plant were completed. On February 26, repaired water service leak on Haddon Ave. Hydrant flushing will begin on April 1st and will end on April 30th. For sewer department, completed all routine monthly maintenance at 10 pumping stations and the emergency backup generators at the pumping stations. Sewer pump stasis system is ongoing. Pump #2 at Lake Worth pumping station was rebuilt and put back into service.
- PUBLIC SAFETY – Council President Pearce requested Lt. TJ Varano to step up to the dais. Mayor Miller presented a plaque to TJ Varano in recognition of his 10 years of service to the Borough of Berlin as Police Lieutenant. Council President Pearce commented that Lt. Varano will be missed, and complimented the DPW for how quickly they have repaired potholes. For OEM, the OEM Coordinator converted a vacant storage room into a PPE room with shelves and a locking door. If any Borough department is in need of PPE, please contact him. OEM is continuing to receive PPE through the Camden County OEM. For Fire Department, the department received 49 calls for service and continued to receive training on Tuesday nights. February training focused on inventory apparatus maintenance. For EMS, the department responded to 179 calls; 49 were in Berlin Borough. For Police Department, the department responded to 1354 calls. Th the Data-Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (D.D.A.C.T.S.) focused on Route 30 and Franklin, Rt. 30 and Cross Keys, Rt. 30 and Jackson, Jackson and Taunton, and Thackera and Taunton. No need to speed campaign focused on New Freedom Road. K-9 Racko assisted Pine Hill in a vehicle search and completed mandatory training. Thanked Mayor and Council for their hard work.
- COMMUNICATION – Councilman Keith Hohing reported that he attended various committee meetings. Attended budget meetings and upkept social media and website maintenance. Thanked Lt. Varano for his service to the Borough of Berlin. Welcomed the new deputy clerk.
- FINANCE – Chairman Jake Miller thanked Lt. Varano for his years of service, and gave a detailed reporting of the revenues collected during the month. The Finance Committee has been working hard preparing the budget for 2021, and are looking to introduce in April. Thanked every department for their cooperation during budget preparation.
- SOLICITOR – Solicitor Howard Long congratulated Lt. Varano on his retirement.

- **MAYOR** – Mayor Rick Miller thanked Lt. Varano for all of his years of service, and mentioned they had plaques for the former Deputy Clerk, Dana McGarvey, and Tax Collector, Lisa Eggert, and although they were not able to attend this meeting, he thanked them for their years of service as well. Mayor Miller also welcomed the new Deputy Clerk. The rabies clinic will be April 10, 2021 at the Borough Hall Parking Lot. It will be a drive thru clinic between 10 AM – 12 PM. The Borough will not be able to hold its annual easter egg hunt at Borough Hall this year, however it seems that residents will be getting together to plan things on their own. Reflecting on the past year, as the anniversary of the global pandemic and shut downs is approaching, thanked everyone for their spring into action when the shut downs occurred.

Motion to Approve Council Reports

Moved by: Pearce; **Seconded by:** Cummings

Vote: Motioned carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6)

Yes: Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miler, Simone, Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **ORD. 2021-02 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING NEW CHAPTER 336 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN ENTITLED “BERLIN BOROUGH STORMWATER CONTROL ORDINANCE”**

Public Hearing – No one came forth with comments.

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2021-02

Moved by: Miller (?); **Seconded by:** Simone

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6)

Yes: Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- **ORD. 2021-03 – AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF A KEY LOCK BOX EMERGENCY ACCESS SYSTEM FOR USE BY THE BERLIN BOROUGH FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 DURING AN EMERGENCY OR ANY OTHER ACTION DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE BERLIN BOROUGH FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 AND ADDING PART II, SECTION 80 TO THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN**

Public Hearing – No one came forth with comments.

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2021-03

Moved by: Pearce; **Seconded by:** Cummings

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6)

Yes: Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- ORD. 2021-04 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 79-81 SOUTH WHITE HORSE PIKE, IN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, IDENTIFIED ON THE BOROUGH TAX MAP AS BLOCK 1108, LOT 8, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL LANDS AND BUILDINGS LAW

Public Hearing

The Clerk read the following written objection from James Adair into the record:

“Opposed to Ordinance 2021 - 04. Please don’t buy any property period !

All property taxation authorities in New Jersey need stop Borrowing, spending, taxing .

Outrageous property taxation needs be addressed..

New Spending makes situations worst...

Like pouring salt in Wounds of overburdened Homeowners, Businesses ,renters .

Remembering past administrations proposed Deal on Borough property at 69 so.Whp.

Having a town wide Re-evaluate property’s..

69 So. Whp. property was assessed \$ 230,500

The Administration Hired another realtor saying property should be sold \$140,000

Bad deal for taxpayers. Good deal for Who?

Recently property Borough intends on borrowing was Recently sold For \$175,000

Now property is listed For \$ 239,900 78-79 so.Whp block 1108 lot 8

REMEMBERING Borough owned Property at 69 so White Horse Pk

Rents for Only \$ 12,000.00 per Year...shameful..who pays Utilities?

Time Borough Elected Get back to basic of providing services at Best possible costs.

Keep hands off Buying properties, and or giving special assessments or Taxation..Rents!

FINALLY,Again I say no To Ordinance 2021-04

Hopefully Berlin again will be Spending conservatively Again.

Sincerely

James Dennis Adair

265 so. White Horse Pike

Berlin Borough,NewJersey

08009

Emailed as per courier post legal notice says allowing Emails”

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2021-04

Moved by: Miller; **Seconded by:** Hohing

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6)

Yes: Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS

The Clerk read the following Resolutions into the record:

- RES. 2021-030 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF ESCROW FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$371.50
- RES. 2021-031 RESOLUTION APPOINTING MICHAELA BOSLER AS DEPUTY MUNICIPAL CLERK
- RES. 2021-032 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF INTEREST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20.89 FOR BLOCK 2203 LOT 19 DUE TO NON-RECEIPT
- RES. 2021-033 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND AND REFUND OF ESCROW FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$889.54 TO WAWA, INC.
- RES. 2021-034 RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO AMERICAN CUSTOM CONSTRUCTION AS A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT
- RES. 2021-035 AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP IN A MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTICIPATING UNITS IN CAMDEN COUNTY
- RES. 2021-036 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN TO EXECUTE A RETIREMENT AGREEMENT
- RES. 2021-037 PAYMENT OF BILLS – \$3,855,796.19
- RES. 2021-038 RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR THE 2020 BERLIN BOROUGH ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
- RES. 2021-039 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MARKET TO AFFORDABLE LANDLORD AGREEMENT AND EXPENDITURE OF \$60,000 FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND FOR THE CREATIONS OF TWO AFFORDABLE FAMILY RENTAL UNITS IN BERLIN BOROUGH

Mayor Miller opened the meeting to the public to comment on Resolution 2021-030 through 2021-039. There were no comments from the public.

Motion to Approve Resolutions 2021-030 through 2021-039 as a Consent Agenda

Moved by: Pearce; **Seconded by:** Hohing

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6)

Yes: Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce

No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

There were no comments from the public

GOOD OF THE ORDER

There were no comments from Councilmembers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- RES. 2021-040 RESOLUTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION
Item: Attorney Client Privilege – Legal opinion relating to new legislation

Motion to Enter into Executive Session – 7:27 PM

Moved by: Pearce; **Seconded by:** Cummings

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6).

Yes: Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The regular Session resumed at 7:45 pm.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn the meeting – 7:47 PM

Moved by: Miller; **Seconded by:** Simone

Vote: Motion called by voice vote (summary: Yes = 6)

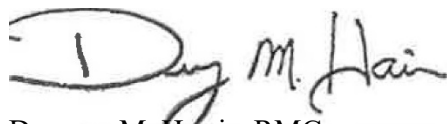
Yes: Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

I, Dwayne M. Harris, RMC, Clerk/Administrator of the Borough of Berlin, in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, hereby certify these Minutes were approved by the Governing Body, at its Regular Meeting, held April 8, 2021.



Dwayne M. Harris, RMC
Clerk/Administrator