**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 12, 2019**

**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 Bilella, Council President Pearce, Council Members Miller, Badolato, Rocco, Simone and Hohing

**PRESENT ALSO**: Solicitor Howard Long, Administrator, Bill Behnke, Municipal Clerk Lois Sahina and Chief Wilkinson

**ABSENT –** Mayor Biella, Councilman Badolato

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

6-4-19 Work Shop Closed Session Minutes

6-13-19 Council Meeting Minutes

6-13-19 Council Meeting Closed Session Minutes

**Motion to approve adoption of the minutes**; Councilman Simone

**Sec.;** Councilman Rocco

**All in Favor; Yays-** All **- Nays -**None

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2019**

Permit fees $ 8,998.00

Rental Inspections $ 1,200.00

Zoning fees $ 450.00

Re-sale Inspection Fees $ 2,250.00

Community Center Fees $ 810.00

Tax collector’s Report $ 295,976.11

Utility Report $ 799,723.23

Clerks Report $ 19,027.00

Animal Report $ 275.00

Court Administrator $ 25,090.73

**Motion to approve department head reports;** Councilman Rocco

**Sec.;** Councilman Miller

**RCV;** Pearce - **x** Miller - **x**  Badolato - **absent** Rocco - **x** Simone **x**- Hohing**- x**

**PAYMENT OF THE BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2019 IN THE AMOUNT OF $ 2,012,843.01**

**Motion to approve payment of the bills;** Councilman Rocco

**Sec.;** Councilman Miller

**RCV;** Pearce - **x** Miller - **x**  Badolato - **absent** Rocco - **x** Simone **x**- Hohing**- x**

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

* **BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION, Chairman Len Badolato** – Absent no report was given
* **WORKS, STREETS & ROADS, Chairman Andrew Simone**

**First Fire Chief** - Councilman Simone acknowledged that in 1909 Berlin Borough and West Berlin united as a fire company. There will be a headstone dedication to Joseph Walk, the first Fire Chief of the company.

**Shared Service** – Berlin Borough will continue tostay in a shared service with Voorhees Township for brine.

**Recycling Stickers** - DPW put recycling stickers on all of residents re-cycling carts to help residents become more aware of what could or couldn’t be put in their recycling.

**Automated Trash Truck** - The new automated trash truck that was purchase in 2018 has finally arrived

**2019 Road Way Project** - This year Road Way Project is in the process of being completed. They are currently waiting for the concrete to arrive and then the asphalt will be milled.

**Long a Coming East** – We had recommendations from the HOA on possible solutions to the problems they are experiencing in Long a Coming East. The police are monitoring the busy times, but there is no ordinance in place at this time.

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

**Statistics** - The Water and Sewer Statistics for Oct 2018 vs 2019 figures were stated along with the water connections

**Hydrant Flushing** – The hydrants will all be flushed between October 7-31.

**Repairs** – There was a leak on Rt. 73 that was fixed and all of the 12” valves have been exercised.

**Jet Vac Truck –** A new jet vac truck has been ordered for the DPW and hopefully will be ready for delivered by the end of November.

**R.D Zuelli – The boroughs Emergency repair Team is** ready if needed

**2020 Utility Projects –** The utility projects costs and budget for 2020 are being currently worked on by our CFMO. The biggest project will be the painting- inside and outside of the Chestnut Avenue water tank.

**Royal Farms** – The new Royal Farms establishment is going to be hooked up to our system by the end of the year.

**New Housing –** There will be a total of 16 new houses built on Watsontown New Freedom road.

**Pump –** The pump at Cross Keys Road is under review

**SCADA –** The SCADA system is working beautifully and 35% of the sewer has been viewed and no problems were found.

**BPU Regulations** – We have been told that due to the BPU regulations that our water meters outside of our town must all be replaced. This will be cost $900,000.

We also would have the option of testing all meters to see if the meters are compliant, they would be tested to make sure what level the lead content is. With engineering costs and construction, it would be $860,000. Our engineers recommend the last option.

* **PUBLIC SAFETY, Chairman Jim Pearce**

**OEM** - Recently the OEM assisted in trying to help find two children that were lost in the park

**ID Cards** - All employees of the Borough were issued by the OEM office an employee ID card.

**Fire Prevention Night** - The Annual Fire Prevention Night was held at the Community Center on October 2, 2019. Many thanks go out to the Berlin Fire Department and all of the neighboring towns that participated in the very successful event.

**Fall Fest** - October 12, 2019 the Annual Fall Fest will take place on Broad Street. This event is sponsored every year by the Greater Business Association of Berlin.

**Berlin Fire Company** – The fire company celebrates its 110th year anniversary. The statistics of the fire company for the month of September were given.

**Berlin Police Department -** The statistics for the Police Department for the month of September were given. The Officer Herron who was recognized as the cop behind the Badge for the month of September.

**No Need to Speed Campaign –** For the month of September the “No Need to Speed” Campaign focused on Rt 30, Franklin Avenue, Cross Keys Road and South Park Avenue

**Halloween –** Trick or treat will be held on Thursday, October 31, 2019 form 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

* **COMMUNICATIONS, Chairman Rick Miller**

**Berlin Park** – “The Berlin Park Cleanup” Project is going to be extended down Park Drive to the entrance of “The Woods” Development

**Halloween Parade –** The annual Halloween Parade will be held on October 27, 2019 from 1-3 pm at the Borough Hall. After the parade there will be games, refreshments and actives for the children.

* **FINANCE, Chairman Keith Hohing**

**Website –** Our new and improved easier to navigate and user- friendly website is working on going live by the end of October. We would really appreciate feedback from our residents once it is launched.

* **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REAL ESTATE, Mayor Jim Bilella** – Absent no report given
* **SOLICITOR, Howard Long –** No report given at this time

**Motion to Adopt:** Councilman Rocco

**Sec.;** Councilman Miller

**RCV;** Pearce - **x** Miller - **x**  Badolato - **absent** Rocco - **x** Simone **x**- Hohing **- x**

**READING RESOLUTIONS R10-01; 2019 THROUGH R10- 07; 2019**

**RESOLUTION R10-01; 2019**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX CANCELLATION OF $5,071.71 & TAX REFUND OF $1,140.92 FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN

**RESOLUTION R10-02; 2019**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**,** AUTHORIZING THE TAX REFUND DUE TO MORTGAGE COMPANY OVERPAYMENT

**RESOLUTION R10-03; 2019**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN TO URGE VOTERS TO SUPPORT THE REFERENDUM ON THE ELECTION BALLOT IN NOVEMBER, SO THAT VETERANS OR WIDOWED SPOUSES OF VETERANS WHO RESIDE IN CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES (CCRC) WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTION

**RESOLUTION R10-04; 2019**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, THE COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM FOR JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2025

**RESOLUTION R10-05; 2019**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, THE COUNCIL RELEASING THE MAINTENANCE IRREVOCABLE STANDBY LETTER OF CREDIT #1919 IN THE AMOUNT OF $9,673.60 TO APPLICANT HOVGROS BERLIN, LLC WHOS BANKING INSITUTION LETTER OF CREDIT IS AMBOY BANK LOCATED IN OLD BRIDGE, NJ



**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS R10-01;2019 THROUGH R10-07; 2019 -** No one spoke

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**Motion to approve Resolutions R010-01; 2019 through R10-07; 2019 –** Councilman Simon

**Sec.;**

**RCV;** Pearce - **x** Miller - **x**  Badolato - **absent** Rocco - **x** Simone **x** - Hohing**- x**

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Guild lines of privilege of the floor were read:

* No Shouting out
* Give full name and address when approaching the podium to address Mayor and Council
* 5minute limit to address and comment to Mayor and Council

**Wayne Bonfiglia**

**22 Glacier**

**Berlin, NJ**

Mr. Bonfiglia spoke on behalf of the HOA of Lone-a-Coming East and addressed the issue of the safety concerns. In his comments it was stated that the residents in this development police their own development.

**24 Glacier**

**Berlin NJ**

The problem with multi owner vehicles parked on the street is not the problem. All that is needed are good driving skills.

**Susan Cabris**

**51 Glacier**

**Berlin, NJ**

Ms. Cabris worked on a letter with Councilman Simone and Rocco. It was sent out to residents. An additional letter could have been sent out if needed.

**Matthew Gleason**

**15 Glacier**

**Berlin, NJ**

Appreciation and thanks were extended to the Mayor and Council for trying to come up with a constructive decision about this problem.

**Peggy Donaldson**

**Glacier**

**Berlin, NJ**

Ms. Donaldson stated that this topic has been going on since May. Ms. Donaldson had spoken with Councilman Pearce and Buchanan in May. She called out our chief of police last meeting and she wanted it to go on record that the Borough is not handling this safety concern of Lone a Coming East

**Cynthia Jennings**

**34 Glacier Drive**

**Berlin, NJ**

Ms. Jennings stated that she would like to see a copy of the letter showing how many times the area was patrolled and said that the police are not driving by when the problems are occuring. The Chief said he would get her a copy of the letter. She also said that at one time the council thought it was a safety issue and now it’s not. The problems are occurring only in front of her house, Peggy’s house and Paula Smiths house. There are lines on the curb, blocking site triangles and there are blind spots and cars are parked there right up to my driveway. Photo’s were passed around. Council has addressed her concerns but not made a final decision and said they must consult people who are more informed about this issue

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Motion to adjourn;** Councilman Rocco

**Sec.,** CouncilmanMiller

**All in Favor** Aye – All Nays - None

Lois J. Sahina

Registered Municipal Clerk

October 12, 2019