

**BOROUGH OF BERLIN**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018**  
**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 Rick Miller, Council Members Pearce, Badolato, Rocco, Buchanan, & MacDonnell.

**PRESENT ALSO:** Solicitor Howard Long, Municipal Clerk Lois J. Sahina and Chief Financial Officer Michael T. Kwasizur

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3/17/18 - Budget Meeting Minutes

4/3/18 - Workshop Meeting Minutes

**Motion to approve adoption of the minutes;** Council President Miller

**Sec.;** Councilman MacDonnell

**In favor;** Council President Miller, Councilmembers Badolato, Buchanan and MacDonnell

**Abstained;** Councilman Rocco and Pearce

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2018**

Permit fees	\$ 9,201.00
Zoning fees	\$ 120.00
Re-sale inspection fees	\$ 1450.00
Rental Inspections	\$ 900.00
Community Center fees	\$ 3,875.00
Tax collector's report	\$ 386,348.11
Utility report	\$ 633,476.25
Clerks report	\$ 1,354.00
Animal report	\$ 132.00
Court Administrator	\$ 26,545.88

**Motion to approve department head reports for the month of March 2018;** Councilman Pearce

**Sec.;** Councilman Buchanan

All present were in favor

**PAYMENT OF THE BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2018 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,817,240.60**

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

**Sec.;** Councilman MacDonnell

All present were in favor

**Mayor Bilella** – Tonight we will be reading the agenda somewhat out of order. My self and all of Council along with Chief Miller and Officer Verano attended the School Board meeting in March. Chief Miller and Officer Verano gave a presentation to the School Board explaining how important it is for us to have Resource Officers in our school. The School Board made a motion to provide a resolution to enter into a shared service agreement between the Berlin Community School and the Borough. Our Council in return approved this resolution. This resolution and shared service agreement agreed to appoint two part time Officers in the school. We will be swearing in the two new Special Police Officers/Class III Resource Officers to our police force. They will be working with our school. These will help with the security in the school and also help the police respond more quickly if a problem should occur. The Berlin Community School and Council have been working very quickly and hard to put this in action. This is just a testament to how dedicated we all are to our community.

**MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS R04-01;2018 AND R04-14;2018 - No one spoke**

**MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC PORTIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS**

Solicitor - Mr. Long read both of the following resolutions together. First item for action:

**RESOLUTION R04-13; 2018**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF HAROLD J. TALBOT 3<sup>RD</sup> AS A SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER- CLASS III/SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

**RESOLUTION R04-14; 2018**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT H. BRUNGES 3<sup>RD</sup> AS A SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER- CLASS III/SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

**Motion to Approve Resolutions R04-13:2018 & R04-14:2018;** Councilman Pearce

**Sec.;** Councilman Rocco

All present were in favor

Public Safety Chairman, Councilman Pearce and Police Chief Miller stood by, while the the two new Special Police Officers-Class III/School Resource Officers were sworn in by Mayor Bilella:

Robert H. Brunges 3<sup>rd</sup> had his two sons Evan and Alex hold the Bible while, wife Mandy, Mom Sandra and sister Charlotte were also present while he was sworn in as Special Police Officer- Class III/School Resource Officer

Harold J. Talbot 3<sup>rd</sup> had his son Hal IV hold the Bible and his wife Sherry was also present while he was sworn in as Special Police Officer- Class III/School Resource Officer.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

### • **BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION, Chairman Len Badolato**

- DBRC Signage Meeting - The Mayor and Council met with the DBRC at our last Work Session Meeting. They discussed the different options of new signage that can be choose from for the inside of Borough Hall.
- Ball Field Drainage Project – I spoke with Anthony LaRossa from Maser. He said he is putting the bid together for this project. This will go out in a few weeks.
- Dill House – The Historic Commission and some volunteers met at the Dill House this past weekend and did some clean up. They also started to remove some of the asphalt shingles on the side of the house. The bid for the second stage of the Dill House will be going out shortly to repair the outer wall of the house that faces Washington Ave.

### • **PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS, Chairman Dan MacDonnell**

- Road Study – The Road Study of all of the borough streets is almost complete. This study will prioritize the borough roads that are in need resurfacing and repair first. The 2018 Road Program is in the design stages. We received double the funding from NJDOT because of the Gas Tax last year. We are going to go out to bid in May. Within this year’s 2018 road program, we will be doing a study of the side streets in the downtown area. We are looking for solutions to alleviate cut through traffic. The engineer and the Police are also trying to remediate a slowdown of traffic. There will be a public meeting in the future to get the input of the residents who live on these streets.
- Planning Board – The Planning Board had one application this past month. They approved one variance for an installation of a fence for a corner property.

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

- Water Department - Reports, statistics and income were read for last two months
- Sewer Department - Reports, statistics and income were read for last two months.
- Sewer Camera Update – The training on the new sewer equipment will be completed on April 24, 2018. Software training will be done on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Once this is completed they will begin video taping and recording all sewer mains following the plans that were designed.
- Water Complaints – For February and March of 2018- None

### • **COMMUNICATIONS, Chairman Rick Miller** – No report was given

### • **PUBLIC SAFETY, Chairman Jim Pearce**

- Storms – Thanks were extended to the Office of Emergency Management with all of the storms we have had this past Winter, which included many snow storms, ice, wind and down trees.
- Berlin EMS Squad- Responded to 118 calls for the month of March
- Berlin Fire Company – Responded to 132 calls in March bringing a total of 290 calls YTD. They staffed all three storms on 3/3, 3/7 and 3/21 and answered a total of 67 calls during these three storms. They continue their Tuesday night training. This past month they trained in aerial devise placement, ground ladder, air pack reviews and vehicle fires. They have duty crews in the station house every Friday night from 1800 hrs. to 2300 hrs. Some of the members

participated in the Berlin Community School Book Fair and Minute to Win It. Thanks go out to Chief Kernan.

Police Department – Statistical Calls, Arrests, DWI's, Accident, and Citation, Drug Arrests, Reports were given for the months of February and March.

The “No Need to Speed Campaign” – For March and going forward into April, they will focus on Berlin New Freedom Road, East Taunton and Jefferson, Westbury & Stockton.

South Jersey Breast Coalition Fund Raiser – The Mayor and I attended this fundraising event at Paris Caterers who partners up with the Woman of Hope. This event helps both organizations and are both based out of Berlin.

- **FINANCE, Chairman Mike Buchanan**

- The 2018 General Budget – Resolution to introduce on tonight's agenda

- Park Clean – Our Park Clean Up on 3/29/18 up was a great success. The County supplied the bags, gloves and extended grabbers. We are looking to schedule another clean up, but the date has not been determined at this time.

- Rabies Clinic – Our Rabies Clinic held on 3/7/18, was also a great success. They inoculating 101 animals. Thanks' were extended to the Board of Health Members, DPW and the Clerk's Office including Lois and Dana.

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REAL ESTATE, Mayor Jim Bilella**

- Committees -Thanks were extended to all of Council for all of their hard work on their individual committees.

- Storms – Thanks were extended to all of our Public Safety, EMS, Fire and DPW for their dedicated services during these past storms in March.

- South Jersey Breast Coalition Fund Raiser – The South Jersey Breast Coalition and Woman and Men of Hope Resource Center are both great non-profit organizations. They have helped to put Berlin Borough on the map. They not only help people in our community but all over the region. They work very hard to help both men and woman with breast cancer, abusive relationships, drug addiction and in addition help people who have overcome their addiction stay on a straight path.

- Real Estate - I do have other matters of real estate that need to be discussed but in closed session.

- **SOLICITOR, Howard Long –**

- Contracts on Land Sales and Anticipated Litigation– Closed session issues

- Mr. Gangluff- Mr. Long asked Mr. Gangluff, who is in attendance in the audience to discuss his endeavors associated with Eastern High School. He will be doing so in the public portion of the meeting.

- **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, Michael T. Kwasizur**

- 2018 Introduction to the Budget

- 2018 Capital Ordinance Introduction

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS BEFORE INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-11**

COLA ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COSTS OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A 40A:4-45.14)

**Motion to Introduce:** Councilman Miller

**Sec.;** Councilman MacDonnell

All present were in favor

**RESOLUTION R4-01; 2018**

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2018 GENERAL, WATER & SEWER BUDGET APPROPRIATING \$8,846,386.47 FOR THE GENERAL BUDGET, \$3,332,700.00 FOR WATER, \$865,770.00 FOR SEWER AND \$110,950.00 FOR OPEN SPACE FUND

**Motion to approved to 2018 General, Water, Sewer and Open Space Budget:** Councilman

Rocco

**Sec.;** Council President Miller

All present were in favor

**RESOLUTION R4-02; 2018**

RESOLUTION REMOVED

**RESOLUTION R4-03; 2018**

AUTHORIZATION FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL TO APPROVE EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS.

**Motion to Approve:** Councilman Buchanan

**Sec.;** Councilman Badolato

All present were in favor

**RESOLUTION R4-04; 2018**

GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964". This resolution was reviewed at the last Work Session Meeting by Solicitor Mr. Long.

**Motion to Approve:** Councilman MacDonnell

**Sec.;** Councilman Buchanan

All present were in favor

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS AFTER BUDGET INTRODUCTION:**

**2ND READING ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE 2018-05**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN CHAPTER 315, ARTICLE XVI, §315-32 SCHEDULE I: NO PARKING - TO ADD COLONIAL PARK DRIVE AND WAYSIDE ROAD, PROHIBITED PARKING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 315, ARTICLE II, §315-3 PARKING PROHIBITED AT TIMES ON CERTAIN STREETS, IN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC ON ORDINANCE 2018-05 – No one spoke**

**CLOSED THE PUBLIC PORTION**

**Motion to Adopt:** Councilman MacDonnell

**Sec.;** Councilman Pearce

All present were in favor

**ORDINANCE 2018-06**

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING AND AUTHORIZING THE OUTSIDE POLICE FEES FOR OF DUTY SIDE JOBS THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC ON ORDINANCE 2018-06 – No one spoke**

**CLOSED THE PUBLIC PORTION**

**Motion to Adopt:** Councilman Pearce

**Sec.;** Councilman Buchanan

All present were in favor

**ORDINANCE 2018-07**

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING AND AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF CODE FEES FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC ON ORDINANCE 2018-07 – No one spoke**

**CLOSED THE PUBLIC PORTION**

**Motion to Adopt:** Council President Miller

**Sec.;** Councilman MacDonnell

All present were in favor

**ORDINANCE 2018-08**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE NUMBER OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

**MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC ON ORDINANCE 2018-08** – No one spoke

**CLOSED THE PUBLIC PORTION**

**Motion to Adopt:** Councilman Buchanan

**Sec.;** Council President Miller

All present were in favor

**ORDINANCE 2018-10**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE 2018-01, SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 62, SECTION 4 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN ENTITLED “SALARIES”

**MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC ON ORDINANCE 2018-10** – No one spoke

**CLOSED THE PUBLIC PORTION**

**Motion to Adopt:** Councilman Buchanan

**Sec.;** Councilman Badolato

All present were in favor

**1<sup>st</sup> READING ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-09**

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEASE OF LAND AND BUILDING LOCATED AT 11 JACKSON ROAD, BLOCK 1400, LOT 14, ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO THE DOWNTOWN BERLIN REVITALIZATION CORPORATION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN FOR NOMINAL CONSIDERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12-14 OF THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL LANDS AND BUILDINGS LAW, UNDER TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Motion to Introduce:** Councilman Badolato

**Sec.;** Councilman MacDonnell

All present were in favor

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-12**

BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$820,440 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$779,418; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

**Motion to Introduce:** Councilman MacDonnell

**Sec.;** Councilman Badolato

All present were in favor

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS R04-05; 2018 THROUGH R04-14; 2018 –**

No one spoke

**READING RESOLUTIONS R04-05; 2018 THROUGH R04-14; 2018**

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLUTION R04-05; 2018**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING TAX REFUND TO EXEMPT VETERANS FOR PAYMENT OF HOMESTEAD CREDIT.

**RESOLUTION R04-06; 2018**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE REFUND ESCROW FOR NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS LLC

**RESOLUTION R4-07; 2018**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF ESCROW IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00 TO THE PINE HILL BOY SCOUT RESERVATION

**RESOLUTION R04-08; 2018**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE REMAINING ESCROW TO BURGER KING LOCATED ON RT 73 IN WEST BERLIN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$938.00

**RESOLUTION R04-09;2018**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2018 CAMP LONG-A-COMING EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYEE RATES

**RESOLUTION R4-10; 2018**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING UTILITY BILL ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES

**RESOLUTION R4-11; 2018**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES DUE TO EXEMPT PROPERTY STATUS

**RESOLUTION R4-12; 2018**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF 2018 1<sup>st</sup> ½ TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,493.10 FOR BLOCK 1103 LOT 3 DUE TO EXEMPT PROPERTY STATUS

**Motion to approve Resolutions R04-05 through R04-12; 2018 –** Councilman Pearce

**Sec.:** Councilman Rocco

All present were in favor

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**



Katlin Armano  
7 Rich Avenue  
Berlin, NJ 08009

I work at the ARC of Camden County located on the White Horse Pike next to the Berlin Diner. I walk to work every day and I can never cross the pike. Nobody ever stops for pedestrians. The new flashing lights have made no difference to motorists. They still don't stop to let people cross. My brother was trying to cross the pike a few months ago and nobody stopped except a Berlin Police Officer. The light near Broad Street doesn't even flash.

Mayor Bilella –

We understand. We are working on that. I will reach out to the police chief to try and get some additional enforcement activities. We are pursuing a TCDI Grant, which is a planning grant that looks into multi-modes of transportation, including pedestrian traffic. If we can get this Grant, part of it would include a study plan of the downtown area. We can then take it to the DOT and see how we can improve pedestrian's safety along with walkability of our community.

Joe Theurer  
21 Coleman Road  
Berlin, NJ 08009

Is it possible to get the two holes fixed at Washington Avenue near the Heritage?

Mayor Bilella -

I believe DPW has filled that in. They are also talking to the State about helping with this because it is within the loop detector of the traffic signal. I take this road often and understand what you are talking about.

Joe Theurer-

No, they haven't done anything to the hole. It is still there. There are about 16-20 new telephone poles on Tansboro Road is that for that new project? The original poles are still there and now there is a fence to the entrance of the property. Sometimes there is a trailer there and sometimes there isn't.

Mayor Bilella-

DPW did fill it in temporarily. The telephone poles are probability utility related.

Jack Gangluff  
77 Gardens Ave  
Berlin, NJ 08009

As many of you already know, I volunteered to help erect a monument in memory of Mr. Joseph E. Lauer. Mr. Lauer was a member of the first graduating class of Eastern Regional High School 1967. He is the only US service man ever killed in the 53 years of the school's history. This May 31<sup>st</sup> marks the anniversary of the death of Joseph E. Lauer, who was killed in the Vietnam War serving in the United States Marines. Another classmate of Mr. Lauer's approached me and asked me to help kick this off after 50 years.

For some reason, the nation has always had a weird relationship with the Vietnam Vets. They really never got their due, just by virtue of the manner of what is going to happen at the War Monument this Saturday. Finally, the names of the folks who served are being recognized after a long period of time.

I am talking to all three Governing Bodies. Eastern is a sending district for Gibbsboro, Berlin and Voorhees. While it's not your business, your preview, it is a part your community. I think when things happen in your community you should be advised.

There is already a 2003 monument that was sponsored by the Class of 2003 for 911. We are going to incorporate our monument and the 911 monument and add some pavers. Right now, the area around the flag pole of the school looks very sterile. We are going to try and dress it up and make it look a little hospitable. We hope that people will observe these additions and view the monument area. We want the students going forward to recognize what sacrifices some Americans made for our country.

We mailed some fundraising information to those we felt are influential people in the community. I thought it was only proper for you to know what we're doing. We have only been in fundraising mode for about 6 weeks and have already raised \$13,000.00. We have \$7000.00 to go and we have five weeks left in our fundraising campaign.

We have approximately 7500 residents in Berlin. If I started knocking on doors trying to explain our project, nobody would have any idea about what I was talking about, even though we put an article in the Inquire and the Courier. We need help in the technology part of this fundraiser. In today's age if it isn't on Facebook, it doesn't exist. Thank god we have a volunteer who is our IT guy and has created and manages our Facebook page for us. With that, I'll ask you if there are any questions?

Mr. Long – In another community where this presentation was read, that governing body decided to put the Joseph E. Lauer Fundraiser link on their web site. This would give all website traffic that comes into the municipality the opportunity to see and participate in this endeavor. I think this is a great idea and I participated myself. I spoke to Councilman Rocco about Berlin Borough also participating in this effort? All of Council discussed and though this was a great idea and the link will be put on our website.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Ron Rocco – I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join us this Saturday at 10:00 am at our Berlin Monument Area on the White Horse Pike, for the unveiling of the Vietnam Memorial Plaque. After the ceremony, you are invited to the Berlin VFW Post for refreshment and fellowship.

Mayor Bilella – Councilman Rocco, thank you for all that you have done to lead in that effort.

Mr. Long – In accordance to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act we call for a motion and second to go into Executive Session relative to items related to property sales, contracts and litigation related matters. I would anticipate we will be in Executive Session no longer than 15 minutes and don't anticipate we will be taking any formal action coming out of this section.

**Motion to go into Executive Session** – Councilman MacDonnell

**Sec;** Councilman Buchanan

All present were in favor

## **Closed Session**

**Motion to go out of Executive Session;** Councilman MacDonnell

**Sec;** Council Present Miller

All present were in favor

**Motion to adjourn;** Councilman Rocco

**Sec.,** Councilman MacDonnell

All present were in favor

Lois J. Sahina

Registered Municipal Clerk

April 12, 2018