**BOROUGH OF BERLIN**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 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, Buchanan & Simone

**ABSENT** -Councilman Miller

**PRESENT ALSO**: Solicitor Howard Long, Administrator Bill Behnke, CFMO Debra DiMattia and Municipal Clerk Lois Sahina

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

4-05-2019 Work Shop Minutes

4-05-2019 Work Shop Closed Session Minutes

4-11-2019 Council Meeting Minutes

5-07-2019 Work Shop Minutes

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

**Sec.;** Councilman Simone

All present were in favor

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

Permit fees $ 6,194.00

Zoning fees $ 875.00

Re-sale inspection fees $ 1,200.00

Rental Inspections $ 100.00

Community Center fees $ 2,975.00

Tax collector’s report $ 3,826,966.84

Utility report $ 178,118.66

Clerks report $ 2,683.95

Animal report $ 3136.00

Court Administrator $ 25,192.91

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

**Sec.;** Councilman Simone

All present were in favor

**PAYMENT OF THE BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2019 IN THE AMOUNT OF $3,337,371.97**

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

**Sec.;** Councilman Rocco

All present were in favor

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

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

**DOT Meeting** -Councilman Badolato had a meeting with the DOT in Trenton. They talked about a solution to try and calm the traffic in the down town area.

**AC Electric** - Councilman Badolato stated he is currently working on obtaining a grant from AC Electric in the amount of $1500. The application for the 772 Matching Grant for $15,000 has be submitted. Currently we have $5000.00

**Parking Lot Light** - Councilman Badolato will be meeting with Mr. Batman about the installation of a new ADA compliant light for the Borough Hall parking lot.

**Cupola** - Three quotes have been obtained to repair and paint the cupola. American Custom was the lowest most reliable quote that was received at $12,841.00.

* **PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS, Chairman Andrew Simone**

**2019 Road Improvement Funding** -We were notified by the State that we will be receiving $300,000.00 in funding for the 2019 Road Improvement Program.

**Play Ground** - A resident notified the Borough that a piece of equipment located on one of the Borough playgrounds was broken. DPW went out and inspected and removed this broken piece of equipment. DPW also inspected all other Borough playgrounds to make sure the all other equipment was safe.

**RT 30 & Franklin Ave Intersection** -The DOT is very aware of the dangerous traffic issues at the intersection of RT 30 & Franklin Avenue. They have come up with three different options to help make this intersection safer for pedestrians and motorists. The Governing Body has chosen option #3. This option will provide a left hand turn east and west bound and this will also help with the diverted traffic on the side streets. A resolution has been passed and sent to the state to confirm the governing bodies decision and commitment to this project.

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

**Official Welcome** - Councilman Rocco officially welcomed Councilman Simone to the governing body

**Sewer & Water Reports** - Councilman Rocco read the statistical reports for both the Sewer and Water Departments for the month of May comparing 2018 to 2019 figures. The recent water work that was completed, including Plant # 2, which has begun to meet summer water demands. The spring hydrant flushing is complete. There were 10 service order calls for meter repairs or replacement and 91 utility mark outs were completed. The new chemical pumps are in the process of being installed at plant #1 & Plant #2. These pumps will be connected to our SCADA system and this will give them better control of the chemical pumps. The sewer work was completed included the completion of all routine monthly maintenance to all 9 pump stations and the emergency backup generators. The Lake Worth pump has been replaced and the SCADA system has inspected and completed 25% of the sewer system.

**Bids Submission Cut off Dated & Openings** - The bids are currently being accepted for both the Valve Exerciser Contract and the Emergency Sewer Repair Contract. The cut off for submission for both is May 29, 2019. Both Bid openings will be held on June 13th. The bid opening for the Valve Exerciser will at 10:00 am and the Emergency Sewer Repair bid will be opened at 10:30 am. They will be awarded by resolution at our 6/13/19 Council Meeting. The NJ Water Accountability Act will require us to do a water main project on Park Avenue in West Berlin. We will go out to bid for both the Water Main Project and the 2019 Road Program Improvement project in June. These bid openings will take place on 7/9/19.

**Chestnut Avenue Water Tank Project** - The major water project for 2020 will be the painting inside and outside of the Chestnut Avenue water tank. The cost of this will be approximately $1.7 million dollars. On 5/30/19 a water tank meeting was held including Bill Behnke, Mike Buchanan and John Allsebrook.

**Jet and Vac Truck** - The new DPW jet and vac truck will be going out to bid in June.

**Memorial Day** - Councilman Rocco gave thanks to all Vets who gave their lives to protect our democracy.

* **PUBLIC SAFETY, Chairman Jim Pearce**

**Easter Egg Hunt** - The 2019 Easter Egg Hunt was held on the front lawn of the Borough Hall complex. The children had a lot of fun and it was a great success. The Berlin Fire Company all attended this annual event.

**Fire Company Generator** - The new generator that was installed at the Berlin Borough Fire Company Hall is now up and running.

**NJ Forest Fire Service** - Our Fire Department just received a $3,300 grant from the NJ Forest Fire Service. These grants were given to assist only volunteer fire companies.

**Emergency Management** - Rushi Pandya is working on Swift 911

**Police Report for April 2019** - Total Calls Handled - 1684 Total Investigations Taken - 127

Total Drug Arrests - 28

Total Criminal Arrests - 47

Total Warrant Arrests - 19

Total Adult Arrests - 68

Total Juvenile Arrests - 0 Total Adult Arrests for 2019: 258

Total DWI Arrests: 2

Total Accidents: 42

Total Motor Vehicle Citations Issued: 349

**“No Need to Speed” Campaign for the month of February -March**

Berlin New Freedom

S. Franklin/Clementon Road

White Horse Pike/London Ave

**Police Lead Program & Graduation**

The 2019 Lead Program & Graduation was a great success for both Berlin Community and Our lady of Mt. Carmel Schools. The police are also wrapping up police week.

**April** **Officer of the Month**

Detective John Feger was presented to the Borough as the Officer of the month for April 2019. Det. Feger closed two significant cases involving narcotics distribution in the Borough. He also made two arrests in narcotics stemming from the Days Inn Motel.

**Promoting of two Class II Officers** - Chief Wilkinson gave a back ground onthe two new officers that will be appointed tonight, Ashton L. Pohlig and Mark J. Peiffer

* **COMMUNICATIONS, Chairman Rick Miller** -No Report was given
* **FINANCE, Chairman Mike Buchanan**

**Recycling** -The Borough is no longer receiving the amount of money for our recycling that we did in the past. Recycling has become a huge problem including municipalities, state, federal and nationwide. China used to take 100% of our recycling. Overnight China stopped accepting all of our country’s recycling. This has left us pleading for relief. This is all out of our control. However, what is not out of control is making our residents aware of this problem. We can use our website to re-educate residents on the single stream recycling process. This will help aim for maximum results of the recycling process. Part of this process will help residents to identify items that are recyclable. Among some of these items are: card board, aluminum, glass, paper, cardboard and plastic. Properly separating trash from recycling will drastically decrease our cost per ton, and in return help to keep taxes down.

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

**Library Retiree** -Janet Guerra will be retiring as a library board member after 30 years of service. This will open up an unexpired position on the library board. The Mayor’s appointment with the Council’s approval will replace Janet Guerra’s unexpired term with Diana Scheunemann.

**May I have a motion to appoint**: Council President Pearce

**Sec;** Councilman Badolato

All present were in favor

**Historic Commission Appointment Statuses**

Because of the new appointment of Andy Simone to Council, there is a need to fill his unexpired term on the Historic Preservation Commission. The Mayor’s appointment with the Council’s approval will be Christina Hoffmann Class A. Jose Hernandez, Class B and Hal Taylor Class B.

**May I have a motion to appoint**: Council President Pearce

**Sec;** Councilman Badolato

All present were in favor

* **SOLICITOR, Howard Long**

Mr. Long extended his congratulations to Councilman Simone.

**READING RESOLUTIONS R05-06; 2019 AND R05-07; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPOINTING ASTON L. POHLIG TO THE BERLIN BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT AS PATROLMAN

**READING RESOLUTION**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPOINTING MARK J. PEIFFER TO THE BERLIN BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT AS PATROLMAN

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS R05-06; 2019 AND R05-07; 2019 N**o one spoke

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**Motion to approve Resolutions R05-06; 2019 and R05-07; 2019** - Council President Pearce

**Sec;** Councilman Badolato

All present were in favor

**SWEARING IN OF NEW OFFICERS**

**SWEARING IN OF ASHTON L. POHLIG TO THE BERLIN BOROUGH POLICE, DEPARTMENT TO THE RANK OF PATROLMAN. UNFORTUANTLY ASTON’S MOTHER CLAUDIA POHLIG WHO WAS GOING TO HELP HOLD THE BIBLE COULD NOT MAKE IT HERE TONIGHT SO HIS FATHER, JAY AMWAKE AND ASHTON’S GIRL FRIEND AMANDA WILL BE HOLDING THE BIBLE.**

**SWEARING IN OF MARK J. PEIFFER TO THE BERLIN BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE RANK OF PATROLMAN. HIS WIFE KATIE PEIFFER**

**WILL HOLD THE BIBLE.**

**2nd READING ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-05**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 52, SECTION 2 OF THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN TO INCREASE THENUMBER OF LIEUTENANTS FROM ONE (1) TO NOT TO EXCEED TWO (2)**

**HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON ORDINANCE 2019-05 -** No one spoke

**HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**Motion to Adopt:** Council President Pearce

**Sec.;** Councilman Badolato

All present were in favor

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-06**

**A BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS**

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF BERL COUNTY OR CAMDEN STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN THE AGREGATE PRICIPAL AMONT OF UP TO $604,200; MAKING CERTAIN DETEMINATINS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING**

**HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON ORDINANCE 2019-06** - No one spoke

**HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**Motion to Adopt:** Councilman Buchanan

**Sec.;** Councilman Rocco

All present were in favor

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-07**

**A BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT AND THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE WATER UTILITY SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF $480,00 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OBERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, IN THE AGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO $480,00; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING**

**HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON ORDINANCE 2019-07** -No one spoke

**HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**Motion to Adopt:** Councilman Simone

**Sec.;** Councilman Badolato

All present were in favor

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-08**

**A BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISISTION OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT AND THE COMPLETION OF VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE SEWER UTILITY SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE BOUROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NJEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF $420,00 THEREFOR;AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANITICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOUROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY , IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO $420,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING**

**HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON ORDINANCE 2019-08** - **No one spoke**

**HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**Motion to Adopt:** Councilman Rocco

**Sec.;** Councilman Badolato

All present were in favor

**READING RESOLUTIONS R005-08; 2019 THROUGH R05-25; 2019**

**RESOLUTION R05-08; 2019**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE TAX REFUND TOTALING $268.44 DUE TO MICHAEL QUINN FOR MORTAGAGE COMPANY OVERPAYMENTS

**RESOLUTION R05-09; 2019**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZINGTHE TAX REFUND TO MICHAEL TARTAGLIA TOTALING $2723.64 DUE TO MORTGAGE COMPNAY OVERPAYMENT

**RESOLUTION R05-10; 2019**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING TAX REFUND TO HARRY STANG TOTALING $2,093.61 DUE TO OVERPAYMENT TO THE MORTAGAGE COMPANY

**RESOLUTION R05-11; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AFFIRMING THAT $0.015 WAS ADOPTED FOR THE 2019 OPEN SPACE BUDGET LINE

**RESOLUTION R05-12; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX REFUND TO PETER AND JEN BOMBARO TOTALING $1,991.04 DUE TO THE MORTGAGE COMPANY

**RESOLUTION R05-13; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,164.56 FOR BLOCK 102 LOT 14 DUE TO 100% TOTALLY DISABLED BETERAN ZERFING

**RESOLUTION R05-14; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN TO RELEASE THE EXCROW TO OTT’S GREEN TOP INN IN THE AMOUNT OF $990.00

**RESOLUTION R05-15; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF EXCROW TO THE POOL STORE IN THE AMOUNT OF $663.75

**RESOLUTION R05-16; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF ESCROW TO VERIZON WIRELESS IN THE AMOUNT OF $2000.00

**RESOLUTION R05-17; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE IRREVOCABLE STANDBY LETTER OF CREDIT #1863 FROM MAINTENANCE STATUS FOR MONTEBELLO SECTION 4, FOR THE WATER MAIN SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF $12,058.50 ORIGINALLY ISSUED BY AMBOY BANK FROM OLD BRIDGE, NEW JERSEY

**RESOLUTION R05-18; 2019**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING GIVING APPROVAL TO LIST DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SURPLUS VEHICALS ON GOV DEALS

**RESOLUTION R05-19; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, GIVING APPROVAL TO THE BERLIN BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SELL/TRANSGER USED LAW ENGORCEMANT RELATED EQUIPMENT TO THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

(GLOUCESTER COUNTY– NEW JERSEY)

**RESOLUTION R05-20; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PERMISSION TO THE BERLIN BOROUGH FIRE COMPANLY #1 STATION 211 TO CONDUCT TWO COIN DROPS, SATURDAY JUNE 8, 2019 & SEPTEMBER 7, 2019 ON RT 30 & WASHINGTON AVENUE

**RESOLUTION R05-21; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMMENDING R03-09; 2019 CHECK #2253 FROM $1.00 TO $100.00

**RESOLUTION R05-22; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING PERMISSION TO THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN ADMINISTRATOR, WHILLIAM BEHNKE, TO SUBMIT AND APPLICATION FOR THE VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT FOR THE BERLIN BOROUGH FIRE COMPANY #1 STATION 211

**RESOLUTION R05-23; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN AUTHORIZING AN APPROVAL OF A BUDGET INSERTION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $300,000

**RESOLUTION R05-24; 2019**

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN APPOINTING COUNCILMAN ANDREW SIMONE AS PLANNING BOARD COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE (CLASS III) OF THE GOVERNING BODY FOR A ONE YEAR TERM, FILLING THE UNEXPIRED TERM THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019 TERM N.J.S.A 40A:55D-23

**RESOLUTION R05-25; 2019**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING CHIEF WILKINSONS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, IN THE COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND POLICE CHIEF MILLARD WILKINSON

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS R05-08;2019 THROUGH R05-25; 2019** -No one spoke

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**Motion to approve Resolutions R05-08; 2019 through R05-25; 2019** - Council President Pearce

**Sec.;** Councilman

All present were in favor

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Jesse &Barbara Abrams**

**5 Garwood Ave, Apt 4**

**Berlin, NJ 08009**

Barbara Abrams and her husband moved to Berlin Borough 7 years ago. They moved into an apartment located at on Garwood Ave. In March of 2018 the roof started to leak. The landlord was contacted but the roof was never fixed. On November 15th of 2018 water started to come into the dining room which created the dry wall in the ceiling to fall which created an open hole. Again, the landlord was contacted and nothing was done. They came into the Construction Office to see if this location had been inspected. An inspection had not been done however, and inspection was signed off by our inspector Mike DePalma an CO issued. They have also gone to the County and the State about this property and at this point it is deemed inhabitable. As things stand now the landlord is evicting them. Our administrator spoke with Mr. DePalma about this situation. Mr. Long interjected that Mr. DePalma was not rice noticed and that legally we cannot talk any further about this topic.

**Millard Wilkinson, Jr.**

**9 Tavistock Drive**

**Berlin, NJ 08009**

Mr. Wilkinson congratulated the new governing body member Councilman Simone. Mr. Wilkinson also discussed how important it was to keep the library a municipal library instead of being run by the County. It has saved the tax payers $242,000. He explained the importance of the JIF/MEL within the municipality. He also informed the governing body of all the other programs that are offered through the JIF. Going forward he requested that he be given a staff member for him to train for this position. He stated that he is 84 years old and wants to make sure that who ever replaces him is aware of how the JIF works. This program is a great savings to the municipality.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR CLOSED**

**Mr. Long** -The Mayor and Council will be going into Executive Session to discuss matters of Collective Bargaining and legal advice. Following Executive Session action may or may not be taken.

**Motion to go into Executive Session** - Councilman Buchanan

**Sec;** Councilman Simone

All present were in favor

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to come out of Executive Session** - Councilman Pearce

**Sec.,** Councilman Simone

All present were in favor

**MAYOR BILELLA** - No action be taken after executive session

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

**Motion to adjourn;** Councilman Pearce

**Sec.,** Councilman Simone

All present were in favor

Lois J. Sahina

Registered Municipal Clerk

May 16, 2019