**BOROUGH OF BERLIN**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 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, Buchanan & Simone

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

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

Permit fees $ 22,071.00

Rental Inspection Fees $ 1,100.00

Zoning fees $ 600.00

Re-sale inspection fees $ 1,300.00

Community Center fees $ 1,024.00

Tax collector’s report $ 5,999,175.60

Utility report $ 84,436.07

Clerks report $ 2860.00

Court Administrator $ 26,014.78

**Motion to approve department head reports;** Council President Pearce

**Sec**.; Councilman Buchanan

All present were in favor

**PAYMENT OF THE BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2019 IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,181,613.11**

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

**Sec.;** Councilman Buchanan

All present were in favor

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

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

**Electrical Outlets** - Councilman Badolato is actively working with Arden Electric to have the electrical outlet installed in the street light posts in the downtown area.

**Cupola** – The cupola, on the borough hall building is getting ready to be repaired and painted

**Electrical Panel** – An electrical panel was struck by lightning in our last storm. This will be replaced

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

**Berlin** **Knights** – Councilman Simone congratulated the Berlin Knights for their recent youth baseball championship win

**Pre-Construction Meeting** – A pre-construction meeting will be held to discuss the area

roads that will be included in this year’s 2019 Road Improvement Project. An alert was given to be careful on these roads as when they are milled and the surface is rough and uneven. The milling machine is very large and will be placed along side of the street while they are being worked on.

**2020 Grant** – The 2020 Road Improvement Project Application has been submitted to the State

**Recycling** –The DPW has affixing the new recycling labels on the lids of all recycle carts. This will show residents what can and can’t be recycled

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

**Reports –** The water and sewer reports were given for the month ofAugust. Reports also included water and sewer connections, maintenance on pump stations, mark outs and maintenance updates on water tanks.

**SCADA –** Our SCADA system has inspected 35% of our sewer system to date. No problems have been uncovered.

**Exercising of Valves –** The exercising of valves has continued in accordance with the State mandated Water Accountability Act

**Park Avenue Water Main Project –** This project will start on 9/15/19 and is being done by DSC Construction, Inc.

**2020 Water Projects –** The upcoming 2020 Water Projects are being discussed along with funding considerations.

**High Pressure Vac Truck –** The new high-pressure sewer vac truck has been purchased. It will be ready for delivery in December of 2019 or January 2020.

**Pump Station #6 –** Pump Station #6 located on Cross Keys Road is being inspected and evaluated for future usage.

**Royal Farms** – Royal Farms will be connecting with our water system

**Emergency Sewer Contract** – The on-call emergency sewer contract has been put in place

**Presentation by the Mayor & Council**

The Mayor presented each team member of the 2019 Berlin Knights Youth Baseball Team with an individual proclamation for winning the 2019 NJ State Championship within the Cal Ripken League.

* **PUBLIC SAFETY, Chairman Jim Pearce**

**911** – In remembrance of all the 911 victims, a moment of silence was held.

**Fireman’s Convention** – The Berlin Fire Company utility pickup truck will be on display in the Convention Hall at the Annual Fireman’s Convention this weekend.

**Reports** – All statistical reports for the month of August were given. This included the Police Department, Fire Department and EMS calls, arrests, investigations, accidents and summons.

**Tahoe -**The new Tahoe for the Police Department is in the process of being purchased

Thanks, were given to the residents and community volunteers and departments that helped make our “National Night Out” a fun successful event.

**Officer Pfeiffer –**Officer Pfeiffer, a rookie with our police department, had just finished up his FBO training and was only on his second night of patrol, when a call came in that a lady was in labor in the parking lot of the Paris Caterers. When he arrived, it was way to far along to get them to the hospital. Just minutes later he delivered the baby. Mother and baby were fine, thanks to the help of Officer Pfeiffer. Officer Pfeiffer will be recognized at another meeting, for this out of the ordinary deed he performed while on duty.

**K-9 Radko** – Officer Palma and K-9 Officer Radko helped assist in a large drug and narcotic bust in town.

**“No Need to Speed”** Champaign - Streets for August into September was reviewed

* **COMMUNICATIONS, Chairman Rick Miller**

**Web Site –** Our old website provider went out of business. Our new web provider is making our site more reader friendly and easier to navigate. Our current site is the process of being updated

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* **FINANCE, Chairman Mike Buchanan**

**Resignation -** Councilman Buchanan read his letter of resignation. He explained that he and his family had purchased a new home, which unfortunately did not fall within the boundaries of the Borough. He said he was honored to have held this office and very fortunate to work with so many different people and on so many different committees. He thanked the residents of Berlin and the Mayor, Council, borough employees and DPW workers who always made it easier to do his job

**A motion was made to appoint Keith Hohing to the vacant council seat:**

**1st:** Councilman Miller

**Sec:** Councilman Badolato

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

* **New Councilman Appointed** - Replacing Councilman Buchanan’s seat will be Berlin Borough business owner & resident Keith Hohing.
* **Mr. Long swore in Mr. Hohing into office**
* **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REAL ESTATE, Mayor Jim Bilella**

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month** – The month of October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Breast Cancer Collision, located in the borough, will be decorating the downtown area and the Borough Hall with pink bows.

* **SOLICITOR, Howard Long**

**Executive Session** – There will be a need to go into Executive Session tonight to discuss the union contract and personnel issues.

**READING RESOLUTIONS R09-01; 2019 THROUGH R09-06; 2019**

**RESOLUTION R09-01; 2019**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND OF $275.80 FOR HYDRANT METER RENTAL BY CHRISTOPHER CONSTRUCTION.

**RESOLUTION R09-02; 2019**

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

**RESOLUTION R09-03; 2019**

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

**RESOLUTION R09-04; 2019**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN ACCEPTING THE ANNUAL AUDIT OF ITS BOOK, ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2018

**RESOLUTION R09-05; 2019**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN TO ACCEPT THE PENNONI PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE PARK AVENUE WATER MAIN 2019 PROJECT

**RESOLUTION R09-06; 2019**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN TO ACCEPT THE PENNONI PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES EVALUATION OF THE SURVEY OF PUMP STATION #6

**MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS R09-01;2019 THROUGH R09- 06; 2019** – No one spoke

**MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**Motion to approve Resolutions R09-01; 2019 thru R09-06; 2019** – Council PresidentPearce

**Sec.;** Councilman Miller

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

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Peggy Donaldson**

**30 Glacier Drive**

**Berlin, NJ 08009**

Ms. Donaldson asked for an update on the ongoing parking problem in her development of Lone-a Coming East. Ms. Donaldson has requested no parking signs be put in front of the three houses this effect. Councilman Simone explained that all residents in the development need to agree with putting up these signs. The HOA said they have nothing to do with the streets and this is the boroughs responsibility. These are safety issues that are not being addressed.

**Cynthia Jennings**

**26 Glacier Drive**

**Berlin, NJ 08009**

Ms. Jennings also questioned the Mayor and Council about the progress that was made with the parking problem. Councilman Simone explained that there are a lot of small communities with limited parking. Councilman Simone said that on 9/28 they are going to hold a public meeting to get other residents’ feedback. Council also agreed that a letter could be written to all of the residents including the offenders. Ms. Jennings was upset as her and Ms. Donaldson contacted the HOA to try and talk to them about this problem and they never called either of back. She said that the HOA is not representing the residents in their development. She also commented that the ordinances that the borough have in place are not being enforced. She this problem only effects three residents.

**Paula Smith**

**28 Glacier Drive**

**Berlin, NJ 08009**

Ms. Smith commented that one resident has 7 cars and uses the street like a parking lot.

**Rose Alapatt**

**15 Glacier Drive**

**Berlin, NJ 08009**

Ms. Alapatt explained that there are 74 houses in her development and there are blind spots on the corners. She questioned Mayor and Council how this problem could be resolved.

**Wagner**

**8 Glacier Drive**

**Berlin, NJ 08009**

In August of 2017 he contacted the Mr. DePalma and he never called him back. He also went into the office and he was never there. In October of 2018 an inspection was done and he said he would send a letter to the landlord and give him 30 days to correct the problems. Within those 30 days the landlord did do repairs but this still didn’t fix the problem of the leaking ceiling.

**Motion to go into Executive Session:** Councilman Miller

**Sec;** Council President Pearce

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to come out of Executive Session:** Council President Pearce

**Sec;** Councilman Badolato

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER –** No one spoke

**Motion to adjourn;** Council President Pearce

**Sec., C**ouncilman Badolato

All present were in favor

Lois J. Sahina

Registered Municipal Clerk

September 12, 2019