

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2017
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 SO 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 Jim Pearce, Council Members Miller, Badolato, Rocco, Buchanan and MacDonnell

ABSENT: Councilman Buchanan

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

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Council Meeting of 3/16/17
Budget Meeting of 3/29/17

Motion to approve; Councilman MacDonnell

Sec.; Councilman Badolato

RCV- All present were in favor

Abstain- Councilman Miller

- **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS FOR THE MONTH MARCH 2017**

Permit fees	\$ 15,498.00
Zoning fees	\$ 445.00
Re-sale inspection fees	\$ 1,750.00
Rental Inspections	\$ 250.00
Community Center fees	\$ 4,475.00
Tax collector's report	\$ 375,953.89
Utility report	\$ 611,286.05
Clerks report	\$ 3,485.00
Animal report	\$ 1,406.00
Court Administrator	\$ 26,943.34

Motion to approve; Council President Pearce

Sec.; Councilman Miller

RCV; All present were in favor

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

- **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**, Chairman Len Badolato
 - I am looking into having a light installed on the corner near the old post office and the new library entrance.
 - Residents in Presidential are very happy with the “Block the Box” that was painted on Franklin Avenue. It is much easier for these residents to get out of their development onto Franklin Avenue.
 - The DVRC is working hard to fix up the center of town and is looking into installing poll banners. These would be funded by interested businesses in town.
 - PNC Bank is funding to paint and restore the face of the clock in the front of the bank.
 - Clothing Bin permits are now required. They are \$50.00 per unit per year. We currently have 15 units in town, which amounts to a total of \$750.00 in permit fees collected.
 - In January and February, the Borough was able to collect \$15,000.00 from the banks that own abandon properties in town.

- **STREETS & ROADS**, Chairman Dan MacDonnell
 - Thanks, were extended to the CAC for a great Easter Egg Celebration that they sponsored.
 - Approval from the County has been received for the safety improvements to Clementon Road. The project will be going out to bid shortly.
 - Since the weather has gotten warmer, the county road project on Tansboro Road has resumed.

- **WATER & SEWER**, Chairman Ron Rocco
 - The engineers report figures for March 2017 was stated.
 - We are getting quotes for the pumps, so that the work can be done in house.
 - The sewer line update was given and we will be going out to bid for this project.
 - The Rose Lane project is under way and on tonight’s agenda there is a resolution for the upgrades to Grove Avenue Water Main between Harrison and Cleveland Avenues.
 - Hydrant flushing started on April 8, 2017. The new municipal magnet has all the dates that the flushing will be done.
 - The report from DPW stating the plant and hydrants reports was read and all the facts are posted on the website.
 - Water, sewer and water connection income reports were stated.

- HEALTH & RECREATION, Council President gave the report for Chairman Michael Buchanan due to his absence
 - There was a great turn out for the rabies clinic held on April 1, 2017. There were 98 rabies shots were administered, three chips and 103 licenses issued for the 2017 year.
 - A huge park cleanup is scheduled for May 13, 2017 from 10:00 am to 12 noon.
 - There are still many items in the lost and found that need to be claimed and picked up
 - The volunteers for Camp Lon-a-Coming are in need of walkie talkie's. If anyone knows a person who would lend them, it would be a great help.

- PUBLIC SAFETY, Chairman Jim Pearce
 - The Berlin Fire Company had their Spring hoagie sale and it went very well.
 - The Police reports for March were stated.

- FINANCE, Chairman Rick Miller
 - The intro to the new 2017 budget is being introduced at tonight's meeting.
 - Thank you to the many volunteers and employees who helped make the Boroughs Easter Egg Celebration a huge success.

- MAYOR, Jim Bilella
 - The COAH requirements for low to moderate housing have been met in Berlin Borough.
 - We started the process of the third-round requirements in 2015. We were able to come to an agreement with the Fair Share Housing. Befor, we had not received credit for our share of moderate to low income housing. Before the agreement, we were obligated to provide 335 units but after the agreement we were given credit for our fair share of existing housing and now are only responsible for 130 units. These will be no new build units. We are now compliant until 2025.
 - The DEP has once again denied building on the property around Leroy Avenue. This has been denied before due to this low-lying area that causes flooding.
 - On April 6, 2017, the Woman of Hope and the South Jersey Collision celebrated Survivors Day and it was declared "Survivors Day".
 - The library is part of the municipality. In May of 2017 our library will be celebrating its 60th year. In May, the Borough will be celebrating its 90th year old since its formation on May 16th 1927. This is a big year for our town. A banner of the 90th year Berlin logo was shown to Council and the public. This logo will be used for the next year on all Borough technology and letterhead.

- SOLICITOR, Howard Long
 - On May 1, 2017, the agreement of principal for the purchase of the Simone Farm will be reduced to writing and signed.
 - The property located on 69 South White Horse Pike will be advertised for sale.

The starting price was depicted upon the appraisal which was \$140,000. The auction for this property will be held on May 10, 2017 @ 10:00 am in the Borough Hall Courtroom.

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

- No report was given at this time

- **APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS-**

- Chief Miller explained the criteria for selecting the positions of Lieutenant and Sergeant, two positions which need to be filled within the department. The criteria were based on essays, education level and statistics.
- Chief Miller introduced our newest officer to the force service K-9 dog, Radko. Name by the officer who will be training with him, Steve Palma. He was named after the popular Philadelphia Flyers Hockey player, Radko Gudas, who are both originally from the Czech Republic.
- The department has seen the need for a K-9 for the community since 2008.
- The Berlin Police was contacted two weeks ago about the availability of a K-9. There was also an opening in the exhilarated 15week K-9/Officer Training Program held by the Gloucester County Police Department Training Academy.
- RESOLUTION R4-11; 2017 appointed the new K-9 to our police department

RESOLUTION R4-08; 2017

Conformation by Council of Mayor's appointment to Police Lieutenant, Millard Wilkerson
Motion; Councilman Rocco
Sec.; Councilman MacDonnell
Questions - None
RCV; All present were in favor

RESOLUTION R4-09; 2017

- Chief Miller recommended Officer Brian Marlow for the position of Acting Sergeant until the date of August 2, 2017, when he will become Sergeant

Conformation by Council of Mayor's appointment to Police Sergeant, Brian Marlow
Motion; Councilman Rocco
Sec.; Councilman MacDonnell
Questions - None
RCV; All present were in favor

- Officer Brian Marlow was sworn into the position of Acting Sergeant with his wife holding the bible and daughter at his side. Chief Miller processed to pin the new Sergeant.

RESOLUTION R4-10; 2017

- Chief Miller recommended Robert Dugan to SLEO 2 Officer, who just graduated from the Academy at the end of March 2017.

Conformation by Council of Mayor's appointment to SLEO 2 Officer Robert Dugan
Motion to appoint; Council President Pearce
Sec; Councilman MacDonnell
RCV; All present were in favor

-Mayor Bilella read Office Dugan the oath of office and swore him into office.

RESOLUTION R4-11; 2017

Conformation by Council of Mayor's appointment to K-9 Service Officer, Radko
Motion by; Council President Pearce
Sec; Councilman Miller
RCV; All present were in favor

- Mayor Bilella swears in new K-9 Officer Radko with partner Steve Palma at his side.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS BEFORE INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-05

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; Council President Pearce
Sec.; Councilman MacDonnell
Questions - None
RCV; All present were in favor

RESOLUTION R4-01; 2017

RESOLUTION TO LOCALLY EXAMINE THE 2017 BUDGET.

Motion; Council President Pearce
Sec.; Councilman Badolato
Questions - None
RCV; All present were in favor

RESOLUTION R4-02 2017

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2017 GENERAL, WATER & SEWER BUDGET
APPROPRIATING \$8,138,947.36 FOR THE GENERAL BUDGET, \$3,215,191.00 FOR
WATER, \$845,789.00 FOR SEWER AND \$210,817.00 FOR OPEN SPACE.

Motion to introduce 2017 General, Water, Sewer & Open Space budget; Councilman
MacDonnell

Sec.; Councilman Miller

Questions - None

RCV – All present were in favor

RESOLUTION R4-03; 2017

AUTHORIZATION FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL TO APPROVE A TEMPORARY CAPITAL
BUDGET.

Motion; Council President Pearce

Sec.; Councilman Badolato

Questions - None

RCV; All present were in favor

RESOLUTION R4-04; 2017

AUTHORIZATION FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL TO APPROVE EMERGENCY
TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS.

Motion; Councilman Rocco

Sec.; Councilman MacDonnell

Questions - None

RCV; All present were in favor

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS AFTER BUDGET INTRODUCTION:

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-06

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 \$994,150.00 THEREFORE; 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 \$944,740.00; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND
AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

Motion to introduce, Councilman Rocco

Sec.; Councilman Miller

RCV; All present were in favor

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-07

BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT FOR THE WATER UTILITY SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$185,000.00 THEREFORE; 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 \$185,000.00; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

Motion to introduce, Councilman Badolato
Sec.; Councilman Rocco
RCV; All present were in favor

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS R4-05;2017 THROUGH R4-07; 2017

No one spoke

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION R4-05; 2017

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS FOR UPGRADES TO THE GROVE AVENUE WATER MAIN BETWEEN HARRISON AND CLEVELAND AVENUE

RESOLUTION R4-06; 2017

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE FISCAL GRANT CYCLE JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018

RESOLUTION R4-07; 2017

RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO AUTHORIZE A TAX REFUND OVERPAYMENT TO J&L ASSOCIATES BLOCK 2008, LOT 3

Motion to adopt Resolution R4-05; 2017 through R4-07; 2017 Council President Pearce
Sec.; Councilman Badolato
RCV; All present were in favor

• **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Ronald Schepis
Glenview Aveune

Mr. Schepis is very concerned about the drainage problem located at Leroy Ave. There is a drainage pipe that is clogged with sand, trees and debris. When it rains all the water from New Freedom Road to Summit empties into this location. Councilman MacDonnell looked at the pictures that he provided and said he will get jet the pipes so the water can run easily through the piping.

John Mitchard
10 Canyon Drive

Mr. Mitchard wanted an update on the water situation from November of 2016. Mayor Bilella explained that meetings have been set up with NJ American Water to discuss cleaning up their water or we will be pumping more of our own water.

Millard Wilkerson
9 Tavistock Drive

Mr. Wilkerson updated the Mayor and Council on the progress of relocating the library. It is a work in progress. It currently looks beautiful and is very serviceable. The grand opening is being planned for some time in May. The bathrooms have been relocated and are now unisex. Thanks were extended to the Mayor and Council for their support.

Micky Armano
112 Rich Ave

Mrs. Armano informed Mayor and Council that her husband former Mayor John Armano has been nominated by the NJ Mayors Association as Mayor Emeritus. This will be presented in Atlantic City the week of April 2017.

Jennifer Adair-LaFontaine
265 South White Horse Pike

-Ms. Adair-LaFontaine had questions in reference to the new K-9 Officer, Radko. If Officer Steve Palma, would leave, would he pay for the cost of the dog? What happens to the dog when the dog is retired?

-Chief Miller assured her that Officer Palma would not be leaving and that they are both attending the K-9/Officer 15-week training school in Gloucester Township.

- Will the dog be properly trained because of only attending the 15 week training program, instead of the 30-week program?

- Chief Miller -The dog and officer will learn everything they would in the 15-week course vs. the 30 week course, it is just an exhilarated course. Gloucester Township Police Department has the best training academy in the state of NJ. After 7-9 years of service and the dog is retired, the patrolman would take the dog as his pet. Chief Miller also explained that he can be trained at a later date for specialized cases and the company we purchased the dog from came with a warrantee. Radko will be ready for service in July 2017.

- Ms. Adair -LaFontaine- Is the dog going to be trained to also be kid friendly?

- Chief Miller said is being trained to be a people friendly along with being a service officer.

-Ms. Adair-LaFontaine- Could our water source run dry?

- Mayor Bilella- The NJ DEP regulates how much water we can pump and they will not allow us to pump more than we have.

-Mayor Bilella extended his thanks to the members of the community and businesses that made donations toward the purchase of our new K-9 Officer.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2017 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,605,955.33

Motion; Council President Pearce
Sec.; Councilman Miller
RCV; All present were in favor

-Council President Pearce & Councilman Rocco requested that we go into a brief closed session.

-Solicitor Long addressed the Mayor and Council requesting to go into closed session to discuss matters of contract. There will be no action taken and it will last from 8:17 pm until 8:30 pm.

Motion to go into closed session made by; Council President Pearce
Sec.; Councilman Rocco
Voice Vote - All in favor

Closed Session

Motion to enter out of closed session made by; Councilman Miller
Sec; Councilman MacDonnell
Voice Vote – All in favor

Motion to adjourn; Councilman Miller
Sec.; Councilman MacDonnell
Voice Vote – All in favor

Lois J. Sahina
Municipal Clerk
April 13, 2017