



BOROUGH OF BERLIN
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 SOUTH WHITE HORSE PIKE
BERLIN, NJ 08009

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021 – 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Rick Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUNSHINE NOTICE

Mayor Miller stated that adequate notice of this meeting had 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 said meeting's date, place, and time.

ROLL CALL

Councilman Len Badolato – PRESENT
Councilwoman Patricia Cummings – PRESENT
Councilman Keith Hohing – PRESENT
Councilman Jake Miller – PRESENT
Councilman Andrew Simone – PRESENT
Council President Jim Pearce – PRESENT
Mayor Rick Miller – PRESENT

Also, Present: Howard Long, Solicitor
 Michaela Bosler, Municipal Clerk
 Millard Wilkinson, Police Chief

STATEMENT FROM MAYOR RICK MILLER

Mayor Miller thanked the public for coming to this meeting and gave a statement to the public regarding the governing body's position on the proposed NJDOT Closure of McClellan Avenue Railroad Crossing. Mayor Miller gave a timeline of how the governing body came to discover the proposed closure and detailed the actions the governing body has taken since learning of this proposal. He commented that the governing body is strongly against this closure, as the closure of this crossing would allow for residents and visitors of the road to only enter and exit that road through Route 73. The closure would severely negatively impact emergency services access to residents on this street, school bus routes, public works routes, and the general commute for

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anyone living or visiting homes or facilities on McClellan Ave. The Mayor pledged that he and the governing body pledge to work with the residents to fight against this proposed closure.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 14, 2021 Workshop Meeting
October 14, 2021 Regular Meeting
October 14, 2021 Executive Session

Hohing and Simone abstained from the approval of Workshop Meeting, Regular Meeting, and Executive Session of October 14, 2021.

Pearce motioned to approve the minutes. Badolato seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION – Councilman Len Badolato reported that he has been working with the NJDOT and Key Engineers for a traffic calming proposal for the White Horse Pike. Indicated that the shoulders would be designated as parking areas. The crosswalks would be upgraded at both Broad and Thackara. Additionally they are hoping to get temporary bump outs placed. Further reported that there is a significant amount of parking issues on Presidential Dr. during school hours, and that he has worked with Public Works on painting the curbs, and reached out to Dr. Campisi to notify parents not to block driveways, mailboxes, etc. on adjacent streets near the school. Additionally, there will be an police officer working the crossing between White Horse Pike and Franklin Ave to assist with traffic issues. Announced the Open House for the Dill House last week and thanked Zallies at Shoprite for donating all of the food. Wished everyone a happy thanksgiving.

- PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS - Councilman Andrew Simone reported that over the last month there have been some complaints about trash collection. Advised the public that the trash is picked up four days a week, Monday through Thursday, and DPW utilizes Friday as a flex day for unexpected issues in town such as trucks breaking down or inclement weather. The trucks can only carry a certain weight limit, and if a can is too heavy, the truck will not be able to lift. In those cases, it is noted by DPW and arrangements will be made to assist. If for some reason a resident did not get their trash out in time, contact DPW to see if an accommodation can be made. The Borough and DPW do not filter through social media for concerns, and Councilman Simone requested that residents who have concerns or complaints, please submit a request through mobile311. Leaf pick up starts November 1st, and two trucks that run continuously throughout town until December 23rd. Bulk trash is always the first full week of the month. Street sweeper purchase order has been submitted, and there is a 9 month wait for delivery to keep inlets and outlets clean for safety and DEP regulation purposes.

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- WATER & SEWER - Councilwoman Patricia Cummings reported the Fire Hydrant flushing was completed on October 29th. Line pump from plant #1 failed and has been sent out to be rebuilt. 80 utility mark out request were completed. All routine maintenance at both water plants were completed. For sewer, completed all routine monthly maintenance at our 10 pump stations. Completed all routine monthly maintenance on our 10 emergency backup generators at the sewer pump stations. A sewer main blockage on Tansboro Road was cleared, no service was interrupted.
- PUBLIC SAFETY – Council President Pearce reported that Fire Department responded to 57 calls for service and continued to receive their training on Tuesday nights. EMS answered 228 calls; 95 of those calls were within Berlin Borough. OEM conducted joint training session at Spring Oaks Assisted Living Facility with all public safety. Police Department handled a total of 1,531 calls. No need to speed campaign focused on Glenview Ave and intersecting streets that come up to Gardens Ave, Gardens Ave, Route 30 and Franklin, and Franklin and Presidential Dr. Commented that the governing body is adamantly against the closure of the McClellan Ave railroad crossing.
- COMMUNICATION – Councilman Keith Hohing reported that he attended several interviews throughout the month for court clerk, new police officer, and construction secretary. Reported he attended standard committee meetings. Implemented MFA on Borough devices to improve cyber security. Resolved remaining issues with 8x8 phone system transition. The Borough receives approximately 1500 a month which averages to 52 calls a day, and about 1 call every 10 minutes.
- FINANCE – Chairman Jake Miller reported the total revenues collected for the month of November 2021. Stated that the Best Practices Inventory has been completed before the due date. It is required to complete to be able to receive state funding for the next year. All funding will be received and the Borough is in compliance.
- SOLICITOR – Solicitor Howard Long reported that he crafted Resolution 2021:149 at the Mayor’s request and recommended that it be pulled from the consent agenda, voted on separately, and read into the record. The Mayor asked the Solicitor if the School Board could prepare a resolution as well. The Solicitor stated that he has been in contact with the School Board Solicitor and they intend to draft a resolution as well.
- MAYOR – Mayor Rick Miller reported that the annual shredding event will be held on Saturday, November 20 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. On Sunday, November 28 at 9:00 am, the Fire Department will be kicking off its annual tree sale. The Berlin Rotary will be hosting it’s annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday, December 4th at 6:30 pm. There will be a Special School Board Election for Eastern High School for a referendum question relating to bonding for facility upgrades, and all polling locations will be open. Thanked the residents for continued patience with office transitions. Announced that Ordinance 2021-16 is on the agenda to correct a prior ordinance from 2018 that was not advertised properly.

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Pearce motioned to approve the monthly reports. Hohing seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS NONE

NEW BUSINESS

- ORD. 2021-15 AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021:11 ESTABLISHING SALARIES

Mayor Miller stated this is the first reading and introduction; the public hearing for Ordinance 2021-15 will be on December 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Hohing motioned to introduce Ordinance 2021-15. Miller seconded the motion with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

- ORD. 2021-16 AN ORDINANCE TO RELEASE, VACATE AND EXTINGUISH ANY AND ALL PUBLIC RIGHTS IN AND TO VERMONT STREET AVENUE BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN

Mayor Miller stated this is the first reading and introduction; the public hearing for Ordinance 2021-16 will be on December 9, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Badolato motioned to introduce Ordinance 2021-16. Cummings seconded the motion with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

RESOLUTIONS

The Mayor stated the following resolutions are to be approved as a consent agenda. Council can at this time request to remove any of the resolutions from the consent agenda and they can be voted on separately.

The Mayor removed Resolution 2021:149 from the consent agenda.

- RES. 2021:43 SUBMISSION OF STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BERLIN-GIBBSBORO-VOORHEES MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FY23
- RES. 2021:144 RESOLUTION TO APPROVE STATE CONTRACT AND CO-OP VENDORS FOR VARIOUS SERVICES AND GOODS TO BE PURCHASED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR OF 2022
- RES. 2021:145 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT SERVICES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS
- RES. 2021:146 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF "FAIR AND OPEN" PROCESS FOR THE HIRING OF 2022 BOROUGH PROFESSIONALS

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- RES. 2021:147 APPROVAL OF BUDGET INSERTION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 SFY21 BODY-WORN CAMERA GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,266.00
- RES. 2021:148 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, APPOINTING ERIC HAHN AS PLANNING BOARD CLASS IV ALTERNATIVE #2
- RES. 2021:150 PAYMENT OF BILLS – NOVEMBER 2021
- RES. 2021:151 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM BILL FOR 1064 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE, WEST BERLIN, NJ 08091
- RES. 2021:152 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX CANCELLATION OF FUTURE TAXES AND THE TAX REFUND OF \$6,440.13 FOR BLOCK 610 LOT 26 DUE TO 100% TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
- RES. 2021:153 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX REFUND OF \$4,745.25 FOR BLOCK 2200 LOT 2.01 DUE TO OVERPAYMENT
- RES. 2021:154 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE TAX REFUND OF \$1,902.26 FOR BLOCK 1312 LOT 3.01 DUE TO OVERPAYMENT
- RES. 2021:155 REFUND PAYMENT FOR TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY AND SMOKE DETECTOR/CARBON MONOXIDE INSPECTIONS
- RES. 2021:156 REFUND PAYMENT FOR SMOKE DETECTOR/CARBON MONOXIDE INSPECTION

Pearce motioned to open the meeting for public comment on the resolutions. Miller seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

There were no comments from the public.

Hohing motioned to close the meeting for public comment on the resolutions. Simone seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

Badolato motioned to approve the consent agenda. Cummings seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

- RES. 2021:149 RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO A PROPOSAL BY THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NJDOT) TO CLOSE THE MCCLELLAN AVENUE AT-GRADE RAILROAD CROSSING (CR) USDOT #586048W IN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, CAMDEN COUNTY

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Solicitor Howard Long read the resolution in full into the record.

Pearce motioned to approve the consent agenda. Miler seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Miller motioned to open the meeting to the public for privilege of the floor. Hohing seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

- Michelle Taylor – 3 N. Atlantic Ave. – Thanked Mayor and Council for their efforts to stop the closure of the McClellan Ave railroad crossing. Stated a petition has been circulated to the DOT.
- Kimberly LaRosa – 14 McClellan Ave. – Thanked Mayor and Council for their efforts to stop the closure of the McClellan Ave railroad crossing. Announced all neighbors on this road are opposed to the closure. The Solicitor encouraged all residents opposed to this closure and who intend to contact the DOT and Transit Authority to express the adverse effects of public safety.
- Al Winston Sr. – Broadview Ave. – Commented that he had worked with Berlin EMS for many years and that the closure of this road would absolutely have severe negative impact on response times from emergency services.
- Darren LaRosa – 14 McClellan Ave. – Questioned how this closure had gotten to this point. The Solicitor responded that no member of the governing body was notified of the closure.

Simone motioned to close the meeting to the public for privilege of the floor. Cummings seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

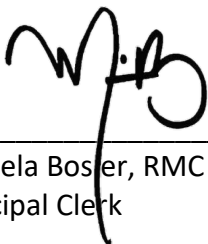
GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Councilman Simone thanked everyone for coming out. Announced that tomorrow is Veteran's Day and is a day of celebration. Commented that flags should be flown at full staff. Encouraged residents to go out and check out the monuments on the White Horse Pike honoring veterans.

ADJOURN

Pearce motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. Badolato seconded the motion with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Michaela Bosler, RMC
Municipal Clerk