



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021 – 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

Council President Jim Pearce called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUNSHINE NOTICE

The Clerk 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 – ABSENT

Also, Present: Howard Long, Solicitor
Debra DiMattia, CFO/Acting Administrator
Michaela Bosler, Municipal Clerk
Millard Wilkinson, Police Chief

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 10, 2021 Workshop Meeting
November 10, 2021 Regular Meeting
November 10, 2021 Executive Session

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

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COUNCIL REPORTS

- BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION – Councilman Len Badolato reported that the new camera system at the community center is up and running. Thanked the Borough employees for helping set up the Tree Lighting and the downtown area with lights and garland. Thanked the DBRC For decorating the tree. Wished everyone a happy holiday and new year.
- PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS - Councilman Andrew Simone stated that he had no full report for either department. DPW received a dump truck that they ordered earlier this year. Thanked everyone for all the hard work they've done this year. Commented that he missed the community events. He will provide updates next month with upcoming projects for next year. Wished everyone a happy new year.
- WATER & SEWER - Councilwoman Patricia Cummings reported that all routine maintenance was completed at both water plants. On December 5th, there was a water main break on McClelland Ave which was repaired. The failing 2-inch water main on Abbot Ave and Lafayette Ave is in the process of being upgraded to a new 6 inch main. This upgrade also includes replacing the water services to each home that is serviced on the new main. This upgrade improves water quality as well as improves fire protection to the area. For sewer, all routine monthly maintenance on the 10 pump stations was completed. All routine monthly maintenance on 10 emergency backup generator at the pump stations were completed. The worn pump cutters at the enclave pump station was replaced.
- PUBLIC SAFETY – Council President Pearce reported the Police Department will have a new officer sworn in shortly after this meeting. Police Department handled a total of 1,299 calls. No need to speed campaign focused on Route 30 and Franklin Ave, and Franklin Ave and Clementon Rd. For Fire Department responded to 52 calls for service and continued to receive their training on Tuesday nights. EMS answered 225 calls; 89 of those calls were within Berlin Borough. Announced that the OEM Coordinator, in conjunction with the Fire Department has joined a county wide team called Land Sar Tech III for missing persons.
- COMMUNICATION – Councilman Keith Hohing reported he attended various committee meetings and maintenance on the website. On behalf of DBRC, announced they have coordinated a program for businesses to purchase banners along the White Horse Pike, are funding a Holiday Stroll, conducting their 2nd annual house lighting contest, and their meetings will now be on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Thanked all who came out for the tree lighting. Wished everyone a happy holiday and happy new year.
- FINANCE – Chairman Jake Miller reported the total revenues collected for the month of December 2021. Wished everyone a happy holiday and safe new year.
- SOLICITOR – Solicitor Howard Long gave an update on the McClelland Ave Railroad Crossing closing. He commented that it has been a community effort to express opposition against

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the crossing. He announced that there is a resolution on tonight's agenda to formally accept a traffic study, prepared by the Borough Engineer, to present the facts as to why the closure is not in the best interest, health, safety, or welfare of the Berlin community. This study will be sent to NJDOT and NJ Transit Authority. Thanked EMS, Fire Department, Police Department, School District, and the residents who have signed the petition, and those who have sent letters of opposition to NJDOT and NJTA for coming to action with Mayor and Council to fight this closure.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Miller motioned to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-15. Hohing seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

There were no comments from the public.

Cummings motioned to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-15. Simone seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

Cummings motioned to adopt Ordinance 2021-15. Hohing seconded the motion, which passed 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

Miller motioned to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-16. Hohing seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

There were no comments from the public.

Simone motioned to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2021-16. Cummings seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

Miller motioned to adopt Ordinance 2021-16. Simone seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor in a Roll Call Vote.

NEW BUSINESS NONE

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.

- RES. 2021:157 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF

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NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
2021

- RES. 2021:158 RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN APPROVING CANCELLATION OF OUTSTANDING CHECKS
- RES. 2021:159 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN AND THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO, BARGAINING UNIT, FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2021 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023
- RES. 2021:160 APPOINTING HUNTER SAWASKI AS FULL TIME PATROLMAN FOR BERLIN BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS
- RES. 2021:161 PAYMENT OF BILLS – DECEMBER 2021
- RES. 2021:162 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 \$838.88 FOR BLOCK 2303 LOT 13 DUE TO 100% TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN
- RES. 2021:163 APPOINT MARK SCHINDELMAN AS BACKUP WATER/SEWER OPERATOR FOR THE BERLIN BOROUGH WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT
- RES. 2021:164 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY REPAIRS PURSUANT TO THE EMERGENCY SERVICES CONTRACT WITH R.D. ZUELI, INC.
- RES. 2021:165 ACCEPTING TRAFFIC STUDY REGARDING THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF MCCLELLAN AVENUE AT-GRADE RAILROAD CROSSING IN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PREPARED BY THE BOROUGH ENGINEER, PENNONI ASSOCIATES, INC.

Hohing motioned to open 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.

There were no comments from the public.

Cummings motioned to close 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.

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

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OATH OF OFFICE

Oath of Office was administered to Patrolman Hunter Sawicki by Council President Jim Pearce. His father, Michael Sawicki, held the bible.

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.

There were no comments from the public.

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

- Council President Jim Pearce announced that the Reorganization Meeting will be held on January 5, 2022.

ADJOURN

Simone motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Hohing seconded the motion with all members present voting in favor in a Voice Vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Michaela Bosler, RMC
Municipal Clerk