BOROUGH OF BERLIN

WORKSHOP MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

6:30 PM

Meeting called to order by Mayor Miller at 6:30 pm.

Mayor noted that the flag salute would take place at the 7 pm meeting immediately following this workshop.

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 Rick Miller, Council President Jim Pearce, Council members Badolato, Simone, Hohing, Miller and Cummings all present.

Present also; Solicitor Howard Long and CFO Debbie DiMattia.

 DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Buildings & Grounds, Chairman Len Badolato

Councilman Badolato reports that due to the Coronavirus the borough must take into consideration the safety of our residents therefore the council has determined to close the community center immediately and advising Debbie Simone to shut off the key fobs. Councilman Pearce states that there is always a possibility of FEMA money in cases of loss of revenue. The courts are under the jurisdiction of the AOC so they will make the decision to close the court. There is a 250 capacity for meetings that must be adhered to. The senior bus has been canceled and the seniors have suspended some of their functions on their own. Badolato notes that the community center fees will be addressed by a new ordinance.

Public works, Chairman Andy Simone

Simone explains that there is an online link for public works repairs thru automated work mobile 311. Data base on web site. Also notes that all residents should contact the borough directly for concerns rather than reading it thru social media that may not be correct. At this time during this coronavirus crisis trash pick up will remain in force with no changes.

Water & Sewer, Chairman Patricia Cummings

Councilwoman Cummings states that at this time there is nothing new to report for water and sewer, however there is an Ordinance being introduced at this meeting amending an ordinance regarding the reading of water meters in the borough.

Public Safety, Chairman Jim Pearce

Councilman Pearce states that in reference to all coronavirus information in and for the borough the Mayor is and should be the spokesman for these matters and for this information to the public. At this time Council President explained that a change in chairmen for finance and for communications has been requested by both Jake Miller and Keith Hohing noting that the switch will allow each councilman to serve the committee more efficiently. A motion was made by Pearce for Councilman Hohing to become chairman of Communications and for Councilman Miller to become chairman of finance. Motion seconded by Simone. All the governing body was in favor.

Communications, Chairman Keith Hohing

Chairman Hohing is working with the administrator and all departments to continue to get the web page up to date along with adding any new information for the public.

Finance, Chairman Jake Miller

Chairman Miller thanks all who attended the budget workshop on March 12. He recently attended a stop the bleeding and Narcan training program.

All senior activity, including busing will be suspended until further notice.

Mayor Rick Miller

Mayor states that he will be involved in a 9 am webinar to coordinate efforts with the township regarding coronavirus possible changes and direction.

Solicitor Howard Long

Explains agreement and resolution on agenda regarding the $268,798 overpayment mistake involving the Nexus property noting that an agreement made by the mayor is allowing a credit for this amount rather than the paying back of these funds. Explains the ordinance on agenda authorizing an extension of a lease of land and building located at 11 Jackson Road, otherwise known as the Dill House. Adding a resolution on agenda for a shared service agreement with the Board of Education for community center usage.

At this time the meeting was open to the public. Seeing or hearing no one the mayor closed the meeting to the public.

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:58 pm by Simone seconded by Cummings. All were in favor.

Charleen Santora

Acting Admin.