



BOROUGH OF BERLIN
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 SOUTH WHITE HORSE PIKE

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

REGULAR MEETING BEGAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 6:30 PM WORKSHOP MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT:

Notice of this meeting has been provided to the Courier Post and the Philadelphia Inquirer and is posted on the Borough Hall Bulletin Board stating the time, date, and the place of the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

- Councilman Badolato - Present
- Councilwoman Cummings – Present
- Councilman Hohing – Present
- Councilman Mascarenhas – Present
- Councilman Wilkinson – Present
- Council President Miller – Present
- Mayor Miller – Present

Also present: Solicitor, Howard Long – Present
Administrator, Anne Marie Miller – Present
Municipal Clerk, Rachel von der Tann, RMC – Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of April 11, 2024, executive session minutes Motion; Council President Miller Seconded.; Councilman Hohing AIF; All.

Approval of April 11, 2024, regular meeting minutes, Motion; Councilman Mascarenhas Seconded.; Councilman Hohing All; All.

Approval of April 11, 2024, workshop meeting minutes, Motion; Council President Miller Seconded; Councilwoman Cummings , AIF All .

Approval of April 25, 2024, workshop meeting minutes, Motion; Councilman Mascarenhas Seconded.; Councilman Hohing , AIF All

COUNCIL REPORTS

- **BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION** - Councilman Badolato and Councilman Mascarenhas

- **PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS** - Councilwoman Cummings and Councilman Wilkinson
 - **WATER & SEWER** - Councilwoman Cummings and Councilman Badolato
 - **PUBLIC SAFETY** - Councilman Hohing and Councilman Mascarenhas
 - **YOUTH ATHLETICS , COMMUNITY EVENTS** - Council President Miller and Councilman Wilkinson
 - **FINANCE** - Council President Miller and Councilman Hohing
 - **SOLICITOR** -Howard Long
 - **MAYOR** - Rick Miller
- BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION** Councilman Badolato and Councilman Mascarenhas

Discussing security camera upgrades

Councilman Badolato provided quotes for upgrading the community center security camera system to be hardwired instead of solar powered. The hardwired system would cost around \$26,000 for electrical work and \$8,000 for the cameras, while the solar powered system would be \$2,400 cheaper. Speaker 2 recommended the hardwired system for reliability, and Speaker 4 suggested using ethernet extenders to add cameras to the existing system instead of fully replacing it.

Considering security fencing around the fields

In addition to upgraded cameras, Councilman Wilkinson suggested considering physical barriers like fencing, which could be cheaper than the camera system. The group agreed to get quotes on fencing and see if it would help deter vandalism in addition to the camera upgrades

- **PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS** - Councilman Wilkinson and Councilman Cummings

Councilman Wilkinson give the DPW report.

Last month 45 tons of recycling was collected 293 tons of trash for the month and 3 tons of cardboard.

Street sweeping has started and there was 45 tons of debris.

Pennoni advised John Allesbrook that the concrete work has been completed on Evaine, Hillcroft Independence Court, and Princeton Court. Pennoni said weather permitting, the milling and paving is supposed to start May 15, 2024. If needed, Pennoni will give a revised schedule.

Jackson Road project.

Councilman Wilkinson stated that the administrator spoke with Chris Knoll , our environmental engineer , and advised that construction is scheduled to begin June 3rd and should be completed

by August 30th and that they most likely will be shutting down the road. They're not just doing one lane. It's going to be shut down for everybody except for local.

➤ **WATER & SEWER** - Councilwoman Cummings and Councilman Badolato

Councilwoman Cummings give her report for the water department, The Borough had 16 service order. The meter repair replacements were completed. 60 utility mark outs were completed this month. Monthly maintenance on both the water plants have been completed. Plant number two is back online and is operational for our seasonal water demand. Hydrant flushing has been completed. Any issues that were found during that time, have been prioritized for repair in the sewer. The Borough completed all the routine monthly maintenance for our 10 pump stations. All the monthly routines for the emergency generators and the sewer pump station completed as well. Pump one at the enclave pump station. This pump is in need of some new cutter parts. They were ordered and DPW is going to be replacing them as soon as they're delivered for storm water. The NJDEP requires us to retrofit our storm drains and we are continuing to do that. Approximately 45% of that requirement is completed. And we're still waiting on delivery for the new generator for the Cross Keys and that'll complete that project as well. So, and that's all I have for my department.

➤ **PUBLIC SAFETY** – Councilman Hohing and Councilman Mascarenhas

Councilman Hohinh gives his report. Stats for this month from the Police Department. They had 3087 total service calls compared to 2800. Police department was up 497 summonses compared to 364 in March. There were 29 arrests compared to 2125 motor vehicle crashes compared to 29 in March 424 traffic stops compared to 257 in March. Most of the stats are up this month. It's been a busy month with the department there. Directed patrols. Whitehurst pike and Franklin Ave had seven directed patrols with three traffic stops and five summons issue and the white horse pike and Taunton for vehicles disregarding the red signal. This was continued to focus on the school presence at BCS and Mt Carmel.

Tag readers were down slightly 495,000 compared to 525,000 in March, 144 searches for vehicles involved in criminal activities. 53 traffic stops with the tag readers compared to 26. The readers were down; however the amount of activity was up. It radiated readers, community policing. Canine Clyde had mandatory in service training in in a on April 18th and there were no reported canine deployments.

We had the Berlin Police Department participated in the route 30 distracted driver campaign for the month of April, sponsored by the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic and Safety resulting in 208 traffic summons, 6 arrests and 190 traffic stops.

We have Sergeant Wolf who was named the officer of the month related for his heroic actions to remove the elderly woman from the vehicle which caught fire on April 9th. Congratulations to Sergeant Wolf.

Update on the Haddon Avenue Bridge. Repairs are expected to be completed on June 2nd.

- **YOUTH ATHLETICS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS-** Council President Miller and Councilman Wilkinson

Councilman Wilkinson states he will receiving invoices for the scoreboards from Berlin AA.

Councilman Wilkinson states he had no updates for Berlin Soccer.

- **FINANCE –** Council President Miller- See attached report on finance.

Council President Miller explains there is a resolution on tonight’s agenda to amend the introduced 2024 budget. He explains it is for the Water Quality Accountability Act. This is something that the State enforces, and we have to stay in line with what they require as far as listing the lines under the water capital budget. This amendment doesn't change anything to our budget.

Council President Miller wants to add to the report that is there is a 0% tax increase this year. He states that's great that we worked that out. All the departments together, worked hard to keep everything down.

Council President Miller wishes everyone a Happy Mother’s Day.

- **SOLICITOR –** Mr. Long explains the ordinances that are on this evening agenda.

➤ **MAYOR Miller-**

The Mayor thanks everyone who came out to help with the rabies clinic. He thanked DPW and the Police department for their assistance.

The Mayor lets residents know about the upcoming shredding event June 1 from 9-12pm.

Discusses possibly starting the Berlin Borough newsletter again.

OLD BUSINESS

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2024-09

CALENDAR YEAR 2024 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK.
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Meeting open to the public on Ordinance No. 2024-09,Councilman Hohing, Second.;Council President Miller ,AIF All.

Meeting closed to the public on Ordinance No. 2024-09 Councilman Mascarenhas , Second;Councilman Hohng, AIF All .

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-09 Council President Miller , Second.; Councilwoman Cummings , RCV All in favor. .

SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2024-10

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF BERLIN BOROUGH TO AMEND CHAPTER 335-13 OF THE CODE OF BERLIN BOROUGH, ENTITLED "ZONING AND LAND USE.

Meeting open to the public on Ordinance No. 2024-10, Councilman Mascarenhas Councilwoman Cummings , AIF All in favor.

Meeting closed to the public on Ordinance No. 2024-10 Council President Miller , Second; Councilman Mascarenhas , AIF All.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-10 Councilman Badolato , Second.; Councilwoman Cummings , RCV All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

RES. R5:86-2024

AUTHORIZING THE 2024 GENERAL, WATER, SEWER, AND OPEN SPACE BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY. WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-8, as amended by 7 L. 2015, c 95 14,20-15, provides that the budget may be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing, a complete copy of the budget has been made available for public inspection and has been made available to each person upon request and WHEREAS, these two conditions have been met; and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the budget shall be read by title only.

Motion to approve: Council President Miller Second: Councilman Hohing RCV All in Favor

2024 GENERAL, WATER, SEWER, AND OPEN SPACE BUDGET APPROPRIATING \$ 10,027,311.59 IN GENERAL, \$ 3,516,561.75 IN WATER, \$ 1,201,378.74 IN SEWER AND \$121,230.59 IN OPEN SPACE.

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion to open the 2024 budget public hearing: Councilman Mascarenhas Second: Councilman Hohing; AIF: All

Motion to close the 2024 budget public hearing: Councilman Hohing Second: Council President Miller ; AIF: All

RES. R5:87-2024

Resolution to amend the introduced 2024 Budget, for the Borough of Berlin, County of Camden.

Motion to approve: Councilman Mascarenhas Second: Councilman Hohing RCV: All in favor.

RES. R5:88;2024 ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED 2024 GENERAL, WATER, SEWER, AND OPEN SPACE BUDGET.

Motion; Council President Miller , Second, Councilwoman Cummings RCV All in Favor .

CONSENT AGENDA Resolutions R5-89;2024 to R5-99:2024

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Mascarenhas Second; Council President Miller
AIF: All

Motion to close public portion: Councilman Mascarenhas Second; Councilwoman Cummings
AIF: All

RES. R5-89-2024

A resolution memorializing an executive session from April 11, 2024.

RES. R5-90-2024

Resolution authorizing a waiver of the sidewalk provisions of §336-61 in accordance with the recommendation of Pennoni Associates dated February 14, 2024, for block 1803, lot 1, A/K/A 7 Maloney Court, in the Borough of Berlin, County of Camden and State of New Jersey.

Res. R5-91-2024

Resolution amending resolution R4-82:2024 for the approval of three quotes for the three Berlin Borough playground upgrades, going through NJ State Contract , General Recreation , Inc, in the total amount of \$331,048.00 for playgrounds Bel-Air Park, Berlin Woods Park, Centennial Park.

RES. R5-92-2024

Resolution waiving the late fee for pet licensing until June 1, 2024. Effective May 1, 2024.

RES. R5-93-2024

Resolution appointing Phoenix Advisors LLC as Independent Registered Municipal Advisor of Record effective January 1 ,2024

RES. R5-94-2024

Resolution of the Borough of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, authorizing the refund of \$10 for block 1412 lots 20 due to overpayment of mathematical error.

RES. R5-95-2024

Resolution of the Borough of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, authorizing the tax refunds totaling \$14,550.04 for the block and lots due to overpayment. (See resolution)

RES. R5-96-2024

Resolution of the Borough of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, authorizing the refund of \$10 for block 521 lots 9 due to overpayment of mathematical error.

RES. R5-97:2024

Resolution approving the resignation of Karl Hanson, Auto Mechanic for the Borough of Berlin, effective April 19, 2024.

RES. R5-98;2024

Resolution authorizing Pennoni Associates to apply for NJDOT FY2025 Municipal Aid Funding for the fee of \$2,500.00.

RES. R5-99-2024,

Resolution approving Payment of Bills for May totaling \$3,226,588.23.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS R5-89;2024 to R5-99-2024 Councilwoman Cummings Sec.;Councilman Badolato RCV All in favor. .

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR

Motion to open the public portion: Council President Miller

Seconded: Councilman Mascarenhas AIF: All Opposed: None

Motion to close the public portion: Council President Miller

Seconded: Councilman Hohing AIF: All Opposed: None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Mascarenhas

Seconded: Councilman Hohing AIF: All Opposed: None

Submitted by:
Rachel von der Tann
Municipal Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Betty Velie

Gives information on the fall fest , which will be held on October 12, 2024, from 10-4pm.

Thanks Mayor and Council for their continued support.