



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

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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 – Absent
Councilman Hohing – Present
Councilman Mascarenhas – Present
Councilman Wilkinson – Absent
Council President Miller - Present
Mayor Miller – Absent

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of August 8, 2024, regular meeting minutes, Motion; Councilman Badolato Seconded.
Councilman Hohing AIF All .

Approval of August 8, 2024, workshop meeting minutes, Motion; Councilman Badolato Seconded.
Councilman Hohing, AIF All .

Approval of August 8, 2024, executive meeting minutes, Motion; Councilman Badolato 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

Councilman Badolato explains that every year the Borough has been painting the lamppost, on the pike right before the Fourth of July parade. The Borough is getting \$600 reimbursed, to pay for the labor and the materials, as our DPW has been doing it. Councilman Badolato said we finally did get the money, not only that, but we were able to get \$2000 which was, it was more than the Borough was asking for.

Councilman Badolato explains we're having problems with the electric bills up at, the athletic association and our contact is going to reach out and look into that issue and see what they could do because the bill has been very high.

Councilman Badolato explains the issue with a light that's out on park drive and West Taunton has been out for a while. Councilman Wilkinson's been, been trying to get the lights squared away, spoke to our contact about that and stated that it was a safety issue this time of year because kids are waiting to get the bus. Our point of contact is going to look into that right now and has told Anne Marie the Borough Administrator they're getting materials together to actually fix it.

Councilman Mascarenhas provided an update on the completed lighting project at Carriage Stop, which received positive feedback from residents, and mentioned that the playgrounds are being upgraded to meet insurance requirements and accessibility standards. Councilman Mascarenhas suggested proactively communicating the rationale behind the playground upgrades to address potential concerns raised on social media and mentioned including information and photos in the upcoming newsletter. It was encouraged to discuss the playground projects with Triad Associates during their next council meeting to seek further assistance.

- **PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS** - Councilman Wilkinson (Absent) and Councilman Cummings (Absent)
- Councilman Badolato explains quotes for demolition of some buildings, Councilman Badolato gives an update on a grant application related to testing on the Blaese's property. Council President Miller asks about a timeline for receiving all demolition quotes.

Councilman Badolato states the new mechanic for the DPW is going to start soon.

Councilman Badolato states the sidewalk along Clementon Road has been completed.

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

Councilman Badolato reads water report.

There were 33 service orders for meter repairs. They were completed. There were 83 utility mark outs and were completed. 25 meters were replaced.

The ground testing for the site was conducted by Pennoni at Crosskeys pump station.

The Borough had a new generator installed there and also replaced the pump guide rails at pump number one.

Pennoni informed Councilman Badolato that the NJ 2024 program, has awarded Berlin Borough \$208,558.

Councilman Badolato states contractors had begun work with stormwater delineation, but that has been suspended. This has been along Jackson Road and the superintendents will contact the county engineer to get updates when the project will start.

➤ **PUBLIC SAFETY** – Councilman Hohing and Councilman Mascarenhas
Councilman Hohing was absent.

Councilman Hohing presented updates from the Berlin Fire Department, including call statistics, training activities, and the renewal of a safety grant for daytime crew staffing. Councilman Hohing also shared updates from the Berlin Police Department, highlighting increased summons and arrest numbers, community policing events, and the deployment of K-9 units. Councilman Hohing discussed a traffic engineer's recommendation for striping and curb modifications at the intersection of Jefferson and Broad Avenue to address speeding concerns and acknowledged the impact of an upcoming railroad crossing closure on emergency response times.

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

Councilman Badolato gives youth athletics update.

Berlin AA - Youth Fall baseball commenced in September and Berlin youth soccer that commenced in September. Stated there was a recreational grant award, 2024 R3 C grant..

➤ **FINANCE** – Council President Miller-
Council President Miller provided an overview of the Borough's revenue collections for August 2024, including permit fees, tax collections, and utility collections. Council President Miller also mentioned the successful completion of the 2023 audit with no issues and commended the administration's stellar performance.

Revenues Collected Report for August 2024

Permit fees \$26,838.00

Rental inspection fees \$1,300.00

Zoning Fees \$500.00

Resale inspection fees \$2,600.0

Community Center \$2,500.00

Tax collector \$6,217,294.13

Utility Collector \$59,665.57

Animal license fee \$100.00

Clerk's Office \$19,769.00

Court Office \$25,713.90

The council discussed the acquisition of a property previously owned by Blaese's, addressing environmental concerns, and seeking input from residents and groups on potential redevelopment plans for the site.

- **SOLICITOR** – Mr. Long explains Triad Associates.
Mr. Long discussed the role of Triad Associates, a consulting firm that has helped the Borough with grant applications and technical expertise for projects like site cleanups and downtown revitalization. They highlighted Triad's successful work in securing \$2 million for a site cleanup in Gloucester City and expressed hope that Triad could assist with similar initiatives in their downtown area. Mr. Long mentioned that the initial discussions with Triad started with projects like walkway lights and soccer field lighting but stalled due to personnel changes, until they reconnected with Carolyn who now leads Triad.

- **MAYOR Miller- Absent**

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2024-19

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN APPROPRIATING \$130,000 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FIRE QUICK RESPONSE VEHICLE IN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2024-19, Councilman Hohing Sec. Councilman Mascarenhas RCV All in favor. .

CONSENT AGENDA Resolutions R9-153:2024 to R9-166:2024

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

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

RES. R9-153-2024,

Resolution approving the sale of the Rescue Truck for the agreed upon price of \$360,000.00. to Camden City Fire Department with an “as is” agreement and Bill of Sale.

RES. R9-154-2024

Resolution authorizing a contract by and between the Borough of Berlin and John A. Allsebrook, as Superintendent of the Department of Public Works , effective January 1, 2025.

RES. R9-155-2024

Resolution authorizing the extension of the current emergency repair contract between the Borough of Berlin and R.D Zeuli , Inc for an additional one-year period at the current prices and rates.

RES. R9-156-2024

Resolution authorizing the cancellation of grant receivables and grant appropriations.

RES. R9-157-2024

Resolution authorizing the use of an electronic tax sale for the 2023 tax sale scheduled for November 20, 2024.

RES. R9-158-2024

Resolution authorizing the tax refund of \$14,766.96 for the block and lots due to overpayment.(See resolution for block and lots).

Motion to table; Council President Miller **Second;** Councilman Hohing AIF All

RES. R9-159-2024

Resolution authorizing the tax cancellation of the partial tax for block 1501 lot 3 due to double assessment.

RES. R9-160-2024

Resolution accepting the results of the 2023 Audit.

RES. R9-161-2024

Resolution authorizing the proposal for professional services from Pennoni Associates for the 2024 Berlin Borough Roadway Improvements Program in the amount of \$49,500.00.

RES. R9-162-2024

Resolution authorizing the Borough of Berlin to participate with the State of New Jersey Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program administered by the Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General.

RES. R9-163-2024

Resolution of the Borough of Berlin to amend adopted budget (Chapter 159) for special items of revenue and appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 25-26 Safe and Secure in the amount \$45,150.00.

RES. R9-164-2024

Resolution of the Borough of Berlin to amend adopted budget (Chapter 159) for special items of revenue and appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 2024-2028 Safer Grant in the amount of \$450,180.00.

RES. R9-165-2024

Resolution approving the hiring of Jake Murphy for seasonal help for the Department of Public Works, effective August 5, 2024.

RES. R9-166-2024

Resolution approving September Payment of Bills in the amount \$2,770,301.43.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS R9-153:2024 to R9-166:2024 Councilman Mascarenhas , Sec.; Councilman Hohing RCV All in favor.

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR

Motion to open the public portion: Councilman Mascarenhas

Seconded: Councilman Hohing AIF: All Opposed: None

Motion to close the public portion: Councilman Badolato

Seconded: Councilman Mascarenhas 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

Berlin Resident , Steve David

Resident asked about the status of Blaese's property.

Councilman Badolato explains that the Borough took possession of the property. Councilman Badolato explains that there were a few environmental issues that weren't too bad to remediate. Councilman Badolato states he would like the residents to be part of the discussion to get a couple ideas as what the residents want.