



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

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 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 (left at 7:45pm)
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 September 12, 2024, regular meeting minutes, Motion; Councilman Mascarenhas Seconded.; Councilman Badolato AIF All .

Approval of September 12, 2024, workshop meeting minutes, Motion; Councilman Mascarenhas Seconded.; Councilman Badolato , 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
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- **BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION** Councilman Badolato and Councilman Mascarenhas

Councilman Badolato introduced representatives from Triad Associates, an organization that helps with economic development and securing funding for projects. The Triad representatives explained their approach of creating a project and funding matrix to match priority projects with available funding opportunities. They suggested starting the process by having department heads provide their priority project lists, which Triad can then use to identify potential funding sources and required matching funds.

Councilman Badolato thanks Stella’s Farm for providing the cornstalks.

Councilman Badolato also states that he took part with the DBRC with the South Jersey Breast Cancer Coalition.

Councilman Mascarenhas states the Borough is starting the process for the park in the Woods Development. The Borough is adding more specialized equipment over to Centennial Park because it's a big property.

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

Councilman Wilkinson gives updates on upcoming path work and holiday lighting preparations by the Department of Public Works. They discussed adding specialized equipment for children with disabilities at the parks and the possibility of securing matching funds for these projects.

WATER & SEWER - Councilwoman Cummings and Councilman Badolato

Councilwoman Cummings states the Borough had 18 service orders for meter repair and replacements were completed. 76 utility mark outs were completed for the month. Monthly maintenance on both water plants was completed and replaced 10 water meters.

Councilwoman Cummings states the notices for meter replacements that previously had issues were regarding the notices with the shutoffs, everyone is now complying with that. The Borough has almost completed the water meters. The Borough has also started, the prepping the water tower for the painting project.

The Borough has completed all routine monthly maintenance at our 10 pump stations. Monthly maintenance on the 10 emergency backup generators at the sewer pump stations has already been completed and replaced the high-level flow at the enclave pump station.

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

Councilman Hohing goes over the monthly numbers for the September reports . The EMS for the Borough of Berlin had 126 rollouts. It was roughly 48% of Berlin Township had.

The Berlin Fire Company respond to 66 calls for service in September, 649 total for 2024.

Comparison in numbers in previous years of September, last year was 90 versus 66 this year.

The Borough Fire Department received training on Tuesday nights and included the hauling system training, rescue, rope training, fire prevention and apparatus maintenance, staff, weekly, daily, daily time duty crew and during those hours ready to respond to calls, review an inspection, check apparatus, all means of cleaning and extra training along with the above activities. The Borough Fire Company hosted fire prevention night which several of the council were there.

Councilman Hohing states he was in attendance and says it was a really, nice and beautiful evening at the at the community center and also went into the schools to teach your Children the importance of safety, the interaction with the community, Children and prices and forces the bond makes Berlin Borough a great place to live. And as always on behalf of the volunteers, Councilman Hohing personally thanked them and the governing body for continued support on behalf of our police Chief Michael Kernan.

The Berlin Borough Police department had 90 searches for vehicles involved in criminal activities compared to 7540 summonses for tags issued compared to 88 and 22 traffic stops compared to 45 community policing. Various officers participated in fire prevention, night out bicycle safety course at BCS was held on October 9th and the Fall festival is scheduled for this coming Saturday. Canine Clyde had mandatory in service training on 9/26 and four total police vehicle stops resulting in two arrests and possessions of suspected narcotics related drug paraphernalia.

Patrolman Palma was named the officer of the month for the foot pursuit of subsequent address of a male. One for the theft of a of a \$15,000 worth of fiber optics. Another note here is the railroad of Washington and McClellan will be closed for upgrades from the October 11th to the 18th and Harker Avenue railroad is estimated to be eliminated by October 21st.

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

Youth athletics and community events

Participant 3 mentioned an issue with the youth soccer program's board and high electric bills causing financial difficulties. The participants discussed exploring options to assist the youth athletics program with equipment needs and addressing the high electric bill issue.

➤ **FINANCE** – Council President Miller-

Council President Miller reads the revenue report for September

Revenues Collected Report for September 2024

Permit fees \$11,532.00

Rental inspection fees \$1,670.00

Zoning Fees \$250.00

Resale inspection fees \$950.00

Community Center \$800.0

Tax collector \$192,525.80

Utility Collector \$1,044,198.75

Animal license fee \$106.00

Clerk's Office \$18,224.00

Court Office \$24,724.79

Council President Miller states there is a resolution on this evening's agenda approving the new courtroom equipment.

➤ **SOLICITOR** – Mr. Long goes over the ordinances on this evening's agenda.

Mr. Longs explains the introduced Ordinance 2024-19, appropriating \$130,000 from the capital improvement fund for the purchase of a fire quick response vehicle. The council introduced Ordinance 2024-20, prohibiting certain acts for carrying, using, possessing, or discharging dangerous or deadly weapons in the courtroom, as required by the administrative office for court security. The council introduced Ordinance 2024-21, amending Chapter 315 regarding vehicles and traffic, and Ordinance 2024-22, amending Chapter 28-1 and Chapter 335 to add certain properties to the historic district.

MAYOR MILLER-

Mayor Miller gives the date for the Fall Fest, October 12, 2024. The Breast Cancer Coalition is on October 17, 2024. Election Day is November 5, 2024. Shredding Event is November 2, 2024, 9-12pm.

OLD BUSINESS

RES. R9-158-2024 (previously tabled)

Resolution of the Borough of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, authorizing the tax refund of \$14,766.96 for the block and lots due to overpayment from the Mortgage Company, CoreLogic. (See resolution)

Motion Council President Jake Seconded Councilwoman Cummings RCV All in favor .

SECOND 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.

Meeting open to the public on Ordinance No. 2024-19, Councilman Mascarenhas , Second. Councilwoman Cumings , AIF All

Meeting closed to the public on Ordinance No. 2024-19 Councilwoman Wilkinson , Second: Councilman Mascarenhas , AIF All .

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-19 Councilman Mascarenhas , Second.; Councilman Wilkinson RCV All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2024-20

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY THAT PART II, GENERAL LEGISLATION, CHAPTER 164 FIREARMS AND WEAPONS, PROHIBITING CERTAIN ACTS FOR THE CARRYING, USE, POSSESSION OR DISCHARGE OR FIRING OF DANGEROUS OR DEADLY WEAPONS.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2024-20, Councilwoman Cummings , Sec., Councilman Badolato , RCV All in favor.

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2024-21

ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT CHAPTER 315, "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2024-21, Councilman Badolato, Sec., Councilman Wilkinson RCV All in favor. .

FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE NO. 2024-22

ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN AMENDING CHAPTER 28-1 AND CHAPTER 335 THE TAX MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN TO ADD CERTAIN PROPERTIES TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN.

Motion to introduce Ordinance No. 2024-22, Councilman Badolato , Sec., Councilwoman Cummings , RCV All in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA Resolutions R10-167:2024 to R10-170:2024

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

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

RES. R10-167-2024

Resolution of the Borough of Berlin, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, authorizing the cancellation of \$2313.00 (3rd quarter) and future billings for the fire suppression system and hydrant fees for block 1700 lot 1.01 due to the New Jersey statues listed in title 40a.

RES. R10-168-2024

Resolution approving recording installation for the Municipal Court for the Borough of Berlin, from BISSDIGITAL, in the amount of \$18,127.55

RES. R10-169-2024

Resolution approving the refund of remaining escrow for 20 Locust Avenue, in the amount of \$1,417.75 due to the installation of the inground pool being complete.

RES. R10-170-2024

Resolution approving the appointment of Ashley Mikolajczak, as Deputy Municipal Court Administrator, with the agreed upon salary in compliance with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO AFSCME Council 63 LOCAL 3303-0, effective October 14, 2024.

RES. R10-171-2024

Resolution approving payment of bills for the month of October in the amount of \$1,527,632.90.

RES. R10-172-2024

Resolution authorizing the appointment of Eric Riso, Esquire of the Firm of Zeller & Wieliczko, as Conflict Counsel for the Borough of Berlin, County of Camden and State of New Jersey.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS R10-167:2024 to R10-170:2024 Council President Miller , Sec.; Councilman Mascarenhas RCV All in favor. .

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR

Motion to open the public portion: Councilman Wilkinson

Seconded: Councilman Mascarenhas AIF: All Opposed: None

Motion to close the public portion: Council President Miller

Seconded: Councilwoman Cummings AIF: All Opposed: None

CLOSED SESSION

Motion to enter executive session: Councilwoman Cummings

Seconded: Councilman Hohing AIF: All Opposed: None

Motion to close executive session: Councilwoman Cummings

Seconded: Councilman Badolato AIF: All Opposed: None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Mascarenhas

Seconded: Councilman Badolato AIF: All Opposed: None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Torres

Voices concerns on speeding issues on Marshall Avenue.

Voices concerns of the baseball equipment at Berlin Community School.

James Chojnacki

Mr. Chojnacki inquired about the possibility of transferring an unused liquor license from an adjacent town for the purpose of redevelopment and revitalization. Participant 10 explained that the releasing municipality would receive a fee, and the receiving municipality could expand an ABC consumption license through an RFP process. Participant 10 also mentioned a New Jersey grant program that offers reimbursement for closing costs of up to \$50,000 for eligible small businesses purchasing commercial properties in their downtown areas.

Submitted by:
Rachel von der Tann
Municipal Clerk