



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

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 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 – 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 November 14, 2024, regular meeting minutes, Motion; Council President Miller Seconded.; Councilman Mascarenhas AIF All .

Approval of November 14, 2024, workshop meeting minutes, Motion; Council President Miller Seconded.; Councilman Mascarenhas , AIF All .

Approval of November 14, 2024, executive session meeting minutes, Motion; Council President Miller Seconded.; Councilman Mascarenhas 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 reported on issues with the guardrail and fencing installed by the DOT near the train station and plans to address them. Councilman Badolato mentioned inviting the Pinelands Preservation Alliance to a future council meeting to discuss their drainage and gardening initiatives. Participant 8 provided an update on the completion of the three parks projects and the installation of handicap-accessible equipment.

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

WATER & SEWER - Councilwoman Cummings and Councilman Badolato

Councilwoman Cummings states the Borough had two water main breaks, this month, one on Franklin Avenue near Presidential Ave, and, the on-call employees responded, determined that the 10-inch water main on Franklin Ave had failed. The Borough proceeded to contact our emergency service contractor, and they were dispatched and, it was approximately 7 p.m. when the breach occurred. They were able to finish and repair everything by 10 a.m. with little interruption to, Neighbors, also the main break on Franklin Avenue, Chestnut Ave was reported on the 7th at 4 a.m. Our on-call employee responded, determined that the eight-inch water main had failed. Contact our emergency service, and that was repaired by approximately 12 o'clock for the sewer. The Borough completed all our routine monthly maintenance at our 10 pump stations along with our 10 emergency backup generators and sewer pump stations. The Borough recalibrated the float system at the enclave pump station. The Borough needs do need to order some, parts, and once they're received, they will be installed.

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

Police department accreditation process

Participants discussed the ongoing police department accreditation process, mentioning meetings with consultants, gathering data, and plans to present findings to the council regarding the numbers, impact, and value of the service. The police chief and lieutenant were thoroughly examining the accreditation process before making a request to the council.

November 2024 report.

Read by Councilman Hohing

▶ Statistical Data

- o 2,943 total calls for service compared to 3,025 in October
- o 228 summonses compared to 144 in October
- o 25 arrests compared to 31 in October
- o 41 motor vehicle crashes compared to 28 in October
- o 141 traffic stops compared to 92 in October
- o Yearly comparison of summonses
through November 2022 (1,415) 2023
(2,286) 2024 (3,684)

▶ Directed Patrols

- o Westbury Drive for stop sign violations resulting in 5 directed patrols and 21 property checks. No violations observed or summonses issued
- o Jackson Rd for speeding & stop sign violations for newly established speed limit and installation of 4 way stop signs. Directed patrols ongoing.
- o

▶ Tag Reader cameras

- o 667,278 total license plates read compared to 757,704 in October
- o 15 for vehicles involved in criminal activity compared to 80 in October
- o 24 summonses issued from tagreader hits compared to 31 in October
- o 12 traffic stops related to tagreader hits compared to 10 in October

▶ Community Policing

- o OLMC School for Thanksgiving Day brunch 11/27/24

▶ K-9 Clyde

- o Mandatory in-service training on 11/21/2024
- o No November deployments

▶ Miscellaneous

- o Ptl. Connor Mansfield named officer of the month for October
- o New promotional list for Sergeant and Lieutenant created after process was conducted with candidates. List will be effective 12/12/24 until 12/12/26.

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

The Mayor states they are looking into prices for the fencing and working on issues with the electric company.

- **FINANCE –** Council President Miller-

Council President Miller mentioned the upcoming demolition bid opening and the reinstatement of quarterly department head meetings with the mayor and council president.

Revenues Collected Report for November 2024

Permit fees \$8,918.00

Rental inspection fees \$1,050.00

Zoning Fees \$250.00

Resale inspection fees \$250.00

Community Center \$1000.00

Animal license fee \$23.00

Clerk's Office \$1,080.00

Court Office \$22,221.34

- **SOLICITOR –** Mr. Long

Mr. Long discuss the topic of drones in the news and sought feedback or information from other council members or legislative sources.

Participants expressed frustration over the lack of information from state authorities regarding a drone situation, with no updates or substantial information provided despite meetings and inquiries. The governor stated there was no threat to personal safety, but the meaning of this statement was unclear.

MAYOR MILLER-

The Mayor states we had the Christmas tree lighting here to the Rotary and DPW did a great job. The Mayor quotes "I do want to go on record" . I asked the administrator and the clerk when it was 20 degrees out, they want to decorate the borough hall tree, and they declined, so our DPW went out and froze and did it. Not sure they were happy I even suggested it,(laughs) But DPW did a great job decorating the tree and the light poles with the garlands, the town looks great.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA Resolutions R12-181:2024 to R12-192:2024

Motion to open to the public: Council President Miller Second; Councilwoman Cummings
AIF: All

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

RES. R12-181:2024,

Resolution authorizing the Borough of Berlin through the Berlin Police Department, to participate in the defense logistics agency, law enforcement support enforcement support office, 1033 program to enable the Berlin Police Department to request and acquire excess department of defense equipment.

RES. R12-182:2024

Resolution approving two flashing LED lighted stop signs on Jackson Road at Washington Avenue intersection.

RES. R12-183:2024

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 for “FY 2025 NJDOT Road Program” in the amount of \$171,437.00.

RES. R12-184:2024

Resolution authorizing and directing the Borough of Berlin planning board to undertake a preliminary investigation to determine whether the proposed study area which includes block 1100, lots 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 9.01 are to be delineated as an area in need of condemnation redevelopment pursuant to the local redevelopment and housing law.(N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 *ET SEQ.*)

RES. R12-185:2024

Resolution authorizing and directing the Borough of Berlin planning board to undertake a preliminary investigation to determine whether the proposed study area which includes block 1800, lots 5, 6, and 9 are to be delineated as an area in need of condemnation redevelopment pursuant to the local redevelopment and housing law .(N.J.S.A). 40A:12A-1 *ET SEQ.*)

RES. R12-186:2024

Resolution approving the Preventive Maintenance Coverage Agreement for Hawks and Company effective 11/01/2024 and ending 10/31/2025 providing maintenance and inspection of heating and / or air conditioning equipment while said equipment is in operation.

RES. R12-187:2024

Resolution approving the Preventive Maintenance Coverage Agreement for Hawks and Company effective 11/01/2024 and ending 10/31/2025 to furnish all labor necessary to respond to the need of remote service on all equipment.

RES. R12-188:2024

Resolution of the Borough of Berlin authorizing the cancellation of outstanding checks.

RES. R12-189:2024

Approving payment of bills for the month of December totaling \$2,044,729.56.

RES. R12-190:2024

Resolution authorizing the execution of a collective bargaining agreement by and between the Borough of Berlin and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO, AFSCME Council 63, local 3303-0, bargaining unit, for the period commencing January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027.

RES. R12-191:2024

Resolution approving the agreement between the County of Camden and OMNI Recycling Holdings , LLC for marketing services for single stream recyclable materials for Camden County and participating County Municipalities.

RES. R12-192:2024

Resolution approving the hiring Kathleen DiOrio as part time Tax Collector for the Borough of Berlin effective 12/6/2024.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS R12-181:2024 to R12-192:2024 Councilman Badolato , Sec.; Council President Miller RCV All in favor.

PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR

Motion to open the public portion: Councilman Badolato

Seconded: Councilman Hohing AIF: All Opposed: None

Motion to close the public portion: Councilman Mascarenhas

Seconded: Councilman Hohing AIF: All Opposed: None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Motion to adjourn: Council President Miller

Seconded: Councilman Mascarenhas AIF: All Opposed: None

Submitted by:
Rachel von der Tann
Municipal Clerk

Public Comment

George from DBRC discussed plans for a temporary pop-up park called the "30 Spot" in a redevelopment area, including using recycled shipping containers and working with local organizations. DBRC was also organizing the annual "Berlin and Lights" event showcasing holiday light displays and planned to have a meet-and-greet with their board. He expressed appreciation for the council's support and invited open conversation on their initiatives.