



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY AUGUST 13, 2020 - 7:00 pm.

Mayor Rick Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He stated that adequate notice of this meeting had 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 the said meeting.

After the Salute to the Flag, the following roll call was taken:

Present: Councilmembers: Badolato, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce, and Mayor Miller

Absent: Councilwoman Cummings

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 09, 2020 - Workshop Meeting

July 09, 2020 – Executive Session

July 09, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Moved by: Councilman Hohing; **Seconded by** Councilman Miller

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 5; Absent =1).

Yes: Councilman Badolato, Councilman Hohing, Councilman Simone

No: None

Abstain: Council President Pearce

Absent: Councilwoman Cummings

Mayor Miller asked to amend the Agenda to assert the Privilege of the Floor at this time. There were no objections.

Lieutenant Commander Kristen Leone commented that she had been a nurse for 22 years in adult and pediatric intensive care. In 2010 she got a little bored and decided to carry on the family tradition of serving her country and was commissioned to the Navy as a nurse. In 2015 she was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan. After coming home, she found it a bit difficult but had a lot of family and friends to support her. Not everyone is that lucky, and that is why she came to talk to you tonight.

There is a problem sweeping across this country, and that is the rise of homeless women veterans. There are approximately 4300 plus homeless women veterans and 2,300 plus unemployed women veterans. 70% of homeless women veterans are single mothers. Women veterans are two to three times more likely to be homeless than any other group. In New Jersey, there are over 500 homeless veterans, but there are only ten slots for transitional housing for homeless women veterans, and none of them accommodate children; this is not acceptable. We can and must do better for the women who have served this country.

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Miss Veteran America is a contest that highlights the strength, courage, and sacrifice of our nation's military women. She made it through the semifinals into the top 25, and her job is to raise awareness and funds to help support an organization dedicated to helping homeless women veterans find safe and suitable housing. Final Salute has three programs to help these women; the savings assessment and financial education program, or save, provides emergency financial support. The housing outreach mentorship encouragement program offers housing, food transportation, and resources. Finally, project next uniform provides business attire, makeovers, and resume writing for military women transitioning into civilian life.

It only takes \$25 a day to provide a homeless woman veteran with housing, food transportation, and resources. To date, Final Salute has provided 15,000 plus transitional housing days, 5668 have received financial assistance from the safety program, 1494 have received employment transition support from next uniform, and 66 women and their children have received transitional housing from the home program.

We need to spread the word about the growing problem of homeless women veterans. We need to provide better resources for them and their children. We need to develop a better way to get a clear picture of the actual number of homeless women veterans that are out there, and I ask that you support me, Miss Veteran America, and Final Salute.

Mayor Miller thanked Lieutenant Commander Kristen Leone for her service on behalf of the Governing Body and wished her well in her endeavors.

Clerk Harris read into the record the Department financial reports for July:

Permit Fees/Inspections	\$ 20,599.00
Permit Inspection Report	
Rental Inspection Fees	\$ 400.00
Zoning	\$ 450.00
Resale Inspection Fees	\$ 1,645.00
Community Center Fees	CLOSED
Tax Collector	\$ 1,404,766.31 [+11%]
Utility Collector	\$ 159,993.43
Administrator/ Clerk Report	\$13,780.00
Court	\$ 19,723.50
TOTAL	\$1,621,357.24

COUNCIL REPORTS:

- BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION - Chairman Len Badolato commented about the brick wall at Borough Hall, which is falling apart and will be getting repaired soon. He also reported on the heating and air conditioning system problems with the post office. We have been working on getting specs to make those improvements, and hopefully, we will get that taken care of. He mentioned the abandoned building at 85-87 White Horse Pike and what sad shape it has been in. It is now a safety issue, and it will be getting demolished. He mentioned the traffic calming initiative for White Horse Pike that they have been discussing for years with NJDOT engineer. He is hoping to have a meeting with the Engineer and Councilman Simone so we can get this finalized next year. The traffic on White Horse Pike is a significant issue,

and some traffic-calming bump-outs and a couple of couple high visibility crosswalks would help in traffic calming. He reported that he and Mayor Miller went to the Eastern High School's graduation. He finally mentioned the storm that just passed and thanked all the departments and the Borough employees for a good job getting things cleaned up. Unfortunately, when there's a snow problem or a storm problem like this, his duties at the Turnpike prevent him from being involved in things at the Borough.

- **PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS** - Chairman Andrew Simone mention that once again, we experienced heavy rains in the Borough on Tuesday morning. He had heard on the radio about the various locations of flooding, and being curious, he went to investigate. He noted that every time he turned the corner, there was a Police Officer, Fire Department or Public Works Department already out there clearing with chainsaws, in the rain. As a resident, he was taken aback that even as the storm was going on, they were out there cleaning, not waiting to deal with it in the aftermath. The was continued through the weekend, and dealing with the continuous calls; everything was cleared up by Monday. For the point of information, for the safety of public works employees and the privacy of residents, public works employees are not allowed to go on people's private property to remove debris unless proper authority and consent have been given. He mentioned two resolutions on the Agenda that are dealing with the cleaning of private property; they are related to low maintenance and non-responsive please owners, so that is what those two specific resolutions are about. He mentioned for the benefit of the residents that storm debris is always picked up within the seven-day trash collection cycle. The DPW works in tandem in as they go and collect trash. They also have a front loader that contains storm debris as well. The Borough does allow two trash cycles for the residents to clean up debris on their property, and after that, it becomes a property maintenance issue. The Borough is offering as much time as reasonably possible to clean up after a storm. If anyone has any complaints, they are free to call the Borough, and we will remedy them as best as we can. Residents may also utilize the mobile 311 to make any requests as well.
- **WATER & SEWER** – Read by Councilman Simone Due to the COVID-19 virus, meters reading that are inside residences have been suspended. We had a maintenance issue at plant #2. All repairs have been completed, and the plant is back online. All regular maintenance is being continued at the other plants, the 12 pump stations, and emergency generators. There was the mention of a fire hydrant damaged because of a motor vehicle accident. That hydrant has been repaired. It was finally reported that the catch basin at the Enclave pump station was worn and beyond repair. A new basket has been ordered and will be installed shortly.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY** - Chairman Jim Pearce gave the Police statistics for July. He mentioned they would be restarting the Data-Driven Approach to Crime and Safety program and the No Need to Speed campaign on South Franklin Ave. He congratulated the officer of the month Robert Dugan, who was instrumental in pulling over a vehicle and finding illegal drugs and a handgun. He reported on the OEM activities for the month. For EMS, the ambulance is still in the process of being purchased, and he reported on the number of calls for service, noting that they are down a little from the prior month. EMS is recruiting for new employees and volunteers. He finally reported the statics on the Fire Department's activities for July.
- **COMMUNICATION** – Chairman Keith Hohing reported they have been working on the next release of the newsletter. He has been transferring knowledge with Councilman Miller and

seeks out comments and offerings and may contact him directly. He reported that he, in conjunction with the Administrator, has been vetting out changes in the Borough's phone system that would result in substantial savings.

- FINANCE - Chairman Jake Miller reported the Borough's departments have been very cautious with non-essential spending considering Covid-19. He has been participating in Finance Committee meetings and Safety Committee meetings as well.
- SOLICITOR - Howard Long had no additional reports.
- MAYOR'S REPORT – Rick Miller gave a summary of the activities that have been occurring in Berlin to improve services, efficiencies and reduce costs.

Motion to accept reports:

Moved by: Councilman Miller; **Seconded by** Councilman Simone

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 5; Absent =1).

Yes: Councilman Badolato, Councilman Hohing, Councilman Miller, Councilman Simone, Council President Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilwoman Cummings

NEW BUSINESS: RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

The Clerk read the following Resolution titles into the record:

2020-095 - RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF DUPLICATE PAYMENT FOR A MERCANTILE LICENSE

2020-096 - AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FUNDING UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE FOR THE FY21 GRANT CYCLE

2020-097 - RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE BERLIN BOROUGH FIRE COMPANY #1, STATION 211 TO CONDUCT A COIN DROP ON RT 30 AND WASHINGTON AVENUE ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

2020-098 - AUTHORIZING THE WAIVER OF WATER INTEREST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35.89 DUE TO PROCESSING ERROR FOR 140 BRADFORD DRIVE

2020-099 - AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES IN AMOUNT OF \$7,236.80 FOR BLOCK 1109 LOT 13 DUE TO THE APPROVAL OF A 100% DISABLED VETERAN.

2020-100 - AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES IN AMOUNT OF \$5,048.84 FOR BLOCK 1210 LOT 3.01 DUE TO THE APPROVAL OF A 100% DISABLED VETERAN.

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2020-101 - RENEWAL OF ABC LIQUOR LICENSES FOR THE 2020-2021 TERM

2020-102 - AUTHORIZING THE TAX REFUND of \$12,733.24 DUE TO MORTGAGE COMPANY OVERPAYMENT

2020-103 - AUTHORIZING THE PROPERTY CLEANUP OF 5 ESTAUGH AVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$915.00.

2020-104 - AUTHORIZING THE PROPERTY CLEANUP OF 21 CONSTITUTION BLVD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,360.00.

2020-105 – APPOINTING JOE LUBRANO PROPERTY MAINTENANCE OFFICER

2020-106 – AWARDING CONTRACT FOR WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

2020-107 – AUTHORIZING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR HVAC INSTALLATION AT THE POST OFFICE

2020-108 – PAYMENT OF BILLLS - \$3,619,247.27

2020-109 - AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF THE GRACE PERIOD ON 3RD QTR. TAX TO AUGUST 11TH DUE TO THE UNAVAILABILITY OF THE ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM.

2020-110 - RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN REAPPOINTING ROBERT BRUNGES AS A SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CLASS III

The Solicitor requested that an additional Resolution be added at this time that was inadvertently excluded from the Agenda. This was the matter discussed at the last meeting to settle the claim with a resident who suffered from a sewerage backflow into his basement. The resolution was numbered, and the title read by the Clerk.

2020-111-RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, AUTHORIZING A SETTLEMENT FOR CLAIM AT 24 S. CEDAR AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN

Mayor Miller asked for comments from the public on the above resolutions. No one from the crowd appeared to speak. He stated that unless a member of the Council would like to consider any of the items separately, they would be passing all resolutions under a consent agenda.

Motion to adopt Resolutions 2020-095 - 2020-111 as a Consent Agenda:

Moved by: Councilman Simone; **Seconded by** Councilman Hohing

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 5; Absent =1).

Yes: Councilman Badolato, Councilman Hohing, Councilman Miller, Councilman Simone, Council President Pearce

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No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilwoman Cummings

Mayor Miller asked for the Ordinances, by title, to be read for their introduction.

**ORDINANCE 2020- 09 - AMENDING ARTICLE VI "ZONING REGULATIONS" §335-83
"C-2 AND PC-2 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT" OF THE CODIFIED
ORDNANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN**

After a brief discussion on the intent behind the ordinance and some needed amendments

Motion to postpone Ordinance 2020-09 and remand back to the Planning Board

Moved by: Councilman Simone; **Seconded by** Councilman Miller

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 5; Absent =1).

Yes: Councilman Badolato, Councilman Hohing, Councilman Miller, Councilman Simone,
Council President Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilwoman Cummings

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one stepped forward to speak

GOOD OF THE ORDER – No comments

There being no further business before the body:

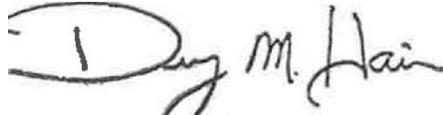
Motion to adjourn [7:40 pm]

Moved by: Council President Pearce; **Seconded by** Councilman Hohing

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous consent.

I, Dwayne M. Harris, Administrator/ Clerk of the Borough of Berlin, in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, hereby certify these Minutes were approved by the Governing Body, at its Regular Meeting, held September 10, 2020.

WITNESS my hand this 14th day of September 2020.



Dwayne M. Harris, RMC
Administrator/Clerk

August 13, 2020