



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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12, 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 said meeting's date, place, and time.

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

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

Absent: None

Attorney Dan Long was present via telephone on behalf of Borough Solicitor, Howard Long.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 8– Workshop Meeting

October 8 – Executive Session

October 8 – Regular Meeting

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

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6)

Yes: Councilmember Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Mayor Miller Read and gave a brief explanation on the following Proclamations:

**Proclamation on Epidermolysis Bullosa Awareness
October 25 through 31st, 2020**

WHEREAS, Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) is a rare connective tissue disorder with many genetic and symptomatic variations, all sharing the presence of extremely fragile skin that results in the development of recurrent, painful blisters, open sores, and in some forms of the disease, in disfiguring scars, disabling musculoskeletal deformities, and internal blistering; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1 out of every 20,000 individuals in the United States are affected by the disease and data from the National EB Registry indicates that it occurs in every racial and ethnic group throughout the world and affects both sexes equally; and

WHEREAS there is currently no cure for the disease and approximately 90 percent of individuals with EB report experiencing pain on an average day; and

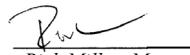
WHEREAS EB is so rare that many health care practitioners have never heard of it or seen a patient with it; and

WHEREAS individuals with EB often feel isolated because of the lack of knowledge in the Nation about the disease and the impact that it has on the body; and

WHEREAS, as first legislated by Ronald Reagan and the U.S. Congress in 1984 the last week of October would be an appropriate time to recognize National EB Week in order to raise public awareness about EB, its impact, and the need for additional research for a cure,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Borough of Berlin, in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, declares October 25 through 31, 2020 as National Epidermolysis Bullosa Awareness Week and raise public awareness, recognize the need for a cure, and to foster understanding of the impact of the disease on patients and their families.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Twelfth day of October 2020.


Rick Miller, Mayor

**Proclamation on Epilepsy Awareness Month
November 1, 2020**

WHEREAS, epilepsy is a neurological disorder producing brief disturbances in normal electrical functions of the brain that temporarily affect a person's consciousness, bodily movement and/or sensations, causing challenges and hardships for individuals and their families including families here in Berlin Borough; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 new cases of epilepsy are diagnosed each year in this country, primarily among young people with cases among the elderly escalating, where 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy and 1 and 10 will have a seizure in their life time; and

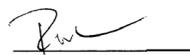
WHEREAS, epilepsy affects more than 65 million people worldwide and is more common than Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy, it is still shrouded in myth, ignorance and fear which too often work to deprive those with epilepsy the opportunities that will enable them to achieve a normal active and productive life, thus causing additional undue suffering; and

WHEREAS medical advances have been made which assist many persons with epilepsy in achieving seizure control and normal functioning bring hope to many. Epilepsy is a complex disorder that requires further research to find effective treatments, cure, and prevention for all impacted by this dreadful disorder; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness will help bring about support for families and loved ones affected with epilepsy and will help advocate for urgently needed medical research and advances; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Borough of Berlin, in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, declares November 2020 to be EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH. And furthermore, urge all residents of the Borough of Berlin to learn more and support research for a cure. [#epilepsy](http://www.epilepsy.com).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Twelfth day of November 2020.


Rick Miller, Mayor

COUNCIL REPORTS:

- **BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION** - Chairman Len Badolato – commented on few things to go over tonight. The HVAC work at the Post office has started. You had him talking about working out something for the lights vandalized at the Community Center, which would entail taking the lights out. That may be restricted because the work was done on a grant, but in the interim, we got Morella Electric over there to determine if we could fix the wiring to get the lights that haven't been damaged to light up. He was still waiting to get a quote on how much that would cost. He mentioned the Borough's brick wall had caps put on and preceded to fix a lot of the cracks. Hopefully, this will be completed in the next couple of weeks. The Council had talked about some tires up at the old Blaese tire place. We finally got approval to have the tires removed, and it is going to be taken care of. He had spoken about traffic calming in the past, which the efforts have been going on for at least a year and a half. The person who is handling this matter in Trenton retired, and another person will be handling it and have some news on if our plans have been approved by the end of the year. We have discussed replacing the tree in the front of the Borough Hall complex. Councilman Simone has been doing most of the work on this, and he can report on that. He congratulated the newly elected officials and reminded everybody regarding Covid-19, do what you are supposed to do and follow the CDC and the State officials' rules. Hopefully, we will get through this.

- **PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS** - Chairman Andrew Simone – reported that leaf collection started Monday, November 2, and will continue throughout November and December. He cautioned residents to be mindful of where they placed the leaves and requested, they not be placed inside the curb as that causes a safety issue and a drainage issue. He reported the demolition work at 89 S. White Horse Pike is complete. The building was structurally deficient, and we decided to demolish it and remove it altogether. The hole has been filled and will be capped off with level gravel, then sit through the winter. Once the warm weather comes, we will have plans to utilize that space in some fashion. The County park's paved bike and pedestrian trail are complete. The park is also done, and the contractor has provided the last touches on the landscaping. The contractor will demobilize, and the next phase would be to finish or clean up the paving on Park Dr, which the County is in the process of bidding outputting plans.

- **WATER & SEWER** - Chairwoman Patricia Cummings – Reported that the Water Department's hydrant flushing had been completed, and the next scheduled flushing will be in April of 2021. Phase one of the water meter replacement project has begun, and there have been approximately 180 meters replaced so far. The workers have started to shut down and winterize plant #2. Utility mark out requests have been completed, all routine maintenance at both water plants has been completed. She reported for the Sewer Dept. has completed all regular monthly maintenance for the ten pump stations and the emergency backup generators. The crews have replaced pump #2 at the Enclave pumping station. She reported the New Jersey DEP had conducted an on-site inspection of the sewer system, which included an administrative inspection and inspection of our pump stations and collection system. The inspector found all aspects of our sewer system to be well maintained and in excellent condition.

- PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Jim Pearce – Council President gave a comprehensive report on the Berlin Police Department's activities for October 2020, noting they had a total of 1747 calls for service. He gave the monthly statistical breakdown of those calls and mentioned they resulted in 43 arrests. He also says the Data-Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety resulted in 78 stops and two arrests in October 2020. Additionally, The No Need To Speed campaign focused on Gardens Ave. He reported the Officer of the Month for October was officer Natalie. Council President described Emergency Management activities and how Rushi Pandya continues to work on providing personal protection equipment. Rushi works with the fire department, so many of the things he is doing for the Borough he also does in conjunction with the fire department. He reported on the number of calls for the Berlin EMS. Out of a total of 108 calls, 69 were in Berlin Borough. He finally reported the Berlin Fire Department responded to 56 calls for service in October, including twelve reported dwelling fires. The fire department continues the weekly staffing through the Safer Grant, and they have also been staying up on all their training. Council President thanked all our first responders in all four departments and acknowledged they were a huge asset.
- COMMUNICATION – Chairman Keith Hohing – reported that he had attended the monthly public safety and finance committee meetings. The committee is continuing to look at the online payment options. We want to make sure we fully vet that out before making any decisions, so that has been taking a little longer, but we will be happy with the outcome. They have completed and approved the fall newsletter release, so our residents should be looking for that in their mailboxes in the weeks ahead. He reported his efforts to update the websites and has been working very diligently with Dwayne Harris, our Administrator regarding an upgraded VoIP phone system, which should be some significant savings for the Borough. He wished everybody a happy holiday season.
- FINANCE - Chairman Jake Miller - reported on the Borough's revenue by sharing the Department heads' information for October. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.
- SOLICITOR – No report.
- MAYOR'S REPORT – Rick Miller - reported on the 2020 Best Practices Inventory established by the Christie administration. It asks each municipality some questions on best practices, and if the Municipalities answered "no" to more than 25% of the questions, they would be at risk of losing a percentage of their State Aid. He was proud to announce the Borough is not at risk based on our best practices. There were a few questions that we can investigate, and he would submit them to the rest of the Council to investigate. The good news is our score is well below the threshold, so great job to all. He emphasized the post office HVAC is being updated. Council has been working, for the last several months, looking into our playgrounds and parks. There are some ongoing talks about that which the Administrator is spearheading. He commented on the strangeness of an all-mail-in election. Still, we have had an enormous turnout and were additionally proud to report there were no incidents, and all ran smoothly here in the Borough Hall and at the Community Center. He mentioned the Administrator is in negotiations with AT&T. They reached out about possibly renegotiating some leases. He will give us an update. Based on the MEL's

recommendations, the Municipal Excess Liability Insurance Fund, the Administrator is reviewing and making any necessary or required changes to the Borough's Personnel Policy Manual and Employee Handbook. The Borough is still waiting to hear about the annual Christmas Tree lighting, which is anticipated to continue as usual. There may be some modifications based on the COVID-19, but the Rotary Club puts that on every year, and we work with them and are hoping that we can do as much as we can do given the circumstances. The Mayor expressed his thanks to the County for the upgrades to the park. It was a three-year project, but it makes things safe for residents to get out there and walk and should be a much more enjoyable experience utilizing the beautiful park and playgrounds. The Mayor expressed his congratulations to the newly elected and re-elected Councilmembers and looked forward to serving another year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING/ADOPTION

2020-011 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SALARY ORDINANCE 2019-01 SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 62 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN ENTITLED "SALARIES."

After the second reading, Mayor Miller opened the floor for public comments on this Ordinance. No one from the public came to speak.

Motion to Close Public Hearing on Ordinance 2020-011

Moved by: Councilman Miller; **Seconded by** Councilman Simone
Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Motion to Adopt Ordinance 2020-011

Moved by: Councilman Pearce; **Seconded by** Councilwoman Cummings
Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6)
Yes: Councilmember Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce
No: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Ordinance 2020-011 was adopted correctly and will be published following the law.

NEW BUSINESS: RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

2020-149 - RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE WAIVER OF WATER USAGE FEES IMPOSED UPON FIRE HYDRANTS WITHIN BERLIN BOROUGH, BERLIN TOWNSHIP, VOORHEES TOWNSHIP, AND WINSLOW TOWNSHIP

2020-150 - RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN AUTHORIZING THE WAIVER OF WATER USAGE FEES IMPOSED UPON THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN & TWP. OF BERLIN

November 12, 2020 – Regular Governing Body Meeting

2020-151 - 2020 UTILITY BILL ADJUSTMENTS

2020-152 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF "FAIR AND OPEN" PROCESS FOR THE HIRING OF 2021 BOROUGH PROFESSIONALS

2020-153 – AWARD THIRD-PARTY TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONTRACT TO 8 X 8

2020-154 - RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING REFUND OF ESCROW IN THE AMOUNT OF \$392.00

2020-155 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING EXECUTION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL GENERAL RELEASE WITH PB BB, LLC REGARDING ROYAL FARMS PROJECT

2020-156 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYOUT OF UNUSED ACCUMULATED VACATION TIME TO COURT ADMINISTRATOR

2020-157 - RESOLUTION ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

2020-158 - AUTHORIZING THE TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$12,696.55 TO CORE LOGIC SERVICING COMPANY DUE TO OVERPAYMENT

2020-159 - RESOLUTION TO APPROVE STATE CONTRACT AWARD TO WINNER FORD FOR THE PURCHASE OF FORD F250 TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

2020-160 – APPOINTING MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR

2020-161 - RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BUDGET TRANSFERS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2020

2020-162 - AUTHORIZING THE SECURITY DEPOSIT REFUND OF \$535.50 FOR A HYDRANT METER RENTAL BY CTX

2020-163 – PAYMENT OF BILLS - \$3,913,380.74

2020-164 - RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION WITH THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

ORDINANCES:

2020-12 - AMENDING CHAPTER 176 "GARAGE SALE" §176-4 "LICENSE FEES" OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN

[Second Reading and Public hearing on December 10, 2020]

2020-13 - AMENDING CHAPTER 52, ARTICLE II, OFF-DUTY EMPLOYMENT, SPECIFICALLY §52-19, PAYMENT REQUIREMENT OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY

[Second Reading and Public hearing on December 10, 2020]

2020-14 - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XVI, "SCHEDULES," SPECIFICALLY §315-32, SCHEDULE I: NO PARKING OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN

[Second Reading and Public hearing on December 10, 2020]

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – No comments from the public.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – No additional comments from the Council.

2020-165 - RESOLUTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6; Absent = 0).

Yes: Council members Badolato, Cummings, Hohing, Miller, Simone, Pearce

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The Governing body reconvened at 7:47.

ADJOURN

There being no further business before the body:

Motion to adjourn [7:47]

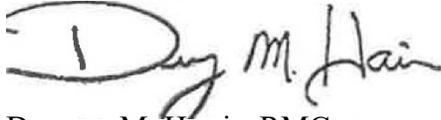
Moved by: Councilman Pearce; **Seconded by** Councilman Badolato

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous consent.

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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 December 17, 2020.

WITNESS my hand this 13th day of November 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dwayne M. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Dwayne M. Harris, RMC
Administrator/Clerk