

BOROUGH OF BERLIN
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 SOUTH WHITE HORSE PIKE
BERLIN, NJ 08009
7:00 P.M.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

FLAG SALUTE:

SUNSHINE NOTICE: Adequate notice of this meeting has 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 said meeting.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Bilella, Council President Pearce, Council Members Miller, Badolato, Rocco & Buchanan

PRESENT ALSO: Solicitor John Moustakas, Administrator William Behnke and Municipal Clerk Lois J. Sahina

ACCEPTIANCE OF DAN MACDONNELL'S RESIGNATION

RESOLUTION R05-01;2019

RESOLUTION FILLING VACANCY ON COUNCIL PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A: 16:3 AND N.J.S.A. 40A:16-12

Motion to Accept Resignation: Councilman Buchanan

Sec: Council President Pearce

All present were in favor

APPOINTMENT OF ANDREW SIMONE

RESOLUTION R05-02;2019

RESOLUTION FILLING A VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:16-3 AND N.J.S.A. 40 A:16-12

Motion to Approve: Councilman Buchanan

Sec: Councilman Rocco

All present were in favor

RESOLUTION R05-03;2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY STATING THAT THERE IS A CURRENT AND SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PRIVATE FINANCEIAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE DBRC AND THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN

Motion to Approve: Councilman Buchanan

Sec: Council President Pearce

All present were in favor

RESOLUTION R05-04;2019

A RESOLUTION FROM THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACCEPTS AND APPROVES THE DOT OPTION#3 TO RECONFIGURE THE ROADWAY TO CREATE PEDISTRIAN CROSSING AND VEHICAL TRAFFIC FOR A SAFER INTERSECTION AT RT. 30 & FRANKLIN AVENUE

Motion to Approve; Council President Pearce

Sec; Councilman Rocco

All present were in favor

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

- **BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION, Chairman Len Badolato**
 - **Cupola** - Councilman Badolato requested a resolution be added to the next agenda accepting the estimate form American Custom Construction to repair and paint the cupola at the Borough Hall building. Two estimates were received.
 - **Street Pole Outlets** - The street poles along the downtown area are owned by A.C. Electric. The heads of the lights are owned by the borough. Councilman Badolato, Administrator, Bill Behnke, Chris Cavallaro from A.C. Electric, and John Allsebrook all meet to discuss how we could install outlets into the light poles. This would allow us to light up our Christmas wreaths during the Christmas season. A new parking light in the borough hall parking lot also needs to be installed.
 - **DBRC** - Councilman Badolato updated the Mayor and Council on all of the programs that the DBRC has accomplished during the past three years. Building facades, pole banners, signage for the borough and the annual Christmas tour are just a few that were mentioned.
 - **DBRC & Borough Partnership Event** - Cindy Williams, Acting Director of the DBRC, presented a proposal to the Mayor and Council. The DBRC would like to propose that the DBRC along with the Borough share in partnership with this proposed event. With the support of Mayor and Council, they would like to hold an outdoor event on September 6th & 7th 2019. This event would include vendors, bands, food trucks and entertainment. This would be used to fund raise for the DBRC along with provide to the State that a shared partnership between the borough and the DBRC exists. This will then allow the DBRC to apply for state funding through a newly activated program from the State. There are certain criteria that are needed to apply. The DBRC must be able to show a current and sustainable public private financial and partnership with the Borough.
DBRC Reorganizing - The DBRC is in the process of reorganizing their organization and is currently looking for new candidates to serve on their board. There will be a special guest speaker at their May 29th meeting.
- **PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS - Council President Pearce**
 - **State & County Road Option #3** - The State and County requested a meeting be held on 4/12/19 at the Borough to discuss the RT30 & Franklin Avenue intersection. They provided the Borough with three different options how to make this intersection safer for both pedestrians and motor vehicles approaching and stopping at this intersection. It was concluded by the Borough that Option # 3 would be the best proposed plan to recommend to the County and State

- **WATER & SEWER, Chairman Ron Rocco**

- **Congratulations** - Councilman Rocco extended his congratulations and welcomed newly appointed Councilman Simone as a Councilman for the Brough of Berlin.
- **Committee Reports** - No formal reports were given at this time. All of his projects have been approved and are in the process of being started.

- **PUBLIC SAFETY, Chairman Jim Pearce**

- **Congratulations** - Council President Pearce extended his congratulations and welcomed newly appointed Councilman Simone as a Councilman for the Brough of Berlin.
- **Officers** - Our police department staff is currently down two officers. Four candidates have been interviewed and Chief Wilkinson has informed Mayor and Council that two candidates have been picked to fill these positions. Council President and Chief Wilkinson recommended they both be sworn in at our next Council Meeting on 5/16/19. Two resolutions will need to be created and added to the agenda. One of our current officers will be moved up to the position of Class II officer but this will be done at a later date. The only expense that will occur with these two new hires will be the cost of uniforms and ammunition.
- **Hummers** - Chief Wilkinson informed Mayor and Council that the two hummers that are currently in the police parking lot were donated to the department. These were acquired at no expense to the police department, borough or tax payers.
- **Current Police Vehicles** - Chief Wilkinson is currently working on new lettering for all of the police vehicles. He wants to have a uniform and consistent appearance of all vehicles. VCI is working on the lettering. Also, going forward, all of the stop lighting will go inside of the vehicles.
- **Trailer** - The current police trailer is unusable and is being sold on Gov deals. This will be replaced with another trailer
- **DUI Grants** - The Police Department is applying for the DUI grants that are available through the County and State level.
- **Police Patrol** - Once the weather is nicer the Police Department will start their bike patrol again.
- **Police Week** - BCS and Mt. Carmel schools will be participating in Police Week which is May 13th - 17th.
- **Sue Cardamone 5K** - The 5K Run/ 1 Mile Walk will take place in The Woods Development at 5:30 pm on Thursday May 23, 2019 RAIN OR SHINE. This will be the last year for this event
- **Junior Police Academy** - The Junior Police Academy will be held at the Community Center from June 24th to 28th. Graduation place, time and date will be announced at a later date
- **Radko Fund Raiser** - The police department will hold a fund raiser for our k-9 officer Radko. It will be held on July 28th in the K-Mart parking lot.
- **National Night Out** - National Night Out is the first Tuesday in August. This year it will be held on August 6th. This national event provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together to raise awareness of the importance of neighborhood watch programs.

- **14 Estaugh Ave** - Chief Wilkinson will keep an eye on the problems with loitering at the Woman's Center located on 14 Estaugh Ave. He will be in touch with the Mr. and Mrs. Keskes to receive updates.
 - **Swearing in of New Officers** - Chief Wilkinson informed Mayor and Council that he would like the newly hired officers to be sworn in at our next Council Meeting.
 - Ordinance 2019-04 – No parking on either side of a residential driveway 5ft either side will be tabled and not be on the next council meeting agenda
- **COMMUNICATIONS, Chairman Rick Miller**
 - **Community Wide Yard Sale** - On May 4, 2019 our Community Wide Yard Sale was held. The Borough waived the usual \$3.00 permit fee, but the Celebration Committee who sponsored this even asked for a \$5.00 donation. Over 60 residents participated. Jen Haldeman a local realtor in town, composed and listed the map with all the participants and it was listed on our website with a link to the map
- **FINANCE, Chairman Mike Buchanan**
 - **Congratulations** - Councilman Buchanan extended to Councilman Simone for filling the open seat on Council
 - **Lead Program** - The Lead Program focuses on “Say No to Drugs” in our local schools. Essays have been submitted and are now being reviewed.
 - **Clean Energy Program** - The Borough participated in the free energy audit that was sponsored by the State Board of Public Utilities. Details will be discussed later in our meeting.
 - **Retirees Reduction** - We had a reduction in the retirees’ medical expenses
 - **Playgrounds in Borough** - ERI is in the process of surveying the three playgrounds in the Borough. We will make the changes that are needed to meet with state compliance safety guidelines. We were notified by a concerned resident that one of pieces of equipment was broken at the Belair playground. DPW removed this piece of equipment.
 - **Trash Can Concern** – We are continuing to try and resolve the trash can issue in the development of the Lone - a - Coming townhouses. Councilman Badolato and Buchanan will be planning a meeting with residents of this development to discuss possible solutions. Moving forward the planning board needs to review developers plans more closely when they present their plans.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REAL ESTATE, Mayor Jim Bilella**
 - **Resident turning 107** - One of our residents who resides at the Spring Oaks Nursing Home in the Borough, will be turning 107. An invitation has been extended to the Borough officials to attend her birthday celebration on June 1st.
 - **Energy Audit** - Our Administrator, Bill Behnke will be explaining more details about the energy audit results.
 - **Volunteers Fire Departments** - The Governor is attempting to divert 33 million dollars from the volunteer firefighters fund. This has been in existence since 1885. This fund is used to help these volunteers who are suffering from cancer, PTS and other issues. All of the municipalities have been asked to create a resolution to support and keep this fund available for the fire departments.

- **SOLICITOR, John Moustakas - No report was given**
- **ADMINISTRATOR, Bill Behnke**
 - **Energy Audit** - The Borough participated in the free energy audit that was sponsored by the State Board of Public Utilities. The results of our audit were explained to our Administrator during the exit interview. Suggestions were given to where we can save on energy costs. This facility plan can be retro fit to meet our current facilities. Air conditioning, lighting, boilers and pumps are just a few of the things that will be addressed. Solar panels could be installed on the police building of the Borough hall complex, along with the Community Center. By installing these panels will save the borough \$10,000 a year in energy costs. The panels on just the Community Center would alone generate more energy than what it currently uses. The initial investment to make changes will pay for itself within the first year. This will help keep taxes down. There are 4 modes of financing these changes.
One of the programs is called a Direct Replacement Program - The program would pay for 70% of the cost. The additional 30% would need to be funded by the borough, but can be done at a 0% financing rate. This is a state approved program, so it will not need to go out to bid. 70% of the state contractor, Hutchinson, will be paid directly by the state. The remaining 30% would need to be paid by the borough.
 - **EMO Office** - DPW will be starting to fix up the old police station downstairs to be used as the Emergency Management Office.
 - **Fundraising Event** - There will be electronics fundraising event held on 5/16/19. Old unused computers, monitors etc.... will be collected.
 - **Resolution for RT 30 & Franklin Avenue** - Discussion about what option the Mayor and Council feel is best for the Borough. Option #3 is their choice. This will greatly help with pedestrian and motor vehicle safety at the dangerous intersection of RT. 30 & Franklin Avenue.

READING OF RESOLUTIONS R05-03;2019 THROUGH R05-05; 2019

RESOLUTIONS R05-03;2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, APPROVING THAT A SHARED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN AND THE DBRC EXISTS AND THAT THE SEPTEMBER EVENT WILL BE A COMBINED EFFORT ON BOTH PARTIES

RESOLUTIONS R05-04;2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING AND ACCEPTING THE DOT OPTION 3 TO RECONFIGURE THE INTERSECTION AT RT 30 AND FRANKLIN AVENUE

RESOLUTIONS R05-05;2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SUPPORTING THAT THE FUND FOR THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE FIRE COMPANYS IN NEW JERSEY NOT HAVE THE FUNDS DIVERTED BY THE GOVENER

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Motion to approve Resolutions R05-03 2019 through R05-05; 2019 – Councilman Buchanan
Sec.; Council President Pearce
All present were in favor

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: No one spoke

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Councilman Badolato would like to know if there are any individuals interested in replacing Millard Wilkinson Jr. as the JIF Coordinator. He has notified the Borough that he would like to retire this position to another individual. Council President Pearce stated that in order to officially appoint someone else, Millard will need to give us his retirement date. He can then train his replacement for a month.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Pearce
Sec., Councilman Buchanan
All present were in favor

Lois J. Sahina
Registered Municipal Clerk

May 7, 2019