**RE**

**BOROUGH OF BERLIN**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

59 SOUTH WHITE HORSE PIKE

BERLIN, NJ 08009

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023

REGULAR MEETING BEGAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 6:00 PM WORK MEETING

**Meeting was called to order by Mayor Miller.**

**Pledge Of Allegiance was led by Mayor Miller.**

**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

 Co-Administrator, Charleen Santora – Present

 Co-Administrator, Bill Behnke- Present

 CFO, Michael Kwasizur – Absent

 Deputy Municipal Clerk, Rachel von der Tann, CMR- Present

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular meeting minutes of June 8, 2023

Motion to approve: Councilman Mascarenhas Seconded: Councilman Hohing AIF: All

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

* SOLICITOR Howard Long
* MAYOR Miller
* BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION - Councilman Badolato
* PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS - Councilman Wilkinson
* WATER & SEWER - Councilwoman Cummings
* PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Hohing
* COMMUNICATION – Councilman Mascarenhas
* FINANCE – Council President Miller

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

* BUILDINGS, PARKS, & RECREATION Councilman Badolato

Blaese’s agreed to have the environmental study. Pennoni investigated and they did not have to do phase 1. We may proceed to phase 3 ground water pollution. The cost is around $160,000. The CFO says we have the funds available. Councilman Badolato suggested we take back possession and start the clean up process.

Mr. Long suggests we take ownership of the property and start to get it cleaned up.

Councilman Wilkinson and Councilman Mascarenhas are both in favor to buy Blaese’s back.

Councilman Badolato states we have the funds available for lights at the Community Center. States we can go out for bids for lights and streetlights with cameras. Police can tie into camera system.

Councilman Mascarenhas states that Carriage Stop also needs new lights.

* PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS - Councilman Wilkinson

Thanked everyone who came out for the 4th of July parade. Stated the Borough went out for a bid for the DOT for the 2024 Road program. Stated other items can wait for workshop to be discussed.

* WATER & SEWER - Councilwoman Cummings - See attached report.
* PUBLIC SAFETY – Councilman Hohing - See attached report.

Councilman Hohing stated the Borough received the new firetruck. He thanked everyone who came out for the 4th of July parade. He added that August 4th will be National Night Out and we will go back to doing block parties.

* COMMUNICATION – Councilman Mascarenhas

Councilman Mascarenhas states that the new Borough Website will be up and running soon. He needs department heads to give their input on the website.

* FINANCE – Council President Miller- See attached report on finance.

Council President Miller states he loves seeing people come out to the council meetings.

Council President Miller says Franklin Avenue and the White Horse Pike must prioritize traffic flow. Bill Behnke says there were 19 accidents at the intersection this year. The DOT rep will get back to the Borough regarding proposals. Mr. Behnke discussed different traffic patterns for the light. Says funding could be an issue.

* SOLICITOR – Mr. Long said he had nothing to report.
* MAYOR Miller-

Mayor thanked everyone for coming out to the 4th of July parade. He also thanks the Berlin Rotary Club and the ICCA.

Mayor Miller stated he will follow up with Bill Behnke on the NJ Transit bridge.

Mayor Miller gave an update on Presidential Drive. He suggested to the residents to pick a date to discuss parking issues with Dr. Campisi. He asked Councilman Badolato to join the meeting.

Mayor Miller stated the Borough needs to do something about the timing at the traffic light at Heritage and Taunton.

* POLICE Chief Scheer

Police Chief Michael Scheer announced to the residents that the police department will be holding a Seniors Class July 18, 2023, at the Berlin Borough Community Center from 9:30 to 12:30 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS**

CONSENT AGENDA Resolutions R7-132:2023 to R7-145:2023

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Mascarenhas Seconded: Council President Miller AIF: All

Motion to close public portion: Councilman Mascarenhas Seconded: Councilman Hohing AIF: All

**RES. R7-132:2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A MAINTENANCE BOND FOR BERLIN MULTI FAMILY, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF $295,721.55

**RES. R7-133:2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PERFORMANCE BOND FOR WAWA, INC. TRASH ENCLOSURE IN THE AMOUNT OF $19,214.01

**RES. R7-134:2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF INSPECTION ESCROW FOR WAWA, INC. BUILDING EXPANSION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF $2,711.20

**RES. R7-135:2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A CASH PERFORMANCE GUARANTY TO HOVBROS BERLIN, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF $3,882.00

**RES. R7-136:2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF A PERMIT APPLICATION FEE TO HUTCHINSON PLUMBING HEATING AND COOLING IN THE AMOUNT OF $150.00

**RES. R7-137:2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF INSPECTION ESCROW FOR SAAN HOLDINGS, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,402.00

**RES. R7-138:2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF EQUIPMENT AND A CAR THROUGH GOV DEALS NO LONGER IN USE IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**RES. R7-139:2023**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTING A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE BERLIN BOROUGH FY 2024 ROAD PROGRAM PROJECT

**RES. R7-140:2023**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIRING OF TERRY MYERS TO THE POSITION OF COMMUNITY CENTER COORDINATOR

**RES. R7-141:2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD A CONTRACT THROUGH THE SOURCEWELL NATIONAL COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT FOR A VERTICAL BALER UNDER CONTRACT #040621-WQI IN THE AMOUNT OF $15,412.97

**RES. R7-142:2023**

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A REFUND IN THE AMOUNT OF $150.00 TO MATTHEW QUINN

**RES. R7-143:2023**

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PAYMENT OF BILLS – JULY 2023 TOTALING $3,930,154.73

**RES. R7-144:2023**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM PENNONI ASSOCIATES FOR A TRAFFIC ENGINEERING SERVICES EVALUATION OF SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION AND FOUR-WAY STOP ON JACKSON ROAD (CR 534) IN THE AMOUNT OF $12,875.00

**RES. R7-145:2023**

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ANNE MARIE MILLER FOR THE POSITION OF CLERK’S ASSISTANT IN THE CLERK’S OFFICE EFFECTIVE JULY 17,2023

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Resolutions R7-132:2023 TO R7-145:2023; Councilwoman Cummings

Second: Councilman Hohing RCV: All

**PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR**

Motion to open the public portion: Councilman Mascarenhas

Seconded: Council President Miller AIF: All Opposed: None

Motion to close the public portion: Councilman Mascarenhas

Seconded: Councilman Badolato AIF: All Opposed: None

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion to enter executive session: Councilman Hohing

Seconded: Councilwoman Cummings AIF: All Opposed: None

Motion to close executive session: Councilman Wilkinson

Seconded: Council President Miller AIF: All Opposed: None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lillian Gram, Berlin resident

Resident asked about resolution R7-132:2023

Solicitor Long explained that it is releasing a maintenance bond.

Marie Fuschi. Berlin resident
Thanked council for having the town meeting.

She had a few questions regarding how and when the agenda and meeting minutes are posted.

Nick Maccaroni, Berlin resident

Voiced his concerns over flooding, drainage issues, and contracting being done near his property.

Kristen Simone, Berlin resident

Read a letter to council. Stated she is still upset about ongoing issues regarding the Simone Farm.

Councilman Wilkinson apologized to the Simone family for any misunderstandings regarding the farm.

Councilman Mascarenhas also apologized to the Simone family for any misunderstandings.

Kathleen Healy, Berlin resident

Has a few questions for the council regarding the property line between her house and the farmer’s market.

Jack Gangluff, Berlin resident

Thanked Mayor Miller for his assistance with an ongoing property maintenance issue with an adjacent property owner.

Jeff Greenberg, Berlin resident

Thanked Borough Council for hosting a town meeting. Stated his opinion that plans should be placed into existing parks.

Councilman Wilkinson stated that he will have DPW check into the Borough Parks.

Charlene Galiano, Berlin resident

Asked council if the farm can generate revenue from selling sunflowers by making it a sunflower farm.

Kristen Simone, Berlin resident

Asked council what the point was of putting the Simone Farm plans on display at the town hall meeting. Questions if those plans are subject to OPRA request.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Hohing

Seconded: Councilman Mascarenhas AIF: All Opposed: None

Submitted by:

Rachel von der Tann

Deputy Municipal Clerk