



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

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

REGULAR MEETING TO BEGIN 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:**

Council President Badolato – Present  
Councilwoman Cummings – Present  
Councilman Hohing – Present  
Councilman Mascarenhas – Present  
Councilman Miller – Present  
Councilman Wilkinson – 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 February 12, 2026 , workshop meeting minutes, Motion; Council President Badolato  
Seconded.; Councilman Miller AIF All in favor. .

Approval of February 12, 2026 , regular meeting minutes, Motion; Council President Badolato  
Seconded.; Councilman Miller AIF All in favor.

**COUNCIL REPORTS**

- **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, PARKS, & RECREATION** – Council President Badolato
- **PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS** - Councilman Wilkinson
- **WATER & SEWER** - Councilwoman Cummings
- **PUBLIC SAFETY** - Councilman Hohing
- **YOUTH ATHLETICS , COMMUNITY EVENTS** - Councilman Mascarenhas

- **FINANCE** - Councilman Miller
- **SOLICITOR** -Howard Long
- **MAYOR** - Rick Miller
  
- **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, PARKS, & RECREATION** – Council President Badolato

Council President Badolato explains the Borough is making some changes with the Police phone after hours at Borough Hall. The phone will be placed outside the building, with the doors being locked to access the vestibule.

- **PUBLIC WORKS, STREETS & ROADS** – Millard Wilkinson

DPW Report for March 2026 Meeting

- 301 tons of trash collected.
- 40 tons of single stream recycling collected.
- 500 pounds of electronic waste collected.
- 3 tons of baled cardboard were recycled.
- February 22 & 23 snowstorm: Crew worked for 18 hours and spread 25 tons of salt.
- DPW attended safety training in: Work zone safety, Employee conduct in the workplace, Hazardous communications, CDL safety regulations.
- Spring leaf collection is April 6<sup>th</sup> through April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Water and Sewer Report for March 2026 Meeting

Water:

- 8 service orders for meter repair or replacement were completed.
- 4 Meter was replaced.
- 121 utility mark outs were completed.
- Monthly maintenance at both water plants was completed.
- 2/11/26 main break on Blatherwick Drive was repaired.

Rehab project at Plant #1 has started. Fabrication and modifications to the clearwell tank have begun

SEWER:

- Completed all routine monthly maintenance at our 10 pump stations.

- Completed all routine monthly maintenance on our 10 emergency backup generators at the sewer pump stations.
- Wet well aeration equipment that was installed at the New Freedom Village pumpstaion has produced positive results eliminating grease buildup and odors.

➤ **Statistical Data**

- 2,756 calls for service compared to 3,090 in January
- 127 summonses compared to 219 in January
- 27 arrests compared to 20 in January
- 22 Motor vehicle crashes compared to 12 in January
- 90 Traffic stops compared to 147 in January

➤ **Directed Patrols**

- Places of Worship due to the volatile situation in the Middle East
- Greenwood Inn & Suites due to influx of individuals being placed on location for housing by the department of parole.

➤ **Tag Reader Cameras**

- 363,435 total license plates read compared to 356,568 in January
- 10 searches for vehicles involved in criminal activity compared to 43 in January
- 9 summonses issued from tag reader hits compared to 16 in January
- 6 traffic stops related to tag reader hits compared to 13 in January

➤ **Community Policing**

- Chief Scheer and Lieutenant Smith attended the cocktail party on behalf of the Greater Berlin Business Association on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

➤ **K-9 Clyde**

- Attended mandatory in-service training 02/17/2026
- No deployments for the month of February 2026

➤ **Miscellaneous**

- Detective Ashton Pohlig named officer of the month for February 2026
- Police recruit Alexander Purvis has been given a conditional offer of employment and is expected to begin at the Camden County Police Academy April 13.

➤ **YOUTH ATHLETICS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS – Councilman Mascarenhas**

Councilman Mascarenhas announced an annual Easter egg hunt scheduled for April 4th at 9:00 AM on the Borough Hall front lawn. Councilman Mascarenhas revealed plans to show free movies on a 20-foot inflatable screen on the first Friday of each month once weather improves, with potential to increase frequency based on turnout. Councilman Mascarenhas and the solicitor are helping the AA baseball organization negotiate a contract with the school board, with dugout construction progressing well at the baseball fields.

**.FINANCE** – Council President Miller-

Council President Miller goes over revenues collected from Borough Departments.

**Revenues Collected Report for February 2026**

Permit fees \$5,472.00

Rental inspection fees \$8,850.00

Zoning Fees \$150.00

Resale inspection fees \$900.00

Community- \$1,672.33

Tax collector \$5,263,845.19

Utility Collector \$292, 363.16

Animal license fee \$493.00

Clerk's Office \$3,480.00

Court Office \$14,245.42

**SOLICITOR** – Mr. Howard Long- has nothing to report.

➤ **MAYOR Miller**

Mayor Miller explained Ordinance 2026-1 creates a new approval process for non-compliant fences or sheds, reducing fees from \$1,200 to \$250 and using a subcommittee instead of the full planning board for faster turnaround. Mayor Miller presented Ordinance 2026-2 modifying no-parking hours on Franklin Avenue from 4pm to 3pm on weekdays while Berlin Community School is in session. Mayor Miller introduced Ordinance 2026-3 authorizing acceptance of unbuildable wetland property on Leroy Avenue from Viking Associates as a charitable donation after environmental clearance.

Mayor Miller explained Ordinance 2026-4 repeals and replaces the affordable housing chapter to comply with modified Fair Housing Act fourth round requirements after the state extended deadlines. Mayor Miller introduced Ordinance 2026-5 raising animal licensing fees from \$10 to \$15 (first increase in 10-15 years) and reducing late fees from \$25 to \$10.

Anne Marie Miller explained the state requires rabies vaccinations to be valid through November 1st, and the reduced late fee addresses situations where residents cannot renew licenses due to expiring rabies certificates.

**Anne Marie Miller Administrator**

The administrator announced that public notices are now posted on the borough website, with a new state requirement to advertise in newspapers twice monthly for 12 months directing residents to the website.

Safe exchange zone signs have been installed in the vestibule, under the canopy, and in the parking lot for Facebook Marketplace transactions, and the first employee safety training was conducted with the police department and Cooper. The borough received approval for a \$76,849 grant for soil remediation at the Blazey property, with closing documents finalized after a 14-year process.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE – 2026-01**  
**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN AMENDING CERTAIN LAND USE REGULATIONS SET FORTH CHAPTER 335-13 C. (1) ENTITLED , FEES AND ESCROW DEPOSITS OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN.**

Meeting open to the public on Ordinance No. 2026-01, Councilman Wilkinson , Second.; Councilman Miller ,AIF All in favor.

Meeting closed to the public on Ordinance No. 2026-01 Councilman Wilkinson , Second; Councilman Hohing, AIF All in favor.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-01 Councilman Miller, Second.; Councilman Hohing , RCV All in favor.

**SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE – 2026-02**  
**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN CHAPTER 315, ARTICLE XVI, §315-32 SCHEDULE I: NO PARKING ON FRANKLIN AVENUE, BOTH SIDES, FROM 132 S. FRANKLIN AVENUE TO CLEMENTON ROAD, WEEKDAYS 7:00 A.M. THROUGH 3:00 P.M., WHILE THE BERLIN COMMUNITY SCHOOL IS IN SESSION, IN THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

Meeting open to the public on Ordinance No. 2026-02, Councilman Wilkinson , Second.; Councilman Hohing ,AIF All in favor.

Meeting closed to the public on Ordinance No. 2026-02 Councilman Miller , Second: Councilman Badolato , AIF All in favor.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-02 Councilman Badolato , Second.; Councilman Hohing , RCV All in favor.

**SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE – 2026-03**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A CHARITABLE DONATION FROM VIKING ASSOCIATES WHICH SHALL INCLUDE CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED ON LEROY AVENUE, SPECIFICALLY BLOCK 2006, LOT 7, IN BERLIN BOROUGH, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

Meeting open to the public on Ordinance No. 2026-03, Councilman Wilkinson , Second.; Councilman Hohing ,AIF All in favor.

Meeting closed to the public on Ordinance No. 2026-03 Councilwoman Cummings , Second; Council Badolato , AIF All in favor.

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-03 Councilwoman Cummings , Second.; Councilman Hohing, RCV All in favor. .

**SECOND READING ON ORDINANCE – 2026-04**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 193 OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED “HOUSING, AFFORDABLE” IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT.**

Meeting open to the public on Ordinance No. 2026-04, Councilman Miller, Second.; Councilwoman Cummings ,AIF All in favor.

Meeting closed to the public on Ordinance No. 2026-04 Councilman Hohing , Second; Councilman Miller , AIF All in favor .

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-04 Councilman Miller , Second.; Councilwoman Cummings, RCV All in favor .

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FIRST READING ON ORDINANCE – 2026-05**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 89, ENTITLED “ANIMALS” OF THE CODE BOOK OF THE BOROUGH OF BERLIN, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

Motion: Councilman Hohing Second: Councilman Badolato RCV All in favor.

**CONSENT AGENDA Resolutions R3-58:2026 to R3-68:2026**

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Miller Second; Councilman Hohing AIF: All in favor.

Motion to close public portion: Councilman Hohing Second; Councilman Miller AIF: All in favor.

**RES. R3-58:2026**

Resolution authorizing budget appropriation transfers during the first three months of the succeeding fiscal year for the Borough of Berlin, County of Camden, State Of New Jersey.

**RES. R3-59:2026**

Resolution approving Shawn M. Chambers for the New Jersey State Firefighter’s Association Applications for membership.

**RES. R3-60:2026**

Resolution accepting the 2025 annual Tax Collector report for the Borough of Berlin.

**RES. R3-61:2026**

Resolution approving the Lieutenant’s contract , for the Borough of Berlin, pending attorney review.

**RES. R3-62:2026**

Resolution approving the hiring of Alica Hoos to the Deputy Treasurer Position for the Borough of Berlin effective March 16, 2026.

**RES. R3-63:2026**

Resolution to adopt the Affordability Assistance Manual for the Borough of Berlin Fourth Round of the Fair Housing Act.

**RES. R3-64:2026**

Resolution to adopt the Affirmation Marketing Plan for the Borough of Berlin Fourth Round of the Fair Housing Act.

**RES. R3-65:2026**

Resolution to adopt a Spending Plan for the Borough of Berlin Fourth Round of the Fair Housing Act.

**RES. R3-66:2026**

Approving payment of bills for the month of March in the amount of \$3,925,950.67.

**RES. R3-67:2026**

Resolution authorizing the submission of a strategic plan for the Governor’s Council on Substance Use Disorder fiscal year 2027.

**RES. R3-68:2026**

Resolution authorizing the Borough of Berlin to participate with the State of New Jersey Safe and Secure Communities Grant Program Administered by the Department of Law and Public Safety, Office of the Attorney General.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS R3-58:2026 to R3-68:2026** Councilwoman

Cummings , Sec.; Councilman Hohing, RCV All in favor.

**PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR**

Motion to open the public portion: Councilman Wilkinson

Seconded: Councilman Hohing      AIF: All      Opposed: None

Motion to close the public portion: Councilman Miller

Seconded: Councilman Hohing      AIF: All      Opposed: None

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Wilkinson

Seconded: Councilman Badolato    AIF: All

Opposed: None

Submitted by:  
Rachel von der Tann  
Municipal Clerk

### **Public Comment**

Berlin Resident

The president of New Freedom Village HOA, presented video evidence of motorbikes, quads, and dune buggies illegally using PSE&G easements and community walkways, causing property damage and noise disturbances.

Berlin Resident

Berlin Resident raised concerns about South Jersey Gas creating approximately 45 new potholes while replacing gas lines in recently repaved streets including Lake Drive, Evanine, and Blatherwick.

The Mayor explained that when roads are repaved within five years, utility companies must repave the entire affected road curb-to-curb, and Key Engineers has a representative monitoring the work. The mayor noted the Borough plans to pass an ordinance changing requirements from half-street to full curb-to-curb repaving for utility work, and expressed frustration that South Jersey Gas denied having plans before the borough repaved Blatherwick.