

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2, 2024 MEETING**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Bally Borough Council was held on the above date at the Borough Hall. President, Glenn Mutter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members present: Glenn Mutter, Paul Gehringer, Joshua Sloan, Michael Bauman, Michael Moll, and Matthew Gehman were all present. Joel Pilgert was absent.

Also present: Mayor, David Schott; Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter; Public Works Superintendent, Nathan Heffner. There were two residents and one reporter in attendance.

The agenda for this meeting had been posted on the door and posted on the Borough website, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

President Mutter announced the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS –

Bill and Billy Gieger addressed the council on a building expansion project for the Bally Lions Club garage located off N 4th Street. The building is used for a medical equipment loan program provided by the Lions Club. A future 450 square foot expansion out the back of the building was requested as the building has reached its' maximum capacity. A maple tree may need to come down for the addition. Council has requested replacement of the tree and the project would not begin until 2025 or 2026. Initial drawings were shown to Council. Council President noted the roof pitch should be increased to more than 2 pitch. The club should also note the flood plain of the park creek. Council had no other issue with the proposed expansion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of March 5, 2024 Council Meeting- A motion was made by Paul Gehringer, seconded by Michael Moll, to approve the minutes. Matt Gehman abstained from the vote, all others Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented- A motion was made by Mike Bauman, seconded by Michael Moll, to approve the bills. All Ayes.

PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT - No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health, Safety, & Welfare:

Police report- All officers completed yearly updates. Police will need to purchase a VPN for their reporting system. Estimated cost of the VPN is \$3500 - \$3800.

Fire report- There were a total of 34 calls for March, with a grand total of 107 calls year to date. The company will attend an EVAC class on April 6th. They successfully closed on the property at 1200 Route 100 on March 15th. The previously purchased land location has been put on the market for sale. There were no negatives comments received from residents concerning the Fire and EMS tax letters included with the March water bills.

Bally Ambulance – March calls in Bally were 17, with a grand total of 117 calls for the month of March.

Planning Commission - Did not meet

Municipal Authority- Did not meet, will meet April 16th.

Zoning Hearing Board –Did not meet.

BARDS Committee – Volunteers have been obtained for the car wash on May 18th, the weekend of the Community Yard Sale. They will also host a bake sale. Both events will be held in the pool parking lot.

WWTP Report- Worked on the catch basins for the storm water project in the playground. Public works tried to cut roots in the outfall pipe at the plant. The roots are very long and heavy. We will need to have a contractor come in to cut the roots and line the pipe as soon as possible. The lining will stop at the last manhole and will not continue under the creek at Miller Road. The last portion of the pipe will probably need to be replaced in the future. We will need to redirect budgeted funds in the water/sewer fund to get this project completed. No additional funds will need to be added to the budget, but some preventative work will need to be delayed to 2025, but if these large roots break off and block the outfall pipe, the situation will become dire very quickly. Joshua Sloan asked that Nate keep him advised of the paving project in the pool parking lot so seal coating can be scheduled. He also asked about adding wood chips to the playground. It was advised not to add wood chips until the playground equipment is installed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Sale of 2007 Ford F550** – The highest bid received for the dump truck was \$19,300. A motion was made for the sale of the 2007 Ford dump truck for the amount of \$19,300 by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Mike Moll. All Ayes. It was also noted the snow blower sold for \$186, the salt spreader \$430, the jumping jack \$351.55.
- **Change of budget line item 492.05 use in Water/Sewer fund** – The need to cut roots and line the outfall pipe at the treatment plant has moved to an emergency situation. A motion was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Matt Gehman to treat the situation as an emergency. All Ayes. A motion was made by Paul Gehringer, seconded by Mike Moll to redirect budget funds estimated at \$158,289.66 in line item 492.05 Water/Sewer fund for the emergency situation, cutting roots, lining and televising outfall 1 pipe at the treatment plant, as opposed for the budgeted extension of the outfall pipe and lateral lining. All Ayes.
- **Hire full time public works employee** – Personnel committee interviewed 4 candidates for the open public works position and chose candidate Christopher Spotts for the position. A motion was made by Matt Gehman, seconded by Paul Gehringer to hire Chris at an hourly rate of \$20 per hour, effective April 8, 2024, with a .50 per hour increase after successful completion of his 90 day probationary period. All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Traffic Study Main Street** - Joshua Sloan stated he has been unable to obtain a sample of the traffic study and asked to withdraw this line item from the agenda.
- **Reflective tape on Utility Poles Main Street** – Joshua Sloan stated we are on the list for reflective tape to be replaced on utility poles in the Borough. This service is provided by PennDOT, but there is no set date for completion.
- **PA Utility Program tabled from last month** – Since the Solicitor advised council of potential financial exposure with the program, it was requested the line item be withdrawn from the agenda.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- **Washington Township Sewer Agreement** – Tim advised that the Borough has two copies of the new agreement and recommended approval and execution of the agreement by council. A motion was made by Mike Moll to approve the agreement, seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes. A motion was made by Matt Gehman and seconded by Joshua Sloan to have council president sign the agreement on behalf of council. All Ayes.
- The Solicitor requested an agreement be drafted with Washington Township, ensuring their support with placement of a public water source for the Bally Borough Municipal Authority in their township.
- **Land Access agreement with James Longacre** – The agreement is being finalized by the Solicitor.

Tim Curley requests an executive session after the Council Meeting for an employment matter.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Schott reported that the police had 31 calls for the month of March, for a total of 138 for the year. There were 21 traffic citations and 1 parking ticket issued. They used 138 gallons of fuel and drove 1,224 miles.

ENGINEER'S STATUS OF PROJECTS:

There was no updated Engineer's report.

OFFICE REPORT

- Non-Land Development Agreement** – The Solicitor is still reviewing the proposed agreement provided by the engineers. This agreement will be used to secure escrow for water or sewer projects connecting the Borough's system(s) that are located outside the Borough.
- Zoning Violation** – A Notice of Violation was sent to the owners of the storage container business located between N Front and Old Route 100 for failure to obtain a zoning permit.
- Building Lots on N 9th Street** – The four building lots on N 9th Street have been sold to Berks Homes, which intends to build four new homes.
- S 9th Street** – The property at 15 S 9th Street was sold a sheriff sale. The new owner submitted plans to remove the old mobile home and bring in a new modular.
- Systems Design Engineering** – The Borough Manager reported that our primary contact at Systems Design, Tom Unger, will be retiring in August. He is expected to work part time for the firm. Our primary contact for water has already left.
- Bidding of used Playset and pool slide** – The Borough Manager advised that she is bidding on a playset on Municibid for the playground. The funds will come out of reserved funds from fund raisers and the park grant funds. We are also bidding on a smaller pool slide for the shallow end of the pool. Funds will be taken from the recreation fund for new equipment. Joshua Sloan stated he will check with BARDS to see if they would like to contribute to the cost.
- The Mayor asked how the grant for the building expansion was coming along. The Manager stated we were asked to provide additional information, but since it is an LSA grant, there is no set date for determination of who gets funds.

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS – A question from Matt Bakes concerning the status of Fire/EMS tax was asked. Matt was told that a committee meeting was scheduled to discuss later this month.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

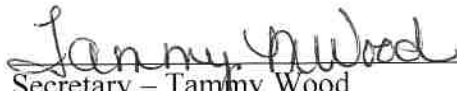
No questions from council

ADJOURNMENT- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Moll, seconded by Joshua Sloan at 8:00 pm. All Ayes.

Council moved to an Executive session following the meeting for a legal issue.



President - Glenn Mutter



Secretary - Tammy Wood