

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1, 2023 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, Joel Pilgert, Matthew Gehman and Michael Moll.

Also present: Mayor, David Schott; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter; Borough Secretary, Tammy Wood and Public Works Superintendent, Nathan Heffner. Solicitor, R. Tim Curley attended by telephone. There was 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 – None

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of July 5, 2023 Council Meeting- A motion was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Paul Gehringer, to approve the minutes. Matthew Gehman and Michael Moll abstained. All Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented- A motion was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Michael Bauman, to approve the bills. All Ayes.

PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT - No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health, Safety, & Welfare:

Police report- The police have finished their yearly defense tactical and taser training. There were no issues with cars this month. There is no training coming up this month.

Fire report- Total fire calls for June were 46. Year-to-date is 266. EBFD will be holding a chicken BBQ at Bally on Saturday, August 26th. There will be 800 meals starting at 2pm. EBFD has yard flags for sale at \$50.00 each. You can order through the website or contact through email. There will be training at the house on Main St. in Bally this weekend, with companies 19 and 95.

Bally Ambulance – No report

Planning Commission - Did not meet

Municipal Authority- Joel Pilgert stated that we received some potential back up well sites, pending land owner approval.

Zoning Hearing Board –Did not meet.

BARDS Committee –Joshua Sloan asked council to consider having an engineering firm do a leak study at the pool. Nate stated that the leak is no worse than years past. Discussion lead to whether it would be worth the money to find something at this point? If we do find something, would we have the money to fix it? Council agrees that getting an estimate on how much the survey would cost would be a good idea. Nate stated we should replace more skimmer boxes in an effort to stop leaks, and the sand filter for the baby pool needs to be replaced. Council agreed to replacement of these items. Joshua requested on behalf of BARDS for approval to host the annual dog swim on Saturday, Sept 9th from 12-4. Council agreed with the dog swim.

WWTP Report- The sewer plant was inspected in July by DEP and no issues were found. The moisture analyzer for the plant was repaired. The manhole frame on Pine Street was replaced before paving began. SDE requests the flow meters be installed in certain manholes to measure the capacity of the lines. Nate reached out to PA Rural Water for help on repairing fire hydrants and we should be getting quotes from 2 companies. Basketball poles were installed in the basketball court. Public Works repaired a sinkhole on N 8th Street and continues to work on the stormwater project next to the baseball field. They have installed about 80 feet of pipe so far, with about another 200 feet to go. The Church Street paving is completed. H&K will have to come back to seal around the manholes that need new risers installed. There are also 6 valve boxes on Church Street that need to be replaced. Glenn stated he thought the paving company was a very good company, organized and hustled to get done. There was a resident that came to Glenn, Dave Ritter about commercial trucks parking on Church Street. He wants all commercial trucks off the road. He asked Glenn to bring up to Council if we should eliminate commercial vehicles from the road. Glenn asked if Council wants to raise any motions on the street parking situation. No motions were made. Many residents have inquired when their street will be paved. Roads will continue to be paved as we complete sewer and storm water work needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **LIHWAP program** – Joshua stated that some residents have inquired about why the Borough does not participate in the program. Wendy stated that it is a temporary program ending in August, which gives an equal amount toward water and sewer, but sewer costs 3 times more. This could leave unpaid sewer amounts and the Borough would not be able to shut off service for 3 months following the LIHWAP payment. Council tabled the topic since approval would need to be obtain by the Municipal Authority for water.
- **Seasonal speed bumps on 4th and Creamery Sts.** – Council discussed this issue as it had in the past. The solicitor stated that a traffic study is not required to install speed bumps. Joshua stated he has a verbal commitment from a local church and an insurance company to provide \$3,000 to \$5,000 to fund. Council was not in favor of speed bumps as Police have monitored 4th Street in the past and did not find excessive speeds. Mayor Schott will talk with Chief Ellick about the area and the Borough has agreed to install “Children at Play” signs.
- **Pavilion rental rates** – The Borough inquired about raising the fee of the park pavilion rentals. The current fee is \$35.00 for residents, \$50 for non-residents and commercial use. Council agreed to change the rate to \$50.00 for anyone reserving a pavilion. Matthew Gehman made a motion for approval for Tim Curley to draft a resolution for the pavilion rental fee to be \$50.00. Joshua Sloan seconded the motion. All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Paper Retriever Bins** – The bins have been removed. We refer all recycling to Washington Elementary School.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT– Solicitor Tim Curley is still waiting on the joint resolution with Washington Township.

MAYOR'S REPORT – There were 64 calls for the month for the police, 55 traffic citations, 1 arrest, involving a stolen car and 2 stolen vehicles were recovered in Bally. The police traveled a total of 1176 miles, using 147 gallons of gas. Both vehicles are running well with some minor maintenance on the 2016 car. Mayor Schott stated that on August 7th, 2023, the Town of Bally will officially be 140 years old. Bally was named in honor of Reverend Augustine J Bally, who was pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Church and opened the first public school in the area. The town was called Churchville when Father Bally came to the area because there were 2 churches in the small town. On August 7th 1883 there was a post office established and consequently the name was changed to Bally to honor Father Bally for all the work he had done. The Mayor also announced the tree lighting ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 2nd.

ENGINEER'S STATUS OF PROJECTS

- SDE requested direction on whether to proceed with 811 Chestnut St. storm water project based on Engineers report. This area floods a lot with heavy rains and makes a mess on the roads with mud and stone, etc. Permits for the work could range from \$5000 to \$15,000, depending on DEP requirement. The amount budgeted for stormwater work for 2023 is \$100,000. Paul Gehringer made the motion for SDE to move forward with the stormwater project on Chestnut Street, Joshua Sloan seconded the motion. All Ayes. Michael Moll abstained from the vote.

OFFICE REPORT

- a. Received Sewer Project 3 grant funds in the amount of \$314,091.00** – The total amount spent on the project was \$373,000, leaving approximately \$59,863.00 out of pocket. We had a 15% match for this grant.
- b. New water/sewer billing system, reading collection systems update** – The billing system is in conversion mode at this time. Wendy and Tammy have been trained on the reading system. We have done 3 readings and 1 data log so far. Readings for the quarter were done on the new system.
- c. LSA Grant application period September 1st to November 30th** – We have talked about the building expansion for the police department. Paul Gehringer created the drawings for the Borough. There is a handicap ramp included in the drawings for the senior center. The next step is to send for an estimate. Wendy is looking for approval to apply for a grant for the building expansion. There is no match on LSA grants, so it will cost us a \$100 application fee and engineering fees to apply. Michael Moll made the motion to apply for the police addition grant. Matthew Gehman seconded the motion. All Ayes. Glenn thanked Paul for donating the work on the layout and drawings.
- d.** Wendy had contacted Tim Curley concerning some potential liability issues at the pool. Wendy requested to have oversight authority at the pool. Council agreed that all employees must report to Borough Manager.
- e.** Kids' Camp is happening this week in the park.
- f.** We are looking into getting 2 additional cameras for the park. Public works will need to extend electric at those locations. Wendy and Chief Ellick also have received access on their desktops to view the cameras. The quote for the 2 additional cameras should be ready next month.

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS– No residents

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS – Joshua Sloan inquired if he should have the pool power washed at the end of the season instead of the beginning as has been done in the past. Nate stated he would prefer to have it done at the end of season. Joshua Sloan inquired if bumpers or bollards would be helpful to prevent people from parking on the macadam in the park. Bollards would be the best option for that. Wendy brought up that the baseball field at the corner of 4th and Dogwood

looks awful with weeds growing due to the field not being used this year. The fire company normally maintains the field. Public Works will spray the field next week.

ADJOURNMENT- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Michael Moll at 8:50pm. All Ayes.



President



Secretary