

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 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, Michael Moll, Matthew Gehman and Joel Pilgert were all present.

Also present: Mayor, David Schott; Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter; Secretary, Tammy Wood; Public Works Superintendent, Nathan Heffner. There were 2 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 –**

Matt Bakes of Eastern Berks Fire Department was in attendance. Glenn Mutter stated to him that he received 3 complaints about the siren for the Santa parade. Residents were upset about the siren being continuous, as it bothered their dogs. Glenn suggested to turn the siren on and off periodically.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes of November 7, 2023 Council Meeting- A motion was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Paul Gehringer, to approve the minutes. Matthew Gehman abstained. All others Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented- A motion was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Michael Moll, to approve the bills. All Ayes.

**PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT** - No report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Health, Safety, & Welfare:**

**Police report-** The police are down to one part-time employee and plan to keep it that way for now.

**Fire report-** Bally calls were 4 for November and calls YTD are 444.

**Bally Ambulance –** November calls in Bally were 8, with a total of 127 calls for the month. YTD calls are 1416. 2024 Memberships will be mailed out next week.

**Planning Commission** - Did not meet

**Municipal Authority-** Met November 21 and passed the 2024 Budget. Mr Longacre will be meeting up with engineers and the Borough at his property for the potential new well site. MA will meet again in February.

**Zoning Hearing Board** –Did not meet.

**BARDS Committee** – The craft show was the best it ever has been with about \$2,000.00 raised. The Holiday raffle brought in \$500.00 with a \$1,000.00 donation from Bally Block. We are now setting up fundraising for the Spring. BARDS has raised about \$1,500.00 out of the \$3,000.00 needed for the seal coating of the pool parking lot so far.

**WWTP Report-** In November the pool parking lot project began. In the midst of working that, there were 3 issues that came up that took us away from that project. One was a water issue at Victoria Village, where the shut-off valve was not easy to find. It ended up being under the sidewalk and broken off. Public works installed a new curb box and it was GPS marked. 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Main Street residence had a plumbing issue, which public works ended up having to jet the sewer lateral. The 3<sup>rd</sup> issue was Poplar Street with a water main break. Nate Heffner stated that the equipment that Council has allowed him to purchase in the past 4 years has helped in all these situations, in order to get these jobs done immediately. The trucks are ready for plowing. The new dump truck is here. There was 80 feet of pipe laid in the pool parking lot. The old dump truck will be up for sale in the next 2 months or so, making sure the new dump truck is mechanically sound first. The fire hydrant on S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street should be replaced next month. Met Ed has been slow in getting street lights changed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Resolution 2023-9 Setting the 2024 Real Estate Tax Rate** – There is no change in the tax rate. The rate is 5.3 mils. Motion to approve 2024 Real Estate Tax rate was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes.
- **Proposed 2024 Budget reading or motion to dispense with reading** – A motion was made by Matthew Gehman to dispense with reading, seconded by Joel Pilgert. All Ayes.
- **Resolution 2023-10 2024 Budget** – Motion to approve the 2024 Budget made by Michael Moll. Michael Bauman seconded the motion. Glenn Mutter abstained. All others Ayes.
- **Resolution 2023-11 Appoint Berks County Tax Claim to Collect Delinquent Real Estate Tax-** Michael Moll made the motion to appoint Berks County Tax Claim to collect delinquent real estate tax, seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes.
- **Resolution 2023-12 Waive Employee Pension Contribution for 2024** – Joshua Sloan made the motion to waive employee pension contribution for 2024. Paul Gehringer seconded the motion. Glenn Mutter abstained. All others Ayes.
- **Appoint Paul Gehringer to Municipal Authority for a 4 year term to end December 31, 2027** – Michael Moll made the motion to appoint Paul Gehringer for a 4 year term on Municipal Authority. Michael Bauman seconded that. Paul Gehringer abstained. All others Ayes.
- **Storm water plans for 800 block Chestnut St** – The engineers brought in plans for this project. The Borough would like to apply for a grant for the Chestnut St project and to include a stormwater project on N & S 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Council gives their approval to go ahead with applying for a grant for these projects.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Appoint committee or set special meeting to discuss Fire Tax** – Health, Safety and Welfare committee should be the first to discuss this, then it should move on to the Finance Committee.
- **Changes to Employee Handbook benefits** – Vacation time can be used up until January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year and with approval from Council this can be extended up to March 31<sup>st</sup>. Catastrophic sick increasing the amount of hours allowed to accrue to up to 6 weeks or 240 hours. Good Friday and the Friday after Thanksgiving will be additional Holidays for Borough employees. Matthew Gehman made a motion to approve all of the above. Joshua Sloan seconded that. Glenn Mutter abstained. All others Ayes.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Tim Curley stated he drafted and will be in touch with the Ehst family and council to propose a release of the agreement of sale of the property at the old potential well site. Tim Curley has started

the review for the Fire and EMS tax. Tim is waiting for an updated draft from the engineers that coincides with the conversation that was had with Attorney London for the Washington Twp agreement.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Schott reported that the police had 60 calls for the month of November and 692 calls for the year. There were 120 gallons used in November and they drove 1087 miles. There were 37 traffic citations and 1 misdemeanor arrest. The Mayor thanks Nate Heffner and Public Works for putting up the Christmas Tree. Wendy was thanked for the Christmas Tree for Santa and Tammy for the candy. The Mayor swore in about 25 fire police last month.

#### **ENGINEER'S STATUS OF PROJECTS:**

The Engineers report showed the demolition for the digester at the plant is scheduled to begin the first week of January. They did apply for the LSA Grant for the building expansion.

#### **OFFICE REPORT**

- a. Pre-Audit will be held on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- b. We have been in training with the new water billing company. The office is hoping to bill from the new system for the March billing.
- c. Resident, Mr. Warner from Elm Street had come in to pay his water/sewer bill and questioned his bill, as it was 33,000 gallon usage. This is unusual for Mr. Warner and Wendy is asking to give him 20,000 gallon sewer credit. Michael Moll made a motion to credit all sewer above minimum. Joshua Sloan seconded that. All Ayes.

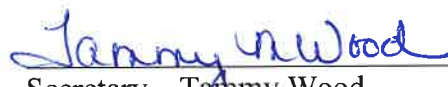
**QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS** – No questions or comments

#### **COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

No questions from council

**ADJOURNMENT**- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Joshua Sloan at 8:06 pm. All Ayes.

  
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President - Glenn Mutter

  
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Secretary – Tammy Wood