

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 7, 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, Michael Bauman, Michael Moll, Matthew Gehman, Paul Gehringer, Joshua Sloan and Joel Pilgert.

Also present: Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter; Borough Secretary, Tammy Wood and Public Works Superintendent, Nathan Heffner. Mayor, David Schott was absent. There was one reporter and 3 residents 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 broadcast via Zoom and recorded for minute taking purposes.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS– Mike Groff, Ambulance Chief was in attendance to present a letter to Council. This letter was in response to the handling of the Emergency Management Director for Bally, Bruce Hoffman's, active 911 access. Mike proposes that Bruce would have to 1) complete the HIPPA Emergency Services Providers online training within 30 days and every year thereafter. 2) Sign a HIPPA non-disclosure agreement acknowledging the proper use of protective personal health information. Tim Curley, Borough Solicitor proposed that the Borough pay for the yearly subscription for Bruce at \$12.00/yr. and there are at least 45 days notice before any changes are made. Mike Groff, council and the Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter are in agreement. Mike would like to start providing the Borough with their monthly calls, news, etc. and to attend the Borough Council meetings on a more regular basis, in hopes to be more transparent and answer any questions Council may have.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of February 7, 2023 Council Meeting-A motion was made by Paul Gehringer, seconded by Michael Moll, to approve the minutes. All Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented-Glenn Mutter asked if the Seal Master quick joint purchased was for a job that public works did or contracted out. Nate replied that was a job that public works performed. A motion was made by Matthew Gehman to approve and affirm the bills, seconded by Joshua Sloan. All Ayes.

PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health, Safety, & Welfare

Fire report- Total fire calls for 2022 was 502, with 44 in Bally. This was the highest number of calls ever. Funding continues to be a critical long-term need for the 100% volunteer fire personnel, as our calls/alerts continue to increase.

Police report- There were 64 calls for the month of January. There were 97 traffic citations, 1 DUI arrest and 3 parking tickets. The police traveled a total of 1184 miles using 146.10 gallons of fuel.

Bally Ambulance- The ambulance responded to 9 total calls in Bally in January. The total of all calls in surrounding areas were 110.

Planning Commission- Did not meet.

Municipal Authority- Discussed end of year income and expenses. Next meeting is April 11th.

Zoning Hearing Board –Did not meet.

BARDS Committee – The Lions Club offered to pay for a handicapped accessible porta potty for public use year-round in the park, at a cost of about \$2,000.00 per year. It would be placed near the side park entrance near the medical storage building. Council is ok with that. BARDS is willing to pay any difference of price for the trees that are to be put in the park and purchased from the donation that was received a few years back. Nate stated that public works would be able to dig the holes for the trees. Joshua will send Wendy the contact information in order to get that started. Joshua received 3 quotes for the concrete pad under the pool pavilion. The lowest quote was about \$4,800.00 and is a company they had worked with previously. March 6th will be the deadline for potpie orders.

WWTP Report- The month of January was very productive. We got some stormwater work done from Cherry to Chestnut Sts., changed out water meters, did some televising on Church St. in preparation for paving, and purchased cold mix for potholes. Maintenance on all vehicles is done. There is about 100 tons of fill (mix of concrete, blacktop, etc.) that needs disposed of. This could be used for filling in the old reservoir. We are still looking for a safety fence for around the old reservoir.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Dispense with airing Council meetings on zoom** – A notice will be put in the newsletter and on the March agenda. This will be continued until the April council meeting.
- **Adopt updated Employee Handbook**– With the addition of the sentence of “5 days per year of sick time” added, Michael Moll made the motion to approve the updated Employee Handbook. Paul Gehringer seconded that. All Ayes. Glenn Mutter abstained from the vote.
- **Resolution 2023-2 Adopting the Emergency Operation Plan-** The plan is updated yearly with contact information. No other changes were made. There is a form that needs to be signed by all council members. Matthew Gehman made the motion to adopt the Emergency Operation Plan, Resolution 2023-2. Michael Bauman seconded that. All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Vacating of N 5th Street Ordinance 305-** Motion made to send letters to abutting landowners and to go to advertising made by Matthew Gehman. Seconded by Michael Moll. All Ayes.
- **Vacating of N 4th Street Ordinance 304-** Motion made to send letters to abutting landowners and to go to advertising made by Paul Gehringer. Seconded by Michael Bauman. All Ayes.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT– Executive session requested for legal matter following Council meeting.

MAYOR’S REPORT – None

OFFICE REPORT-

- a. Paperwork to receive the \$314,000.00 in grant funds for sewer project #3 submitted on Monday. We are waiting for a reply currently.

- b. Tom Unger at Systems Design to write up agreement to update the sewer service agreement with Washington Twp. The solicitors for Bally Borough and Washington Twp will then look over before seeking approval from Council.
- c. Rich Sichler was in from Washington Twp to discuss the payoff of the 1996 expansion loan. This will be paid in November from the WTMA escrow account. At this point the account can be closed and remaining funds returned to Washington Twp.
- d. Annual Borough audit is complete. There were no major changes required. We are waiting on the final paperwork.
- e. New water meter reading equipment purchase- The Borough received a quote in the amount of \$20,895.00. There are many options that would be very beneficial to the Borough, as well as the residents. Paul Gehringer made the motion to purchase the new equipment. Joshua Sloan seconded that. All Ayes.
- f. The Senior Center heater was replaced at a cost of \$6,630.00.
- g. Working with the State on 4-year pension audit.
- h. Workers comp audit coming up on Friday, February 10th.

The new phone system will be installed tomorrow. This will give the police their own line and alleviate the office employees from answering the police line. Everyone will also have their own voice mail. Nate will be able to call in to receive any voicemail left for public works.

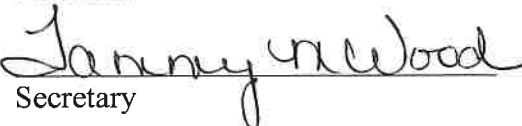
QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS—None

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS – Joshua Sloan offered his help to Wendy in setting up and using the new emails.

ADJOURNMENT- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Joshua Sloan at 8:27pm. All Ayes. Council went into an Executive meeting for a legal matter.



President



Secretary