

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

The re-organization and regular scheduled meeting of the Bally Borough Council was held on the above date at the Borough Hall. Mayor, David C. Schott called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter; Borough Secretary, Tammy Wood and Superintendent, Nathan Heffner. There was 1 resident in attendance.

Mayor Schott announced the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes.

Mayor Schott swore in Council Members Johua Sloan, Paul Gehringer and Joel Pilgert. Mayor Schott called for the re-organization of council and nominations for Council President. Matthew Gehman nominated Glenn Mutter for Council President. Michael Bauman seconded that. All Ayes. Glenn Mutter abstained from the vote.

Matthew Gehman nominated Michael Moll for Vice President. Joel Pilgert seconded it. All Ayes. Michael Moll abstained from the vote.

President Glenn Mutter took over the meeting at this time.

- **Committee appointments** – Council agreed to keep all committee appointments the same.
- **Reappoint Richard T Curley, PC as Borough Solicitor** – Matthew Gehman made the motion to reappoint Richard T Curley, PC as Bally Borough Solicitor. Paul Gehringer seconded that. All Ayes.
- **Reappoint Systems Design Engineering as Borough Engineers** - Michael Moll made the motion to reappoint Systems Design Engineering as Bally Borough Engineers. Joshua Sloan seconded that. All Ayes.
- **Reappoint Kraft Code Municipal Group as code enforcement officer and zoning officer** - Michael Moll made the motion to reappoint Kraft Code Municipal Group as Bally Borough code enforcement and zoning officer. Matthew Gehman seconded that. All Ayes.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS– No comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of December 5, 2023 Council Meeting- A motion was made by Michael Bauman, seconded by Michael Moll, to approve the minutes. All Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented- Mayor Schott inquired if the bills were complete for the year. Wendy Mutter stated that she still needs to transfer MA and WTMA accounts and complete all interest-bearing accounts, as the statements have not been received. But yes, this is basically what we spent for the year. A motion was made by Matthew Gehman to approve the bills, seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health, Safety, & Welfare – Glenn Mutter inquired with Matt Bakes from the Ambulance, as to what percentage the ambulance would be asking for as far as a tax. Matt Bakes stated he would bring it up at the next Ambulance meeting and get back to us. EBFD calls for December were 34, total for the year of 2023 is 471. EBFD extends apologies for the complaints on noise during the Santa Parade. EBFD is working on a letter to send out to residents in early 2024 concerning the proposed fire tax. Matt Bakes stated that Bally had a total of 125 calls to the ambulance in 2023. The total for the year 2023 was 1545. The membership drive has gone out and they are starting to receive some back already.

Planning Commission – Did not meet

Municipal Authority – Did not meet. There was a field visit for potential well site #6 with Mr. Longacre for 2 optional locations along Old Rt 100. DEP has approved these sites. Next step is to draw up a plan and put a bid out for well drillers.

Zoning Hearing Board – Did not meet.

BARDS Committee – There is no date for the pot-pie fundraiser at this time. BARDS would like to replace the broken slide on the playground. Joshua inquired on how BARDS or other individuals would contribute to the tree fund. Wendy stated that a check with tree fund written in the memo is sufficient. BARDS has raised a total of \$1500.00 for the seal coating of the pool parking lot. Joshua would like to use the donation jar at Borough Hall for donations to add to the seal coating fund. Wendy stated that could be done with clear indication that it would be used for seal coating of the pool parking lot.

WWTP Report – There is an issue with the outfall line, which is the pipe leaving the sewer plant. This pipe is about 3400 feet long. The first step is to try to cut the roots away. The fire hydrant at 2nd and Poplar Sts. was replaced. The fire hydrant at 9th and Main was fixed. There was a catch basin installed in the pool parking lot. Glenn Mutter inquired about the flow meters. Nate stated that they are testing for high flows for the new development that is proposed to go in at 1606 Main St.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Payment application #1 Blooming Glen for Digester Project \$4,815.00** – Motion to approve payment application #1 in the amount of \$4,815.00 made by Paul Gehringer. Seconded by Michael Moll. All Ayes.
- **Berks County UCC Board of Appeals agreement sign by President** – There is a \$300.00 annual fee for the Intergovernmental Agreement and it needs to be signed by Council President. Michael Moll made the motion for Glenn Mutter to sign the agreement and seconded by Joshua Sloan. All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Tim Curley stated that the Sewer Agreement has been passed on to Washington Twp. Tim also learned that there are 46 units looking to be built at 1606 Main St, so they will

eventually be looking for 46 EDU's for that property. Tim has a letter drafted for the land agreement for the well on the Longacre property.

MAYOR'S REPORT – There were 31 police incidents for the month of December and 723 for the year. 827 miles traveled, with 85 gallons of fuel used in December. Citations for the month was 25 and 1 DUI arrest. There were 841 citations and 24 arrests in total for 2023. James is covering the weekends, so we are holding off on hiring another parttime police officer at this time.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

- **Emergency Management for Elected Officials class January 31st** - There are classes at 8:00 am and 6:30 pm for the Berks Co. Emergency Management Services, located at the Airport Campus. Wendy will be attending that class and anyone on Council is encouraged to attend in person or online.
- **Insurance claim for fire hydrant** - We received \$3,941.69 from insurance for the fire hydrant at 9th and Main Sts. as a result of a car accident. The insurance company will be going after the driver for our \$500.00 deductible also. The Mayor inquired if labor for installment of the fire hydrant was included in payment. Wendy stated that we were just reimbursed for the hydrant, since we were not sure if the hydrant was fixable at the time. We will purchase a new hydrant to have in stock.
- **From pre-audit** – The auditor requests a Council member to review bank statements monthly.

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS – None

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS – No comments.

ADJOURNMENT- A motion was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Paul Gehringer to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm. All Ayes.



President



Secretary