

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 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; Mayor, David Schott and Superintendent, Nathan Heffner. There was one reporter and 4 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– Ian from the Bally Hotel was there about the Irish Wake, which is to take place from Thursday, March 16 through Sunday March 19th. Ian is requesting street closure Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights starting about 7pm. He is also requesting fire police and local police presence. Nate will provide the barricades and some barrels. Amy Hager was there on behalf of her mother-in-law Helen Hager. Helen had a water leak that resulted in an extremely high bill. Amy asked for mercy and consideration for Helen, as she is on a fixed income. Helen has paid the bill. Wendy is asking if council will consider waiving any overages due to leaks or setting up a policy for situations like this. It was talked about that residents must approach council. must be made aware of a leak from the Borough, where it was and it was corrected. An official policy going forward concerning leaks for all residents will be handled at the next meeting. Joshua Sloan made the motion to approve refunding the overage on the sewer portion of Helen's bill, above her average usage. Paul Gehringer seconded that. All Ayes.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of January 3, 2023 Council Meeting-A motion was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Michael Moll, to approve the minutes. All Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented-A motion was made by Michael Bauman to approve and affirm the bills, seconded by Michael Moll. All Ayes.

PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health, Safety, & Welfare

Fire report- Fire calls for the month of December were 36; 502 total year-to-date.

Police report- Officer Mains completed his taser re-certification. The police received a donation of some bullet proof material.

Bally Ambulance- Memberships should have all been sent out. The Borough office has some memberships if needed.

Planning Commission- Did not meet.

Municipal Authority- Did not meet. Will meet January 17th.

Zoning Hearing Board –Did not meet.

BARDS Committee – Potpie pick-up will be April 1st. BARDS Facebook page will announce when pre-orders can be accepted. The price will be \$10.00/qt. selling 500 quarts max. Joshua got 2 quotes for the concrete pad under the pool pavilion. The estimates are coming in at around \$5,000.00. BARDS is also looking into solar powered lights for night swims at the pool. Quotes for the lights are coming in around \$2,000.00. Joshua inquired with Fronheisers about the blue tiles around the skimmer boxes, as they had donated the ones we have now. He is waiting to hear back from them.

WWTP Report – The fire hydrants were flushed in December. Public Works patched a bunch of really bad spots on Elm Street. There are many projects for this winter, however the weather is not co-operating. Waiting on the ground to freeze, but it is just mud at this point. Joshua asked if the sign in front of Borough Hall is getting re-done. Nate replied that it is on the list.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Review letter from Washington Township Sewer Agreement** – Formal request from Washington Twp was received. Per Wendy, we would have to amend the current agreement or completely re-do the current contract which is set to expire in about 2 years. This is the first step in consideration to change the service area map for Washington Twp. We will not be increasing the capacity, just the service area where it could come from. Solicitor Tim Curley stated that there should be an executive meeting to discuss further. Tabled until next meeting.
- **Longacre quote for Senior Center heater/ac unit** – The quote is \$6,630.00. All parts are in stock and they can get this installed starting Thursday this week. This was in the budget already, no motion needed.
- **A.N. Lynch quote to re-route electric and replace panel for garage demolition-** The old garage has a pumping area for the contact tank. We will need to relocate electrical lines and a new electrical panel, in order to move forward with tearing down the garage. Motion to approve A.N. Lynch in the amount of \$10,900.00 made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes.
- **Resolution 2023-1 appointing a voting delegate to Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council-** This is set up as the Borough Manager and Borough Secretary as delegates. Motion made by Michael Moll, seconded by Joshua Sloan. All Ayes.
- **Reappoint Richard T. Curley as Borough Solicitor-** Motion made by Matthew Gehman. Michael Moll seconded that. All Ayes.
- **Reappoint Systems Design Engineering Inc as Borough Engineers-** Motion made by Matthew Gehman and seconded by Michael Moll. All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Vacating of N 5th Street review Ordinance and Dedication of N 4th Street Ordinance.**
Per Tim Curley, we need to provide a notice to any abutting landowners personally on or before publication. The Ordinance needs to be publicized for 2 consecutive weeks, affirming the earlier dedication of 4th street and abandoning the portion of 5th Street. If there are no objections, we have 30 days to enact the Ordinance. Motion to authorize Wendy or Tim to give notice to abutting landowners for N 5th Street made by Michael Moll, seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes. Motion to give notice to abutting landowners for N 4th St made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Michael Bauman. All

Ayes. Motion to approve N 5th Street publication of Ordinance for 2 consecutive weeks made by Michael Moll and seconded by Joshua Sloan. All Ayes. Motion to approve N 4th Street publication of Ordinance for 2 consecutive weeks made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Joshua Sloan. All Ayes.

The GBI agreement that Tim circulated last month needs to be signed, that addresses the fencing, paving and knox box installations, also binding to any successors of interest. Motion for President, Glenn Mutter to sign the agreement made by Michael Moll, seconded by Paul Gehringer. Glenn Mutter was opposed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT– No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT – The police received 45 calls for the month of December. The total for year 2022 is 936. There was a total of 650 calls in 2021 and 350 calls in 2020. Total gallons of fuel used in December was 99.6, traveling a total of 694 miles. Traffic citations for December were 45, total for 2022 is 1153, along with 9 arrests. The police had 274 citations and 8 arrests in 2021. They had 109 citations with 2 arrests in 2020. The Mayor married 1 couple at Borough Hall on December 16th.

OFFICE REPORT-

- a. The heater went out in the Senior Center right before Christmas. The water was shut off to prevent any busted pipes. We were not aware that there was a sprinkler system and that pipe did burst. Council voted to not replace the sprinkler system, as there was only 1 sprinkler head and not in a place that would make any difference.
- b. Bruce Hoffman, who is the Borough's Emergency Management Director, approached the Borough Manager stating that the Ambulance was turning off messages on his phone. This has happened twice now and this is a big concern to the Borough. Matt Bakes, secretary for the board of Bally Ambulance happened to be at the meeting and assured the Borough that it will not happen again. Solicitor, Tim Curley called for a motion from Council to request that the Chief of Bally Community Ambulance provide in writing, 1) a report as to what exactly what was found as to why this happened, 2) what steps have been taken to ensure this will not happen again and 3) a statement that this will not happen again. Matthew Gehman made the motion. Joshua Sloan seconded that. All Ayes. Glenn Mutter abstained from the vote.
- c. The new pickup is now in service. Public works will be purchasing mudflaps, window rain guards, hitch adapter and a bed liner. These purchases will cost about \$1350.00. Nate is taking the decal for the truck to Graber this week.
- d. There was a team's meeting with DEP on Professional Engineering Services for siting and drilling a test well for a new well location. Wendy directed them to the Camp Camino location, however that area is very high in nitrates and it is very expensive to filter out nitrates. We are now waiting on a cost proposal to go to the DEP program.
- e. The electric pole on S 7th Street is still not secure. Met-Ed has come out to secure the lines, but the pole has not been replaced or secured.
- f. The Borough office has the annual audit beginning January 16th. There is a 3-year liquid fuels audit in January.
- g. The employee handbook at Section 9 allows for 1 day of vacation to be added every 2 years after 10 years of service. This is just too much time off for us being so small. There should be a cap of 4 weeks of vacation for non-uniform employees. Council agrees with this. Part-time police working on listed Holidays, getting paid time and a half was put in writing in the handbook. Clothing and equipment allowance should be extended to full-time police to purchase their footwear and increase from \$100.00 to \$125.00 for both public works and full-time police. Council agrees with this.
- h. The Borough is going to start using PO's for purchases from public works and the police. Nate and Chief Ellick will each be given a PO book.

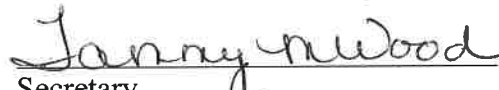
QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS—There was a boy scout attending the meeting and stated that he does need to put in some volunteer hours. The Borough and council are willing to have him help out when needed.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS – Joshua Sloan brought up the subject of a leaf vacuum. The cost and extra work load for public works to pick up and discard of the leaves would not be something that the Borough would be interested in at this time. Joshua also inquired about the playground grant and if he would be able to reach out to someone to hopefully put Bally Borough's name out there. Wendy suggested that he contact Pennyciuck's office. Joshua also inquired about the bathrooms in the garage and if they could be open during the day. The bathrooms will only be opened during events or pavilion rentals.

ADJOURNMENT- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Joshua Sloan at 9:05pm. All Ayes.



President



Secretary