

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE JULY 5, 2022 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, Joshua Sloan, Matthew Gehman and Joel Pilgert. Paul Gehringer and Michael Moll attended by Zoom.

Also present: Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter and Borough Secretary, Tammy Wood. Mayor, David Schott arrived at 7:07pm. There was one reporter in attendance.

President Mutter announced the meeting is being broadcast via Zoom and recorded for minute taking purposes.

**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS** – No residents in attendance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes of June 7, 2022 Council Meeting- A motion was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Paul Gehringer, to approve the minutes. All Ayes. Matthew Gehman abstained.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented- President Mutter inquired about the gutter broom in the Liquid Fuels account. Wendy stated that we did purchase it, not rent it. A motion was made by Matthew Gehman to approve and affirm the bills, seconded by Michael Bauman. All Ayes.

**PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT:** No report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Health, Safety, & Welfare**

**Fire report-** Fire calls for the month of June is 40; 247 total year-to-date. There were already 2 working fires in July in Washington Township.

**Police Report-** Corporal Patt and Officer Yeager completed DUI checkpoint training this month. Officer Mains has assisted with multiple DUI checkpoints throughout Berks County, with a DUI grant program. April 1, 2019-July 1, 2020, there were a total of 139 citations, totaling \$10,265.00 in fines with 5 officers. April 1 2020-July 2021, there was a total of 104 citations, totaling \$5,249.00 in fines with 4 officers. April 1, 2021-July 1, 2022, there were 822 citations, totaling \$97,343.00 in fines with 4 officers. Our officers are going above and beyond in doing their job.

**Bally Ambulance-** Met June 15<sup>th</sup>. The ambulance had a total of 115 calls, with 8 in Bally. They also responded to 25 cover calls, which is when they cover out of their normal run area.

**Planning Commission-** Did not meet

**Municipal Authority-**Next meeting July 19<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Zoning Hearing Board** – Met June 29<sup>th</sup> for the 2 properties in the industrial zone, for a special exception for sheds. This special exception treats these 2 properties as an R1 Zone.

**BARDS Committee** – Joshua stated that there are no upcoming events at this time. BARDS acquired a hotdog roller machine for the pool snack bar and a practically new ice cream freezer. 2 local supporters sent in 2 new volleyballs and a volleyball net for the park. Berks county public library system has a library box program that is free of charge. They supply the box and books. If we would run out of books, we just call and they will provide more. We would just have to place it somewhere. Council is in favor of this program and we should move forward with it.

**WWTP Report** –The last 3 months, we have seen the lowest wastewater flows in a long time. June was the lowest we've had in the last 15 years. We are working with WG Malden with the flow meters, as we are having some issues due to the low flow. All the sewer projects in the past few years that have been done are finally paying off. Fixing the stream crossing at S Church has changed our flow in a very good way. Sewer Project #3 is coming along slow. They are currently working manhole frames and lid replacements. Mobile Dredging will then start lining mains and manholes. We are hoping for completion by August. There is a leaking water valve at 7<sup>th</sup> & Walnut. We are working to get that fixed in July sometime. The fire hydrant on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street needs repair or placement. Public works sprayed weeds and hoping to sweep streets next week. We did receive the new sweeper attachment, but adjustments have to be made. Then curb painting will be done after streets are swept. All items needed for the stormwater project from Cherry to Chestnut are ordered. Public works found 12 water bottles and 26 tennis and baseballs out of the pipe beside Borough Hall. The landscaper came out to the garage to put in some topsoil. The man-door guy came out for more measurements. Matthew Gehman informed Nate that Bally Block will be shutting down for a week sometime in July, if that will help with any projects. Joshua Sloan informed Nate that Eagle dug a trench from the street to the creek off of S Church Street. Joshua asked about Eagle parking areas. Nate stated that they are parking in the stone lot now. Joshua asked if the barricades at the end of Church that were damaged during snow plowing, were going to get attention. Nate replied that they are working on possibly replacing barricades, which will be a fall/winter project.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **War Memorial CD's-** We would like to cash in 2 CD's from Truist Bank that are in the amount of \$1,138.89 to put in the General fund. They are coming up for renewal and we have until the 11<sup>th</sup> to cash out. Tim Curley, Borough Solicitor asked if this was from a non-profit or group of individuals. Wendy replied, they are from a group of individuals from about 10-15 years ago. Tim asked if there is anything stating that the CD's are to be used for war memorial only or any restrictions. Per Wendy, there is nothing in the audit stating that. The War Memorial has its own account under the General Fund, so the money can be tracked. When the group of citizen volunteers dwindled about 5 years ago to about 2 people, they turned the CD's over to the Borough to handle all purchasing and invoicing. Matthew Gehman asked if we could keep the memorial account with the withdrawal of the CD's in case there are any questions. Wendy stated that we could do that. Motion to cash out the War Memorial CD's and put into the General Fund account. Matthew Gehman made the motion, Michael Bauman seconded that. All Ayes.
- **Health/Dental/Vision Insurance Renewal-** We have received the renewal for health insurance. The same plans will cost the Borough \$2,622.72 more per year from Sept 1 thru Aug 31. Health went up 4%, dental went down 4% and vision went up 3%. There are other options, which would have less coverage and higher copays. There are no cheaper options that gives the same benefits as we have now. Glenn Mutter abstained from asking for motion. Michael Bauman asked for motion to keep the same insurance at an increase for the Borough at \$2,622.72 per year. Michael Bauman made the motion, Matthew Gehman seconded that. All Ayes. Glenn Mutter abstained from the vote.
- **Payment Application #1 for sewer project 3 to Mobile Dredging and Video Pipe, Inc. in the amount of \$57,521.07.** Nate was satisfied with the work that we are paying for. Per Tim

Curley, Tom Unger approved as well. Motion to approve Payment App #1 to Mobile Dredging and Video Pipe, Inc. was made by Joshua Sloan and seconded by Matthew Gehman. All Ayes.

- **Hosting site for Borough website.** Wendy received a letter stating that we will need to provide our own web hosting starting the first of 2023. Wendy reached out to Joshua Sloan for help to research some options. The best deal would be very user friendly at \$45/yr for email storage and web hosting costing \$400/yr. To set up and run the page, it will be an initial cost of \$2,500.00. Joshua Sloan will donate his time for helping with this.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Vacating of N 5<sup>th</sup> Street update** -Tim Curley has started reviewing the procedures for this.
- **Tree ordinance update** – Tim Curley has drafted an Ordinance for trees. Tim suggests there may be a necessity for a tree fund in the general account. This would cover any costs that may fall on the Borough, if a resident does not comply with this ordinance. Council will have until the August meeting to read over the ordinance.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – The Solicitor requests an executive session for legal issues.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – Police calls-92 in the month of June, total for the year is 500. Police used a total of 124 gallons of fuel, traveling 1,374 miles with both vehicles. There were 142 traffic citations, 2 non-traffic citations and 1 arrest on a warrant. The police are looking for a 3<sup>rd</sup> PT Police Officer. Wendy informed the Mayor that we will be purchasing our Christmas Tree very soon, as there is a shortage on trees this year. Also, the Mayor is considering not having the Christmas Parade. Santa could be at the Tree Lighting, in the council room to receive children. We do need a new Santa. Christmas celebrations are held the first Saturday in December.

**OFFICE REPORT-** Secretary, Tammy Wood to receive reimbursement of \$20.00/mo., as she is using her cell phone often for day-to-day business. There was some vandalism in the park recently. Police have found the culprits and it is all taken care of. Security cameras are in the process of being installed. The garage, park, pool and office area will have cameras to monitor outside activities. The office will be reviewing water/sewer accounts for water shut-offs this month. We have received a letter from Washington Twp., regarding allocation for sewer capacity. According to our contract, Washington Twp. has up to 100,000 gallons of sewer capacity per day. They are currently using about 12,000 gallons per day. We have renewed MS4 permit waiver. We are able to get a waiver about 5 years ago, because our stormwater does not feed directly into an exceptional value stream, population of the Borough, etc. Greg Unger and Wendy have been in touch regarding updating the sewer EDU fee and MA is doing the same for water. Nate completed the measurements of curbing and sidewalk for the local share account grant that opened up July 1, 2022. SDE is putting together the application with a \$100.00 application fee with \$0.00 match. Glenn Mutter asked if there is a limit on how much we can ask for. Wendy replied that we asked for all the curbing and half of the sidewalk that was measured. We did not ask for Main Street curbing due to the fact that it is a State Road and with the restrictions from PennDOT, this would be a very difficult task. The pool will need some attention after the season. The patches are not holding, as there are large chunks of paint with plaster coming off. The decking around the pool is also in need of work. Would like to have a professional to come in to patch, then paint.

**QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS** – No residents.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS** – Joshua Sloan stated that Autumn and Spring will be the best time to get the trees planted in the park at this time. Wendy stated that Spring would be the goal at this time to get the trees planted. Nate asked Tim about the vacating of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and if that will impact the right of way for water/sewer mains. Tim stated that it will be drafted that way, as we do not want to change that aspect and want to make sure that there is still access there.

**ADJOURNMENT-** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Joshua Sloan at 8:30pm. There was an Executive Session held after the meeting for legal issues.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Mitter", written over a horizontal line.

President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tammy M. Wood", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary