

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE JULY 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 and Joel Pilgert. Matthew Gehman and Michael Moll was absent.

Also present: Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Mayor, David Schott; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter; Borough Secretary, Tammy Wood and Public Works Superintendent, Nathan Heffner. There was 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. This meeting was advertised and properly posted more than 24 hours in advance, to be held on Wednesday, July 5th, as the regular scheduled meeting fell on a holiday, July 4th. There were no objections to this change in schedule.

President Mutter announced the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS – No residents.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of June 6, 2023 Council Meeting- A motion was made by Paul Gehringer, seconded by Joel Pilgert, to approve the minutes. All Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented- Glenn Mutter questioned about how much diesel is used. He suggests that public works buys a diesel transfer tank. A motion was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Joel Pilgert, to approve the bills. All Ayes.

PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT: No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health, Safety, & Welfare:

Police report- President Mutter announced all is going well with the police and vehicles. There were a few complaints for fireworks in the Borough.

Fire report- Total fire calls for June were 28. Year-to-date is 220. EBFD will be holding a chicken BBQ at Bally on Saturday, August 26th. There will be 800 meals starting at 2pm. We tested the fire hose in June, had our SCBA tested and the firetruck pumps tested and serviced, at a cost of \$10,000.00. Our fund drive had a response of only about 20% of residents donating. We participated in a solar safety class with Lumina Solar in Hereford.

Bally Ambulance – No report

Planning Commission - Did not meet

Municipal Authority- Did not meet. Their next meeting is July 11.

Zoning Hearing Board –Did not meet.

BARDS Committee –BARDS does not have any upcoming events. They will be asking an engineering firm about the proper procedure for installing the solar light poles at the pool. They will make sure the placement of these lights will not create a glare for the lifeguards. They will be discussing the Autumn activities coming up, such as dog swim, at the next BARDS meeting.

WWTP Report- Started working on televising the pipes around some businesses as discussed previously and have not found any issues yet. We did discover some grease in a line that is going towards a residential area. This will be looked into further at some point. We will be continuing with the stormwater project between Chestnut and Cherry Streets. The basketball poles are set in concrete, ready for paving. There also needs to be an adjustment made to a manhole frame on Pine Street before the paving project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Health, Eye, Dental Insurance renewal** – There is 10.8% increase to continue with the plan we currently have. The next best option would have an increase of over double what the co-pays are with the current plan. There is an option to drop out of eye care, however that would not decrease our payment much. Tim Curley called for a motion to approve the renewal of the current plan with the increased premium. Michael Bauman made the motion to approve, Paul Gehring seconded that. All Ayes. Glenn Mutter abstained from the vote and discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Paper Retriever Bins** – The bins are still here. Wendy Mutter wanted Tim Curley's permission to contact Diamond Disposal to take them away. Tim stated Wendy could go ahead with Diamond Disposal, since Metro Waste has not responded to multiple emails to come for them.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT– Solicitor Tim Curley is waiting for the early draft for the completion of the inter-governmental Sewer agreement with Washington Township. There are some revisions that need to be finalized between the Managers. Then it will come to council.

MAYOR'S REPORT – There were 64 calls for the month for the police, 84 traffic citations, 1 DUI arrest, 1 misdemeanor drug arrest, 1 theft of motor vehicle and 1 counterfeit document arrest. The police traveled a total of 1410 miles, using 238 gallons of gas. Both vehicles are running well. The Mayor performed a wedding in Hazelton.

ENGINEER'S STATUS OF PROJECTS –

- They are finishing up work on plans for the digester at the plant.
- Pre-construction meeting for the paving project is set for tomorrow.
- Stormwater plan for the playground is in the works. Stormwater plan for 800 block of Chestnut St is a bit tricky, still working on those plans.
- They are waiting on the building expansion plans for the police, to provide an estimate on that.

OFFICE REPORT-

- Paving contract Pre-Construction meeting** – to meet tomorrow.
- New water/sewer billing system, reading collection systems underway** – The billing system is in the works. Training for the reading system is on July 13th and 14th. We do have the new reading equipment.
- Apply meter refusal fee to residents that have received at least 3 notices** – There are many residents who are contacting the office to schedule their meter change after letters have been sent out. There are some that are not contacting the office that have received multiple letters. Wendy would like to know if we could start charging the \$50.00 fee for

refusal to change their meter. There is an Ordinance that states that refusal to reply can result in a \$50.00 quarterly charge. It was suggested that we post on the door, after 3 letters sent, before applying the charge. This is going above what is required of the office. The fee can legally be charged if there is no response after hanging a notice on the residents' door.

- d. **Revised Sewer Agreement with Washington Twp.-** There are still things that need to be entered into the agreement. The old agreement had a lot about the sewer plant expansion, which is no longer applicable. There are 3 issues that need to be discussed:
- Required maintenance of the sewer lines was not included. Basically, we will repair, Washington Township will pay for their portion of repair.
 - Any new connections are to be metered and the first manhole must be lined and maintained by Washington Township
 - The agreement was originally set up as a 30 yr contract, Wendy requested to do a 10 year auto renew contract, which a request to renegotiate the contract can be made by either party, up to a year before the renewal.

The escrow account will be closed and returned to Washington Township as they are paying off the loan and they will then bill their customers directly.

Mr. Lahr came in to the office to let us know the containers sitting over at GBI actually look nice.

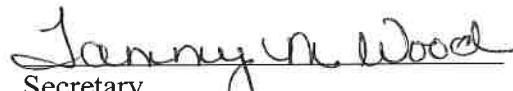
QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS— No residents

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS —

ADJOURNMENT- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joshua Slaon, seconded by Paul Gehringer at 7:40pm. All Ayes.



President



Secretary