

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE JULY 6, 2021 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, Paul Gehringer, Matthew Gehman, Michael Moll, Joshua Sloan and Joel Pilgert.

Also present: Mayor, David C. Schott; Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Borough Manager and Assistant Secretary, Wendy Mutter. There were 14 residents and 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** – Larry Solar, Business Manager of the Park Place homeowners association addressed council over the addition of signage at the overflow parking lot restricting overnight parking. Several residents expressed concerns over not being able to park in the lot overnight as they had done in the past. The Mayor addressed the situation explaining that the lot belongs to the Borough and that it was always meant for pool and park use. Since the trail has opened and the pool is busier, the parking is needed for these functions. Council President Mutter stated some cars have parked there for long periods of time with vehicles out of inspection and registration. Special exceptions may be given for special circumstances by communication with the Borough office and police. A resident asked what they are to do when it snows and can they park there during snow storms. The Borough Manager stated that during snow, the Borough would prefer those that need to park their cars in the lot would use the main pool lot and put them against the pool fence or along Chestnut Street. This allows the Borough to clear both lots more effectively. The Borough wants this parking for the pool and park. Another resident complained about the speed limit of 25 on N 4<sup>th</sup> Street and felt it should be lowered. We can ask for more police detail on N 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Resident Sandy Smith addressed council about a food shortage at the pool on the holiday weekend. The Mayor stated that there is a food availability issue. The pool manager buys what is available at multiple locations. The pool is not large enough for food delivery. She then stated that she is worried about safety at the pool and the number of life guards that are on duty. She specifically mentioned an incident with the slide at the pool and no pool staff addressing it. She stated that there should be two guards in life guard chairs. The Borough Manager stated that there are 2 life guards on duty at all times by law. If there was an issue with a particular life guard, it should have been taken to the pool manager. The Mayor stated that the staff does the best they can. They are under paid and under staffed. The pool is busier than it has been in years and we have the same number of staff.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes of June 1, 2021 Council Meeting- A motion was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Joshua Sloan, to approve the minutes. All Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented- A motion was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Michael Bauman. All Ayes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Health, Safety, & Welfare** – The committee reviewed parking issues around the Borough Hall and pool/park area. EBFD reported 45 calls in June and 216 calls year to date. They finished a class on ropes and rigging and are beginning a class on electric vehicle rescue. The chicken BBG will be held August 21 at the Bally station.

**Planning Commission** – Did not meet

**Municipal Authority** – Joel Pilgert stated they reviewed the revenue. There is not enough information to determine the financial health of the Authority but rate appear to be adequate. The next meeting will be held in September.

**Zoning Hearing Board** - Did not meet

**BARDS Committee** –Joshua Sloan asked if council would approve an evening volunteer appreciation swim. They were told to speak to the pool manager about scheduling. He has heard no word from the restaurant store for a donation to the pool. He questioned public works concerning the pole light that was replaced and if it is bright enough as they would like to host a night swim. The Borough Manager explained that the lighting issue is in the pool and not in the grass or deck area. An overhead light would reflect off the pool surface and would not help the vision to the bottom of the pool. Any party should be planned earlier rather than later in the season. The Mayor stated that they had to save two in the water already this year. Joshua stated that he doesn't have a fixed date yet but they have a company coming to fix the slide in the park.

**WWTP Report** – Nate commented that well 5 pump test is scheduled in July and they fixed the driveway for better access. Public Works has sprayed the weeds on the street but have not finished sweeping all streets due to the staff shortage. They are fixing major potholes at this time and making a list of areas that require more than just patching. Storm water pipe at 7<sup>th</sup> and Main had a clog that was cleared. Due to the decreasing size of pipes in the area and the way it was installed, it will continue to be an issue until the pipes can be replaced. There are also storm water issues at the waste water plant, pool/park, 400 block of Dogwood Street and the firehouse baseball field that needs to be addressed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Payment application #3 to Rebcor Construction in the amount of \$45,597.65 was presented. Paul Gehringer made a motion to approve, Michael Moll seconded the motion. All Ayes.

Payment application #1 contract C to RM Schaeffer in the amount of \$15,628.50. A motion was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Michael Bauman to approve the payment. All Ayes.

The Borough Manager presented options for the Borough's health insurance options for renewal. A motion was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Michael Moll to obtain the Highmark Premier Balance \$0 PPO plan. Glenn Mutter abstained from all discussion and voting, all others voted Ayes.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Bally Borough State of Emergency-** Borough Solicitor advised the council that the Commonwealth has lifted the State of Emergency and advised council that they can lift or suspend the declaration. A motion to suspend the State of Emergency until further notice was made by Michael Moll seconded by Joel Pilgert. All Ayes. A motion to ratify all actions taken by the Mayor and the Borough Manager during the State of Emergency was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT-** The Solicitor requested an Executive Session after the Council Meeting for an employee issue.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – The police are trying to get both cars equipped identically. We will need to purchase a printer and alcohol sensor. The police issued 13 traffic citations in June. They drove 671 miles and used 77 gallons of fuel. Officer Patt has returned to full time duty. Officer Sandoval resigned her position. Officer Schott is scheduled to retire this month. The Mayor performed 4 marriages last month. We are looking to hire at least one more part time officer. The Mayor stated that Sergeant Ellick will be promoted to Chief and officer Patt will be promoted to Corporal as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. Both will be promoted without a pay increase at this time. The PW Supervisor stated the new staff is interacting well with public works and appreciate their assistance. They discussed the painting of lines for police use and it was stated they would work together to get it done.

**OFFICE REPORT-** We hired Kristen Yeager as part time patrol officer as of 6/17/21. Joshua Sloan made a motion to ratify the hiring of Ms. Yeager. Michael Moll seconded the motion. All Ayes. The Mayor state she would be officially sworn it tomorrow.

A request was received from Brownie member Emily Fronheiser, who requested placing a free library at the barrier at the intersection of Walnut and S 5<sup>th</sup> Street. She would be maintaining the box and agreed to move it to the grass of her neighbor with that neighbor's permission. A motion was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Matthew Gehman to approve the free library. All Ayes.

A line striper was listed for sale on Municibid. The Borough bid and amount available for new equipment in the approved budget. The item did not meet reserve and we would like permission to bid on it again up to \$3000. If we cannot purchase a used one this year, we would like to be able to put it in next year's budget. Council was in favor of the purchase.

A resolution was received from Berks County requesting the municipalities to pass a resolution to support the effort to recognize the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Council agreed to participate with a resolution and the Borough Manager will prepare the resolution and forward to the solicitor for approval before the next meeting.

The Borough Manager presented the positive income new from the pool stating that they have met the budget projected income for daily passes already in June. They are on pace to be \$17,000 over budget for that income account. Expenses always lag at least one month behind, but any additional expenses would be offset by additional income.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS** – Matthew Gehman asked if bushes could be cut that are impeding the line of site for the exit at Redner's. It appears that the bushes are in the right-of-way and may or may not be located in the Borough. The Borough Manager will contact the Manager at Washington Township and advise them that our public works will be cutting the bushes to clear the line of sight.

**ADJOURNMENT-** A motion was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Michael Moll to adjourn the meeting at 8:52PM. All Ayes. An executive session was held following the meeting.

  
President

  
Secretary