

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4 2024 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, Joel Pilgert, Michael Moll and Matthew Gehman were all present.

Also present: Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Mayor, David Schott; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter; Secretary, Tammy Wood; Public Works Superintendent, Nathan Heffner. There were 4 residents and one reporter in attendance.

The agenda for this meeting had been posted on the door, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

President Mutter announced the meeting is being recorded for minute taking purposes. He also announced that an Executive Session was held Wednesday, May 22, 2024 with the Municipal Authority board to discuss a matter dealing with real property.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS – No Comments

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of May 7, 2024 Council Meeting- A motion was made by Matt Gehman, seconded by Michael Moll, to approve the minutes. Joel Pilgert abstained all others Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented- A motion was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Paul Gehringer, to approve the bills. All Ayes.

PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT - No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health, Safety, & Welfare:

Police report- The police were in a training class today.

Fire report- There were a total of 34 calls for the month of May, 4 of those were in Bally with a total of 193 for the year for all municipalities. The fund drive is winding down for 2024. Some residents assumed the fire tax began this year and waited to submit a donation. We continue to train Monday and Wednesday nights with stations 95 and 19 to train junior firefighters.

Bally Ambulance – Bally had a total of 64 calls YTD. Call volume is down 10.8%, billable volume is down 8.2%, monthly revenue billing is \$45,000. Estimated \$540,000 annual billing revenue. 2024 budget \$869,500. YTD operating income is \$379,814 with YTD expenses are \$370,884, less the capital purchases of new Ford E450 type III, with total cost of \$221,511 (\$180,380 paid to date). A 2% loan application was submitted to reimburse the investment account.

Planning Commission – Met May 20th and approved Camp Camino sewer plans.

Municipal Authority- Will meet again July 16th.

Zoning Hearing Board –Requested appeal hearing for a Notice of Violation is scheduled for June 19th. The Solicitor and Zoning Officer will attend.

BARDS Committee – The bake sale happened on a day that the weather was not very cooperative, and we did not hold the car wash, nonetheless, we sold most of the baked goods and raised \$500. We also announce that BARDS received the Ambler Savings Bank 150th Anniversary grant for \$1500. This went towards the seal coating at the parking lot. Also planning a new fundraiser this summer of a possible hoagie sale.

WWTP Report- Public Works chiseled out the manhole frames on N church Street to get the correct size since they were custom made. Last month we granted Booming Glen a 30 day extension, during which they didn't do any work without explanation. Nate notified them of planned vacation over a month ago and now they want to come when he is on vacation. Nate expects a request for another extension. Washington Township is paving roads in Victoria Village and the 3 water valves were broken. Two were already cracked and one they said the valve wasn't marked. Washington Township agreed with the Borough that it was marked and the contractor would be responsible for the cost to repair/replace. Public Works got the blacktop work sealed. They started the street sign replacement in the Borough. Most of the North side is done. No new work on storm water this month. Joshua Sloan asked Nate if he will make the deadline on the lead service lines. The report must be complete by October, but lines can be marked "unknown." He stated he will make the deadline.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Adopt Ordinance 308 Amending Non-Uniform Pension Plan for 2024** –Matthew Gehman made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Paul Gehringer seconded the motion. Glenn Mutter abstained, all others Ayes.
- **Adopt Ordinance 309 Amending the Police Pension Plan for 2024** – Michael Moll made a motion to adopt the Ordinance and Joshua Sloan seconded the motion. All Ayes.
- **Removal of Christopher Spotts from probation at 60 days** – A motion was made by Matt Gehman seconded by Michael Moll to reduce Mr. Spotts employment probation from 90 to 60 days. All Ayes.
- **Review Fire and EMS Tax Resolution** – The resolutions were reviewed and changes were suggested. No action was taken and the matter was tabled to the next meeting.
- **Speed Bumps on Creamery** – A discussion took place concerning a request for speed bumps to be installed on Creamery Lane. Sherman Ellis attended to represent the residents of Creamery Lane. He stated that commercial vehicles are speeding through the area. And stated the kids need to be safe. The office manager did speak to the manager of the rental community. The management company would like to purchase, install, and then remove and store them over the Winter. Council members and the Solicitor had concerns about the legality of residents being able to install traffic devices. The council would like to see the specifications of the speed bumps to see if they are PA DOT compliant. They possibly could be donated to the Borough and installed and removed by Borough employees, if they are PA DOT compliant. Joshua Sloan asked if a speed sign would be able to be installed. He was told there are no poles to attach a speed sign to and the equipment is not available. The Mayor stated he would like to meet with Mr. Ellis and other residents, along with the Police Chief to look deeper into the situation. It was also requested that incidents be reported to the Borough Police. The item was tabled until next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Joshua Sloan noted that PA DOT did replace the reflective tape on the poles and not just on Main Street.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

- **Washington Township water agreement/understanding** – The solicitor stated that the item is pending.
- **Non-land Development review** -Tim has reviewed the agreement and approved its use.
- **Well 6 potential land purchase** – The most recent site to drill a potential municipal water supply has hit a snag. The engineering firm that monitors and runs Well 3, has contacted the Borough with concerns on drawing the contamination plume. They also stated that if the plume was drawn in that direction, the Borough would need to take responsibility for the expansion of the contamination plume. The Council felt that it was not worth the risk, and a site located farther from the contamination site, should be explored. It was also noted that EPA/Sunbeam did not test the wells of the residents along Old Route 100. The Borough Manager thought it would be a good idea to test some of those wells to make sure it is not present currently.

MAYOR’S REPORT: The Mayor reported that the police are at a class on domestic terrorism in Wilkes Barre. The police had 48 calls for the moth 255 for the year. There were 45 traffic citations and one parking ticket. They drove 1700 miles and used 232 gallons of gas between both vehicles. Our police department is currently working with PSP and the FBI concerning the recent bank robbery.

ENGINEER’S STATUS OF PROJECTS:

There were some items on the report that were not previously on the Engineer status of projects. Mr. Mingey was provided the excerpt from the report. He has not submitted an application for plan review and we do not have escrow. We also need to receive escrow from Camp Camino for their review. A council member asked if we had received plans. The Manager stated that we did receive some plans from his engineer, but it was not a complete set of plans.

OFFICE REPORT

- a. The Borough was the winning bidder on a set of bathroom stalls for the pool at a cost of \$245, plus a buyers fee of \$22.05.
- b. Berks Homes has submitted building permits for 2 of the 4 lots on N 9th Street..
- c. The pool is open and the do have the credit/debit card reader is up and running. They had good turn out Saturday and Sunday. They were closed Monday due to weather. The baby pool is in really bad shape. It is holding water but we have lost large chunks of tiles. The Manager is trying to get an idea of what a splash pad would cost to replace it.
- d. We have located another area on Mr. Longacre’s land, as well as a possible location on another piece of property. These locations should probably be reviewed by Arcadis for there opinion on distance from the plume.
- e. The Manager would like council to consider another Community Yard Sale. A decision can be made at the next meeting. Possibly the weekend after Labor Day.
- f. The Manager was questioned on the sale of the old Street signs. She would like to set a date on the sale of the signs in advance of availability, so all residents are aware of the availability to purchase. Council agreed that Nate and the Manager will come up with a date the signs will be available for sale.

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS – No questions or comments

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joshua Sloan asked if the Borough building sign is on some agenda to be painted. The Manager stated that it would be considered winter work and will come down when the weather turns.

ADJOURNMENT- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Joshua Sloan at 8:33 pm. All Ayes.



President - Glenn Mutter



Asst. Secretary – Wendy Mutter