

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 7, 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, Michael Moll, Joshua Sloan and Paul Gehringer. Joel Pilgert attended by Zoom. Matthew Gehman was absent.

Also present: Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter and Borough Secretary, Tammy Wood. Mayor, David Schott arrived at 7:03pm. There was one reporter in attendance and 2 residents.

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

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS – Richard and Sharon Stofflet, residents of Bally Borough, inquired about starting the process of vacating a portion of the N 5th St paper street from Elm St. to the Borough line. N 5th Street has already been vacated from Chestnut Street to Elm Street and there seems to be no issues or reasons why this could not happen. All council members are in favor of vacating this paper street. Borough Solicitor, Tim Curley will be working with the Stofflets on this matter.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of May 3, 2022 Council Meeting- A motion was made by Paul Gehringer, seconded by Michael Moll, to approve the minutes. All Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented- Joshua Sloan questioned the line item “Special Events” under the General Fund. Wendy Mutter, Borough Manager, stated this was the proceeds from the food sold at the Tractor Show that will go toward playground equipment. A motion was made by Joshua Sloan to approve and affirm the bills, seconded by Michael Moll. All Ayes.

PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT: No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health, Safety, & Welfare – The police have been very active with citations in the past few months, averaging in the 90’s; in the month of May, there were 108 citations issued. President Mutter commends the police department on the work being done.

Fire calls for the month of May is 41; 207 total year-to-date. The 2022 fund drive is still active at this time, but winding down. EBFD has collected about \$60,000.00 to date, compared to \$70,000.00 in 2021, however donations will continue to come in until the end of the year. The Barto fire station is still on schedule to be sold in the summer. EBFD is still looking for a piece of land to build the new Fire Station. There will be a chicken BBQ fundraiser at the Bally station on Saturday, August 20th.

Planning Commission – Did not meet

Municipal Authority – Next meeting is July 19th.

Zoning Hearing Board –There will be a zoning hearing on June 29th at 6:30pm, which is a continuation for 2510 and 2514 Old Rt 100 for a special exception.

BARDS Committee – Joshua stated that BARDS donations to the pool in May included 14 patio chairs, 2 lifeguard stand umbrellas, whistles and fanny packs, along with a small robot for the baby pool and an electric drill. BARDS helped to fund the painted mural at the pool. BARDS will be looking into some estimates for a concrete pad for under the pavilion in the pool area. There is now an aluminum can recycling bin at the pool to be used as additional income for the pool. Paint and supplies for the shed in the park have been purchased. There will be a new sponsor banner this year from a business in Pennsburg. The month of June story walk is “Bear Sees Colors”. The story walk is every Thursday from 9am to 6pm; weather permitting.

WWTP Report – The new chemical dispenser for the pool has more programming options, which has been a big improvement in helping to control chemical usage. We are actually using less chlorine than in the past. SDE came out and shot video of all the issues at the new Public Works garage. There was a door guy that had come out to inspect the doors. It was determined that the metal man doors will need to be totally replaced, due to them not being properly installed to begin with. The weeds are sprayed along all curbs. Once the weeds die, we will be able to use the new sweeper attachment for street sweeping. The goal is to get the streets swept this month. Sewer Project 3 is ongoing with some issues along the way. A lot of the problems have come from the sub-contractors. The televising had not been done properly to begin with, which could also be the reason for many of the issues. This project is being funded in part by a grant that we had received. They finished the stream crossing, 2 laterals down South Church St. and a lateral between N 3rd and Front Sts. All excavation work is done. South 7th St. has 2 areas to be patched. The clean-up process has been a bit of a problem, however they are not required to complete clean-up until the project is done. The next step is to replace manhole covers. Eagle is coming out to do the manhole frames. Once that is finished, Mobile Dredging will be coming back to finish the manhole linings. We are probably about half way through the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Approve the authority for EBFD and Bally Ambulance to submit updated run cards. A run card is a pre-planned card for which apparatus and/or station, that would respond to calls. Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter does not feel that the Borough should be the one to approve this. Motion to approve giving authority to EBFD and Bally Ambulance to update their run cards was made by Paul Gehringer, seconded by Michael Bauman. All Ayes.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Borough and BCCD. It is a joint commitment between Berks County Conservation District and the Borough to control accelerated erosion and prevent sediment pollution to the waterways of the Commonwealth. This is a standard agreement that needs to be updated. A motion for Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter to sign the agreement made by Michael Moll and seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes.
- Discussion of possible dead tree ordinance. There have been about 3 calls to the Borough about neighbors' dead tree branches hanging over their property. There is nothing in our Ordinances about dead trees. Borough Hall is asking if council would want our Solicitor, Tim Curley to draft an Ordinance for trees that present a danger to people and occupied structures. The decision on whether the tree is dead or not would have to be made by a professional Arborist. Joshua Sloan asked if the resident would incur fines if they would not comply. In most cases our ordinances state that if a homeowner would not take action, the Borough would hire a professional to rectify the situation and the cost would be passed to the homeowner. If the homeowner would not pay, a lien would be put against their property. President Mutter feels this is something that Tim Curley should look into. Motion for Solicitor, Tim Curley to look into the dead tree Ordinance made by Michael Moll; seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS: No report.

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

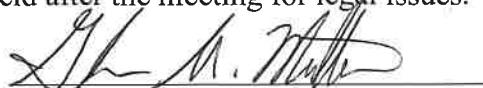
MAYOR'S REPORT – Police calls-89 in the month of May, total for the year is 408. Police used a total of 123 gallons of fuel, traveling 1424 miles with both vehicles.

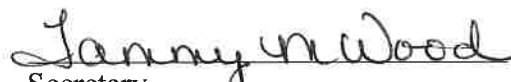
OFFICE REPORT- Dollar Days at the pool on Memorial Day had a much bigger turnout than expected. We will not do dollar days again, as we are not in need of attracting any new memberships. The Borough office building and Senior Center is in need of a new roof, which will be worked into the 2023 budget. Nate has been calculating the footage of curbs and sidewalks for the Grant we discussed last month. The chair lift at the pool got damaged over the winter and this an ADA requirement for any handicapped person to be able to use the pool. We will be repairing the lift. Sam is a certified lifeguard instructor this year. He certified 3 new lifeguards and re-certified a current lifeguard. Wendy Mutter had to contact Berks County Conservation District about a soil erosion control issue in the Borough. Wendy also sent out 2 letters for grass that is too high. The garage will be inspected for the final U & O. Thursday, Senator Mensch will be holding a meeting in our council room for Municipalities; this is not a public meeting. Mayor Schott inquired about the old garage coming down. Wendy replied that we will need some help with that. The whole building is not coming down and there is a large crane that needs to come out also. Joshua Sloan asked how the pool membership drive is coming along. Wendy replied that we are pretty comparative to last year. We do have some expenses, but the pool is doing very well financially. Michael Moll inquired about the soil erosion mentioned. Wendy responded that there is an issue with a resident building a pool, where the soil is flooding into neighboring properties causing some issues. Nate asked Michael Moll about a tree that is growing out of the concrete storm pipe near his property that needs to be removed. Michael stated that it is his property and gave Nate permission to remove the tree. Joshua stated that White Tail Disposal came knocking on his door soliciting. There have been no permit requests for soliciting.

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS – No residents.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS – Joshua Sloan inquired about the flooding issue on Chestnut Street. Nate replied that televising needs to be done, which in this case, Nate needs a second person with him to do so. Joshua Sloan inquired if there is an update on the status of the trees for the park. Wendy replied that herself and Nate have not had the time to make determinations of where and what would work best, as Public Works is still short-handed at this time. Right now, the pool has been taking priority. Sam is starting his full-time position for Public Works in September. Sam has agreed to work 2 full days during the week for Public Works, and part-time at the pool.

ADJOURNMENT- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Joshua Sloan at 8:20pm. There was an Executive Session held after the meeting for legal issues.


President


Secretary