

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 1, 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 and Mayor Schott were absent.

Also present: Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter and Borough Secretary, Tammy Wood. There was 1 resident 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 – Resident Amy Xibos inquired about the flooding issue at her property. The Borough engineer will be presenting them with a drawing of a proposed solution for the homeowner to approve. Amy stated she is willing to assist in any way she can and is very appreciative of the effort put forth.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of February 1, 2022 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- Council member, Paul Gehringer asked if the garage lot is now completely paved. Wendy stated that the paved area was the extended area out back. Nate and our engineer Tom verified that it was completed and correct before payment was made. A motion was made by Paul Gehringer to approve and affirm the bills, seconded by Michael Bauman. All Ayes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health, Safety, & Welfare –EBFD calls for February was 32; total for the year is 84. Annual fund drive will be going out to our residents around March 10, 2022. Last year we collected \$73,000.00 for the fund drive, but only 25% of the 4000 homes donated. Thank you for working with us to fill Campbell's fire suppression system after repairs. Thank you for hosting the 2nd meeting between the Borough and Fire Dept. to improve relations and communications. President Mutter also gave the police report in the absence of Mayor Schott as follows: 73 incidents reported. 128.4 gallons of fuel was used in February. 974 miles traveled. 61 citations were issued for the month and 4 parking tickets. 2016 Explorer was in for inspection, repairs (timing belt and water pump) and a recall. The quote for the police vests grant is ready and prepared. We are waiting for the grant to open at this time. The Chief is also looking out for a grant for body cameras. Chief Ellick and Corporal Patt attended another free class for tactics for street interviews, body language and handling of deception. In the next 2 months all officers will be completing their annual certifications at the Berks County Training Facility.

Planning Commission – Did not meet

Municipal Authority – Talking about a possible water rate increase in 2023. In the past, the sewer fund carried the water fund. Now that they are separate, the water fund is having problems funding itself. No decision has been made at this time. They will be meeting in April.

Zoning Hearing Board – Borough Manager and Solicitor met with GBI, their counsel, as well as several of their representatives, along with Borough engineer Mike Schaeffer. The zoning hearing has been continued until April 27th at 6:30 pm. We hope to have a lot of the issues at GBI resolved before the hearing.

BARDS Committee – Joshua reported they have sold 361 quarts of potpie as of today. They ordered and received the pool vacuum robot from Fronheiser Pools, who gave a very sizable discount. They were able to obtain a food warmer for the pool, but electrical capacity should be evaluated. Joshua would like a list of the 2021 pool memberships to call and give thanks for their support.

WWTP Report – The water main break was found and fixed. The water jetter did come in and will be used for a North 7th and Main Street stormwater pipe clog and a clog next to Borough Hall this week. Nate stated, we should be getting the backhoe this week, which we have work lined up for. We were able to purchase a 12” used bucket for \$450.00. We purchased coal mix today to start filling pot holes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Appoint Patrick Frank as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board. Patrick was an alternate, so we will be looking for an alternate to fill this position. Motion to appoint Patrick Frank as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board made by Michael Moll. Seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes.
- Permission to sign and send support letter to Berks County for Bally Ambulance. Motion for President Glenn Mutter to sign letter. Michael Bauman made the motion, seconded by Joshua Sloan. All Ayes.
- Permission for the Borough Manager to sign Chapter 94 report (wastewater) to send to DEP. Motion made by Michael Moll and seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

BARDS has some projects for Spring that they would like to propose for approval.

- Painting of the trim and gutter at the pool and pavilion. It is suggested that instead of painting, it gets cleaned with Spray 9. Painting would be a continuous upkeep, due to it being aluminum.
- Install “pick up dog poop” signs along walking trail.
- Story walk in the park. This is a project that Boyertown Library has done and has been very successful. It is a laminated 20-page story book that children can walk to read each page. It is to encourage literacy, recreation and family time. BARDS volunteers will go out once a week at 9am to install the pages and again at 6pm to take them down. The library has paid the licensing fee to the author, so we would not need to pay for that. This would run from April through November. This is also a good opportunity to build some cross-community relations. BARDS will pay all fees, supplies and for any damage.

BARDS was granted permission to move forward with all 3 projects.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Requests executive session for a legal issue after meeting.


MAYOR’S REPORT – No report.

OFFICE REPORT- ARP funds final rule did come in and everyone gets a \$10 million exemption for use of funds. With that, we will be able to use the funds pretty freely. We need to get signature cards signed, then we can open the Ambler Bank accounts and start funding. We need approval to close PNC account that was opened for collateral for the loan that was for the original expansion of the sewer plant. There is \$48,000.00 + in that account and since the loan has been paid, we have no need for this account any longer. This will be put into the new Ambler WS Money Market account. Motion to approve the closing of the PNC account made by Michael Moll. Seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes. We are looking for approval from council to order a new dump truck with a salt spreader and plow, which will replace the 2007 dump truck. It is necessary to order this year, if we want it next year in the color yellow. It will be in next year's budget. There is no deposit necessary when ordering. Council approved to move forward with ordering the new dump truck this year. For April's meeting, the Borough Manager will provide a spreadsheet that will show the Capital Improvement projects. This will show what was spent on each project under that 2016 loan. We will be quoting out our liability insurance this year, as the service with the current company is declining a bit and our renewal comes up at the end of the year. Well 5 – Senator Mensch's office was not able to help with the DEP issues after the meeting. I have reached out to Madeline Dean, US Representative with no reply as of yet. The audit is finalized. We have not yet received the proofs from the auditors, however there were no major issues. Just Farm Kids Tractor Show is scheduled for May 21st. BARDS, specifically Jeanine Leavitt, will have a rock painting table set up. The Fire Co. and Ambulance will participate and possibly sell drinks. LIWHAP is a new program to help residents to pay their water and sewer bill. They will pay up to \$2500.00 each for water and sewer. Once paid, their service cannot be shut off for 90 days after payment. Motion to participate in LIWHAP made by Joshua Sloan. No second vote. Motion fails. We will be pricing out the phone system, as we are unable to do many things on the old system we currently have. Municipal Authority is considering a rate increase in 2023. Since the sewer and water funds are now separate, water is having a hard time keeping money in the account. The question was posed to council if they would consider a sewer rate decrease to offset a water increase. President Mutter stated that he does not want to see the sewer fund suffer to help the water fund, but willing to look at the numbers once ready. Council agrees to make a decision if MA approves an increase. Joshua Sloan found a grant called Local Share Account through DCED for projects that provide quality of life improvements for those in the community. SDE has agreed to help apply. We would like to turn the tennis courts into a basketball court and also add some playground equipment for older children. This grant covers hard costs and there is no match. There is a \$100.00 application fee. Deadline for application is March 15th. This does require a resolution for the grant. Motion to approve the application for this grant made by Joshua Sloan. Seconded by Michael Moll. All Ayes. Motion to approve 2022-1 Resolution so we can apply for the grant made by Michael Moll. Seconded by Joshua Sloan. All Ayes.

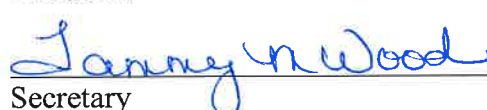
QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS – No residents present.

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS – President Mutter inquired about Sewer Project # 3, which was supposed to start in March. Nate will contact the contractor to find out when the work would start.

ADJOURNMENT- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul Gehringer, seconded by Joshua Sloan at 8:12pm.



President



Secretary