

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 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, Matthew Gehman and Paul Gehringer. Joshua Sloan and Joel Pilgert were absent.

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

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

**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS**– No residents in attendance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes of October 4, 2022 Council Meeting-A motion was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Michael Bauman, to approve the minutes. All Ayes. Matthew Gehman abstained.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented-A motion was made by Matthew Gehman to approve and affirm the bills, seconded by Paul Gehringer. All Ayes.

**PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT:** No report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Health, Safety, & Welfare**

**Fire report-** Fire calls for the month of October is 83; 441 total year-to-date. The sale of the Barto station has been finalized. Chief Mike Mutter requested that council respectfully consider the annual donation/fire tax for EBFD. They would like a 5% fire tax from all 5 municipalities that they serve.

**Police Report-** We will be looking into an Ordinance that would hold the home owner of a rental property that has continual problems in the Borough, have some responsibility.

**Bally Ambulance-**The ambulance had 14 calls in Bally in the month of October. The issue of having to cover the Gilbertsville area has gotten better. Bally Ambulance is looking to replace the 2013 Chevy ambulance with a 2023 Ford F450 pickup with an ambulance body and 4-wheel drive at a price of around \$280,000.00, possibly next month.

**Planning Commission-** Met October 17<sup>th</sup> for the Membrino final sub-division on N 9<sup>th</sup> St. and the sub-division plan was approved at that meeting.

**Municipal Authority-** Met October 18<sup>th</sup> and approved their proposed budget to be available for viewing. They will meet again on November 15<sup>th</sup>. They also approved Wendy to look into a grant for a new well. Wendy received a call from DEP that there is a program that provides underserved communities engineering help and also a grant for siting and pump testing for a new well site. There is only 1 engineering firm for the entire state, so looking to keep Karen from SDE for the engineer, but looking at possibly using the program for a hydrogeologist or any specialty engineering work we may need. Paperwork has been submitted for the program.

**Zoning Hearing Board** –Did not meet.

**BARDS Committee** – No report.

**WWTP Report** –Nate contacted Mobile Dredging to fix a property on S Church St. They did come out, however it was not fixed properly, so we will call them back. We will start flushing fire hydrants in November. Water meter replacements are mainly done during this time, however there is an 18 week delivery period for more meters. We only have a few in stock at this time after replacing about quite a few in October.

**Public Works:** All curbs are painted in the Borough using about 55 gallons of yellow paint for about 8309 feet of curbs. We still have a few storm water projects to work on yet this year, regardless of weather. We are working on some pool repairs now, including repairing skimmer boxes and the pressure leak valve in the floor. We are pressure washing the pool to prepare for a new paint job. The 2022 pickup truck is now scheduled to be built November 17<sup>th</sup>, still hoping to receive it by the end of the year.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Resolution 2022-4 setting employee wages for 2023.** Glenn Mutter stated for the record that Wendy Mutter and himself did not sit in on that executive session. Michael Moll asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2022-4. Matthew Gehman made the motion, Paul Gehringer seconded that. All Ayes. There was no participation from Glenn Mutter. Glenn Mutter abstained from the vote.
- **Ordinance 303 – Setting the real estate tax rate for 2023 to advertising.** Increasing from 5.0mils to 5.3mils. Average assessed home value in Bally is \$107,000.00 and that would mean a \$32.00 increase per year. The last time real estate taxes were raised in the Borough was 2015. Solicitor, Tim Curley stated there was an error of date at Section 4. Paul Gehringer made the motion to advertise the Ordinance, with date correction and Michael Moll seconded that. All Ayes.
- **2023 Dump Truck pricing.** Initial cost without the dump is \$54,609.00, upfitting \$35,406.00 (with a black body), \$4,200.00 to paint it yellow, and the plow and salt spreader comes in at about \$14,300.00. Council agreed to paint the truck yellow. Glenn Mutter inquired about the “power package” and if they upgraded the alternator and Nate stated that it is in the “snow package”. The last item Glenn inquired about was the strobe lights. Nate believes it comes with 4 strobe lights. Council agrees that there should be more than 4 strobe lights. Nate will look into getting a quote for more strobe lights, flashing head/tail lights, and/or a lighted arrow sign that could be interchangeable between trucks. Glenn believes there should be fog lights on the truck also. Motion made to purchase 2023 Dump Truck cab at \$54,609.00 by Michael Moll and seconded by Matthew Gehman. All Ayes. Motion to approve the upfitting, body painted yellow, plow, salt spreader and additional strobe lights made by Paul Gehringer. Seconded by Michael Moll. All Ayes.
- **2023 Budget available for viewing** – Wendy stated that the painting and extra strobe lights on the budget will have to be increased. Michael Moll made the motion to approve the budget for viewing. Matthew Gehman seconded the motion. All Ayes.
- **Audit Engagement Letter** – Barbara Akins contacted our office to do our 2022 Audit, approval is needed for President Glenn Mutter to sign the Audit Engagement letter. Matthew Gehman made the motion to approve Glenn to sign. Paul Gehringer seconded that. All Ayes.
- **Membrino Subdivision Final Approval** – The planning commission approved the 4 lots on N 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Michael Moll made the motion to approve the final submission for the Membrino Subdivision for 4 single family homes on N 9<sup>th</sup>. Matthew Gehman seconded the motion. All Ayes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Vacating of N 5<sup>th</sup> Street update**—The solicitor stated the drafting of this is underway and should be brought to the table next month.
- **Dedication of N 4<sup>th</sup> Street update**—The solicitor stated the drafting of this is underway and should be brought to the table next month.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**— GBI and Borough lawyers are now in negotiations to finalize the project of the conditional use land development.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** —Police calls were 71 in the month of October, total for the year is 821. Police used a total of 116 gallons of fuel the month of October, traveling a total of 1196 miles with both vehicles. There were 80 traffic citations, 2 non-traffic citations, 2 misdemeanor arrests, 1 DUI arrest and 1 parking ticket. Officer Mains completed his yearly taser instructor certification. The Mayor reminded us of Santa visiting at 6pm on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, with tree lighting at 7pm.

**OFFICE REPORT**- Borough participation in Trunk-or-Treat was a success, with the Borough and police running out of candy 3 times. Wendy is currently reviewing water/sewer billing systems. The one she is currently looking at will give customers access to their accounts with the ability to do many things, including paying online. The pre-audit begins November 30th. Wendy has prepared the numbers for workmans comp, but has not received a quote yet. The new water/sewer rates take effect today. Borough residents with an average usage of 10,000 gallons will see an increase in water at about \$0.74 per quarter and a decrease of \$3.50 for sewer per quarter.

**QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS**— No residents in attendance.

**COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS** — Basket raffles will be displayed and drawn on the night of the Tree Lighting, with \$1/per chance and \$20 for 25 tickets.

**ADJOURNMENT**- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Glenn Mutter at 7:56pm. All Ayes.

  
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President

  
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Secretary