

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 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, Michael Moll, and Joel Pilgert were all present. Matthew Gehman was absent.

Also present: Mayor, David Schott; Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter; 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 and posted on the Borough website, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

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

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS –

Matt Bakes of Eastern Berks Fire Department, addressed council concerning a fire tax on Borough residents and the need for consistent financial support. The cost of equipment has gone up significantly over the years. They have been trying to provide their information and Mr. Bakes stated he sent the profit and loss information to his accountant to consolidate to present to the Borough. It was stated that it cannot be done for the 2024 budget. Mike Groff of Bally Community Ambulance also spoke of the financial challenges of the EMS and their need for consistent financial support as well. Questions to Mike Groff concerning mutual aid and coverage of Bally when they are out in another area. Mike explained that they cannot refuse to respond and it creates a domino effect for all the EMS in the area. Volumes have increased greatly and all EMS stations are having staffing issues.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of October 3, 2023 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- A motion was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Joel Pilgert, to approve the bills. All Ayes.

PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT - No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health, Safety, & Welfare:

Police report- There was no new business.

Fire report- Calls for October 35, calls YTD 394

Bally Ambulance – October calls in Bally were 8, with a total of 124 calls for the month. YTD calls are 1266.

Planning Commission - Did not meet

Municipal Authority- Met October 17th, approved the 2024 budget for viewing prior to passage. Well #5 had a packer test conducted and did not have the volume available for the Authority's needs.

Zoning Hearing Board –Did not meet.

BARDS Committee – Trunk-or-Treat was well attended, the movie was not as great a success due to the cold. BARDS participated in the Halloween parade. Coming up on November 18th is the craft show and bake sale at Bally Mennonite Church. The commercial griddle for the pool appears to be a “no go” due to the cost of a commercial range hood with fire suppression.

WWTP Report- Public Works finished up the hydrant flushing and inspecting. They completed the restoration of the property at well 5 and put grass seed and straw to control erosion. The 2023 dump truck was due by the end of October. It is currently waiting to be sent back to Reading to have the plow and salt spreader installed. It will still need to go back to the dealer for paint. They state we should have it soon. The Chestnut Street storm water project is moving slowly. The digging is getting deep and very rocky. Started the storm water project for the playground. The goal is get across the pool parking lot before the end of November so the black top can be permanently patched in spring. There is a 6 to 8 week lead time for the manhole rings on N Church Street. They are an odd size and need the thinnest riser which is not a common size. We purchased a new hydrant for the area behind Quigley. When the old hydrant is replaced, we will try to take it apart and repair it, if not we will keep the parts for use on other hydrants. A question was posed concerning the storm water fix for the 800 block of Chestnut Street. There had been no further update on the permit application needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2024 Budget** – A motion was made by Paul Gehringer, seconded by Joshua Sloan to advertise that the proposed budget is available for viewing by residents. All Ayes.
- **Resolution 2023-7 LSA Grant Application for Building Expansion** – A motion was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Joshua Sloan to apply for the grant. All Ayes.
- **Resolution 2023-8 Adopting Berks County Hazard Mitigation Plan** – A motion by Michael Bauman, seconded by Joshua Sloan. All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Borough Manager was asked to contact other Municipalities to find additional information on fire and EMS tax.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Solicitor Tim Curley stated he needs to draft a letter to Ken Ehst making the purchase of property at well 5 null and void. The Solicitor also stated that the Sewer Service Agreement with Washington Township is in the review process.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Schott reported there were 56 calls for the month and 632 calls for the year. There were 114 gallons used and drove 982 miles. There were 26 traffic citations and 1 DUI arrest. Officer Yeager has resigned her position. The Mayor complained about the fixing of street lights. The Borough Manager stated we have reported the street light outages multiple times and Met-Ed is not fixing them.

ENGINEER’S STATUS OF PROJECTS:

The Engineers report showed the paving project is complete. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for next week for the Digester project. Re-rate of the WWTP is complete and a letter has been received from DEP to release the Borough from the Corrective Order Action.

OFFICE REPORT

- a. The new roof was installed for the quoted price. We still have water coming into the storage room. We believe it is coming in through a gap in the macadam and the exterior wall. Public works will try to fill and seal the gap.
- b. Next month we will need to appoint a member to the Municipal Authority for the 2024 through 2027
- c. Training on the new billing system has begun. The borough office would like to assess a new customer administrative fee. An amendment to the fee resolutions for Borough sewer and Municipal Authority water customers.

QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS – No questions

COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joshua Sloan asked if there would be money left in the playground grant to patch the playground slide in the amount of about \$2500. There will be approximately \$38,000 left for playground equipment. A quote was obtained for swings at approximately \$18,000. If an embankment slide can be obtained with the remaining funds, the Manager feels it probably wouldn't be worth fixing due to the age. The tree lighting ceremony was confirmed for 7:00pm and Santa would be available from 6:30pm to meet with children.

ADJOURNMENT- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Paul Gehringer at 8:56 pm. All Ayes.



President - Glenn Mutter



Assistant Secretary - Wendy Mutter