

**BALLY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 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, Matthew Gehman and Joel Pilgert were all present.

Also present: Mayor, David Schott; Solicitor, R. Tim Curley; Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter; Borough Secretary, Tammy Wood and Public Works Superintendent, Nathan Heffner were present. There were 5 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** – Resident, Brett Beitler representing “Just Farm Kids” tractor club requested permission for their annual tractor parade scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon. The parade would start at Bally Block and travel to Pine Street and then out of the Borough, returning to Pine Street and back to Bally Block. Joshua Sloan made a motion to approve the event, Matthew Gehman seconded the motion. All Ayes.

Resident, John Eddinger requested a 4000 gallon sewer credit for a pool fill that he turned in after billing and waiver of his late fees for the June billing period. Michael Moll made the motion to give the pool fill credit and waive the late fee. Paul Gehringer seconded the motion. All Ayes.

Mike Mutter, Fire Chief of Eastern Berks Fire Department, addressed council concerning a fire tax on Borough residents. Mike addressed information concerning donations from the municipalities and residents that they serve and the need for additional funds. Bechtelsville has enacted a .5 mil fire tax and District Township is in the process of enacting one. Various questions concerning the fire Company’s budget were asked and answered. A question concerning how the tax is collected and distributed by Bechtelsville was asked and answered. A question was posed as to what the 81% increase in income was needed for. Mike stated it was for future needs of the department. Mayor Schott questioned the funds listed on the Borough budget for fire and ambulance. It was determined that some of those funds are pass through from the State, and worker’s comp and dispatch is split among the municipalities served. It was stated that it would be impossible to get the process for a fire tax done this year for 2024. Additional discussions and meetings will need to be held in the future.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes of September 5, 2023 Council Meeting- Glenn Mutter requested an addition to the minutes that an Executive session was held to discuss employee raises, after the last Council Meeting, and that he and Borough Manager, Wendy Mutter did not attend that meeting. A motion was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Michael Bauman, to approve the minutes with the requested change. Matthew Gehman and Joel Pilgert abstained from the vote. All others Ayes.
- b. Approval & Affirmation of Bills Presented- A motion was made by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Paul Gehman, to approve the bills. All Ayes.

**PRESIDING OFFICER REPORT** - No report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

## **Health, Safety, & Welfare:**

**Police report-** The Chief had to leave the meeting due to a call. There were no issues reported for vehicles and no officer training.

**Fire report-** No report

**Bally Ambulance** – September calls for Bally were 12, with a total of 120 calls for the month.

**Planning Commission** - Did not meet

**Municipal Authority-** Next meeting October 17th

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

**BARDS Committee** –Trunk-or-Treat will be on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm and a movie in the park from 7-9pm. Just about done with power washing of the pool deck. A commercial griddle was donated that runs on 220 volts. It was stated that the commercial griddle will require a commercial range hood with fire suppression and exhaust if installed. They will need to check with building code. BARDS has collected and donated over \$10,000 in items.

**WWTP Report-** An alarm was installed at the well. Public Works will begin flushing fire hydrants. Clean up of the old tennis court area is moving along. The storm water project in the park is stalled due to no “benchmark” for height to install the collection boxes. The pool used less water this year, hopefully due to the skimmer box replacements that were done. We are hoping to continue those replacements to reduce leaks. A car parked near the corner of Chestnut and N Church is causing traffic flow issues. There was a discussion concerning the extension of no parking yellow paint at the corners of the intersection of Chestnut and N Church Street. Nate requested a meeting for the Lions Halloween Parade concerning the setup of barriers and who is responsible to set them up. Joshua Sloan asked if the tiles can be cleaned off on the step of the pool for better vision entering the pool.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Resolution 2023-5 Employee Wages** – A motion was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Matthew Gehman to approve the resolution setting employee wages for 2024. Glenn Mutter abstained, all others Ayes.
- **Resolution 2023-6 Park Rentals** –A motion was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Paul Gehringer to set the fees for park rental usage at \$50 per pavilion rental with a \$10 key deposit fee. All Ayes.
- The Solicitor requested a discussion on a resolution for park use for groups holding fundraisers and other events and how to differentiate profit versus non-profit use and when payment can be waived or park rules can be waived. It was decided that events should be brought before council and rules will be established for the event. The discussion will continue at a future meeting.
- **Borough Municipal Building Roof Quotes** – The previous lowest bidder fell through due to non-responsiveness. New quotes were acquired with the lowest received by Rodney Luft Construction in the amount of \$12,975. A motion to proceed with Rodney Luft Construction to reroof the asphalt portions of the building, by Matthew Gehman. Michael Moll seconded the motion. Glenn Mutter abstained from the vote, all others Ayes.
- **Change Order #1 for Street Paving Project** – A change order was submitted from Haines and Kibblehouse in the amount of -\$21,301.53 for the street paving project. A motion was made by Paul Gehringer, seconded by Michael Moll to approve the change order. All Ayes.

- **Payment Application #1 Final for Street Paving Project** – A motion by Matthew Gehman, seconded by Paul Gehringer to approve the payment of \$188,750.43 to Haines and Kibblehouse for the street paving project. All Ayes.
- **Conditional Notice to Award Digester Contract to Blooming Glen** – A motion was made by Joshua Sloan, seconded by Matthew Gehman, to give Notice of Award of the Digester bid to Blooming Glen, conditional to the Borough Engineering's finding of satisfactory paperwork including bonds. All Ayes.
- **Conditional Notice to Proceed Digester Contract to Blooming Glen** – A motion was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Joshua Sloan, to give Notice to Proceed to Blooming Glen for the Digester contract, conditional to the Borough Engineering's findings of satisfactory paperwork including bonds. All Ayes.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**– Solicitor Tim Curley stated he received the joint sewer agreement with Washington Township from Borough engineers yesterday and will proceed with his review of the contract.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Schott reported there were 48 calls for the month and 576 calls for the year. There were 118 gallons used and drove 1367 miles. There were 29 traffic citations, 1 non-traffic citation and 1 misdemeanor arrest for theft.

#### **ENGINEER'S STATUS OF PROJECTS**

The Engineers report showed the breakout for the paving project by street and those numbers are included in the proposed budget for year-to-date costs. No additional information on the building expansion. The Washington Township sewer agreement was reviewed by the Borough Manager with two small changes and is currently be reviewed by the solicitors. The Engineer will be meeting with Nate on a proposed Sewer/Storm Water project. The permit for the rerate of the wastewater treatment plant has been received and a letter has been sent to DEP to release the Borough from the Corrective Order Action.

#### **OFFICE REPORT**

- 2024 Proposed Budget** – The proposed 2024 budget was provided to council for review.
- Dump truck status** – Dump truck is outfitted for dump body, hydraulics, lighting, salt spreader and plow rigging. One side of the cab was not painted and will need to go back to the dealer to finish the cab painting.
- Potentials employee benefit changes** –Tim Curley suggested to table this topic and discuss the matter at a future executive session.


**QUESTIONS FROM RESIDENTS** – No questions

#### **COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Joshua Sloan requested that money be set aside in the budget for future tree replacement in the park

**ADJOURNMENT**- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michael Moll, seconded by Joshua Sloan at 9:16 pm. All Ayes.

  
President - Glenn Mutter

  
Secretary - Tammy Wood