

EAST BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL
128 Water Street
East Berlin, PA 17316

October 2, 2013

The first monthly meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council was held October 2, 2013, at the East Berlin Borough Hall. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: President Charles Krall; James LeVan; Roberta Teal; Andrew Raymond; and Donald Dixon

Members Absent: Charles Eisenhart; and Richard Cashman

Also Present: Mayor Keith Hoffman; Solicitor Matthew Battersby; Secretary/Treasurer Darlene McArthur; Diane Weaver, Reporter for the Evening Sun

Adoption of the Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of September 4, 2013, were reviewed. *A motion to approve the minutes was made by James LeVan; seconded by Roberta Teal. Motion approved with all in favor.* The minutes of the meeting of September 25, 2013, were reviewed. *A motion to approve the minutes was made by James LeVan; seconded by Andrew Raymond. Motion approved with no dissenting votes.*

Payment of Bills: A summary of bills for the month of October totaling \$61,175.52 was reviewed. In a discussion of the minimum municipal obligation payment of the non-uniformed pension plan, it was noted that the amount due is less than last year and the state allocation portion of the payment is greater. In response to Donald Dixon's inquiry of the reimbursement of zoning hearing costs, Solicitor Battersby stated that the hearing fee is based on a predetermined amount and not actual cost. It was noted that the Finance Committee would address necessary updates to the Borough's fee schedule. *Roberta Teal motioned to pay the bills for the month of October; seconded by Andrew Raymond. Motion approved with no dissenting votes.*

Constituents Addressing Borough Council: None.

Mayor's Report: Council was provided the police report for September. Mayor Hoffman reported that Trick or Treat would be held on October 31st and that assistance from the Fire Police is scheduled. It was noted that Colonial Day went well with no problems to report.

Fire Company Report: President Krall reported that he met with the Captain of the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) at Liberty Fire Company to discuss issues resulting from York Wellspan's decision to discontinue leasing ambulance personnel and was informed that they would be hiring their own squad. There was some discussion of the difficulties Liberty would encounter with the procedures and requirements involved in hiring paid EMTs. A Committee was formed to address the issues with a deadline of December 1, 2013 or January 1, 2014 at the latest. It was noted that Wellspan is still currently providing service. Donald Dixon inquired of the timeframe for obtaining a revenue report from Liberty Fire Company. President Krall stated that representatives of Liberty should attend a Council meeting, and that a fire tax cannot be enacted without sufficient financial information. Roberta Teal reported that in her discussions with Borough residents, there was opposition to paying a fire tax.

Engineer's Report: Borough Engineer Eric Main's comments on the proposed Wellspan Parking Lot Project were provided to Council. It was noted that the Borough Zoning Officer is also reviewing the project.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Battersby reported that he was contacted by Zoning Officer Robert Thaeler regarding zoning issues at the Trump's Restaurant property on West King Street including the operation of additional businesses and an upstairs apartment. There was some discussion of the apartment as a possible pre-existing use of the space. Regarding the monthly meetings with Mr. Thaeler to update the Borough's Zoning Ordinance, President Krall noted that the project is progressing and that Mr. Thaeler's assistance is helpful.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Council reviewed the Previous Year Financial Comparison Report and Summary of Accounts. It was noted that receipt of the state-allocated Fire Relief Fund has likely been delayed by the results of the recent audit, but will be forthcoming. On the subject of the upcoming 2014 budget, President Krall requested that Council consider long term goals of five (5) or ten (10) years when drafting a proposal. Roberta Teal mentioned the need for upgrades to the Borough's infrastructure; specifically, the storm drain system.

Streets/Public Safety and Maintenance: Roberta Teal reported that crosswalk painting quotes were received with Alpha Space Control submitting the lowest bid for piano key style, noting that Alpha has done this work twice before in the Borough. Ms. Teal reviewed the progress of the playground drainage project at the Park. Robert Meminger and President Krall attended a seminar on technology and infrastructure management. Adoption is being sought for a stray kitten found in the middle of West King Street during a routine road check this week.

On the subject of his attendance at the technology seminar sponsored by C.S. Davidson, President Krall reviewed the topics of infrastructure planning through GIS and a software database utilizing Google Earth or similar programs. The technology would assist in planning for utilities including sewer, water, and storm drain systems. President Krall proposed to hire someone to build the database and possibly share the cost with the Joint Authority. Solicitor Battersby suggested offering the task to the GIS Departments of Penn State or HACC as a student project. President Krall discussed the option of maintaining a server to hold the information.

There was some discussion of addressing the crosswalk painting before the onset of winter. It was noted that Liquid Fuels Funds may be utilized for this project. *Andrew Raymond motioned to contract Alpha Space Control to paint piano key crosswalks in all specified areas other than the square and the intersection of Abbottstown and Locust Streets for \$2,187.00; seconded by Donald Dixon. Per roll call vote, all Members of Council approved the motion. Andrew Raymond motioned to contract Alpha Space Control to paint piano key crosswalks with thermo-plastic at the square and the intersection of Abbottstown and Locust Streets for under \$5,000.00; seconded by James LeVan. Per roll call vote, all Member of Council approved the motion.*

Planning/Zoning: Council reviewed the Planning Commission meeting minutes of August 22, 2013.

Personnel: With the resignation of Scott Knight, a vacancy exists on the Planning Commission. James LeVan stated that the Personnel Committee would meet to discuss this and upcoming vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board and Parks and Recreation Commission.

Park and Recreation: Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business: Regarding a previous request from the Founder's Day Committee to repeal Ordinance 2007-4 to allow a bonfire as part of the New Year's Eve celebration, President Krall reported that he discussed the matter with Charles Eisenhart. Mr. Eisenhart suggested that the Committee amend the request for Council to allow a one-time permission for the event. Council reviewed the amended request for approval of the event including a distance of fifty feet (50') from any structure and a fire truck on standby. President Krall stated that the request would be addressed at the next meeting of Council.

New Business: Mayor Hoffman inquired if the Borough could assist Liberty Fire Company with its proposal to hire a team of EMTs by adding the new hires to the Borough's insurance policy. Secretary McArthur stated that, after having discussed the matter with the Borough's insurance agent, the policy will only cover employees of the Borough. Ms. McArthur offered to assist in the hiring process by advising Liberty on matters of payroll, insurance, employee benefits, and established policies.

Correspondence:

- ACCOG President's Message
- Funding Request from the East Berlin Community Library for a \$5.00 Per Capita Tax
- Founder's Day Committee Meeting Minutes of 9/3/2013
- PMRS Newsletter and Financial Report
- Zoning Meeting With Rob Thaeler, 10/9/2013 at 10:00 AM

There was some discussion of the proposed annual five dollar (\$5.00) per capita tax to fund the Library. Andrew Raymond reported that a Halloween Party is scheduled at the VFW on October 26th for children ages ten (10) and younger. Mr. Raymond also reported that the VFW donated one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to the Senior Center from small games of chance revenues.

James LeVan motioned to adjourn the meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council at 8:04 PM; seconded by Andrew Raymond. Motion approved with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene McArthur
Secretary/Treasurer of Borough Council