

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

October 30, 2013 – Work Session

The second monthly meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council was held October 30, 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; Donald Dixon; Richard Cashman; Charles Eisenhart; and Andrew Raymond

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Keith Hoffman; Secretary/Treasurer Darlene McArthur; David Richards; and Diane Weaver, Reporter for the Evening Sun

Constituents Addressing Borough Council: David Richards commented on the improved appearance of the recently painted crosswalks and noted that the piano key style is highly visible. Regarding a donation request letter from Liberty Fire Company, Mr. Richards suggested that the letter be resent with a correction to the amount of the 2012 donation from East Berlin Borough. President Krall stated that Council would be discussing the matter at this evening's meeting.

Topics of Discussion:

- President Krall discussed a mass mailing by Liberty Fire Company to East Berlin Borough and the surrounding area soliciting donations, reporting operating costs, and stating 2012 contributions from the Borough as well as Washington, Paradise, Reading, and Hamilton Townships. President Krall stated that he was upset with the erroneous reporting of no contributions from East Berlin Borough in 2012, and requested comment from Council. In response to Donald Dixon's inquiry of the reported operating costs, Andrew Raymond discussed unfunded mandates such as required training and service hours. President Krall stated that after numerous requests, Liberty has still not provided detailed financial information and discussed the efforts of the previous Council in obtaining the reports.

Council reviewed a copy of a check issued November 7, 2012, to Liberty Fire Company in the amount of \$5,600.00 as a contribution for vehicle insurance, and deposited by Liberty on November 13, 2012. President Krall discussed the history of the Borough's transfer of five (5) vehicle titles at the request of Liberty Fire Company in 2009. Prior to the transfer, the Borough paid the insurance on the vehicles and agreed to continue to contribute toward the cost of insurance. It was noted that the Borough is not required by law to pay vehicle insurance for Liberty and that the payment, even if by agreement, is a contribution. In addition to allocating the full amount of the Fire Relief Fund payment and providing workers compensation insurance as required by law, the Borough has contributed toward the Fire Company's vehicle insurance before and since the title transfer in 2009.

President Krall proposed to send a letter to Liberty Fire Company requesting that President John Jacobs and the other Officers at Liberty attend the next meeting of Council on November 6th to discuss this and other matters affecting the Borough and the Fire Company. *Roberta Teal motioned to send the letter; seconded by Donald Dixon. Motion approved with all in favor.* In response to President Krall's inquiry of the progress of Liberty in obtaining paid ambulance personnel, Mayor Hoffman responded that applications are being accepted.

- Regarding a request from the Founder's Day Committee to allow a bonfire on New Year's Eve at the Park, President Krall stated that a letter granting one-time permission would be drafted for Council's consideration at the next Regular Session.
- President Krall requested input from Council on a request from the East Berlin Community Library to enact a five dollar (\$5.00) annual per capita tax to fund the Library. Richard Cashman stated that although the Library provides a valuable service to the community, he does not endorse the proposed tax. James

LeVan concurred with Mr. Cashman. Charles Eisenhart discussed the financial standing of the East Berlin Community Library and noted that, while being one (1) of only (2) libraries in Adams County, most of the funding goes to the Gettysburg Library. *Roberta Teal motioned that a very cordial letter regretfully declining the request be sent to the Library; seconded by James LeVan. Motion approved with no dissenting votes.*

- President Krall inquired of the progress of the Finance Committee in drafting a budget for 2014. Committee Chairman Richard Cashman stated that a report would be provided at the next meeting of Council.
- James LeVan reported that the Personnel Committee would meet at 4:00 PM on November 5th to discuss a current vacancy on the Planning Commission and upcoming member terms ending on the Zoning Hearing Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Borough Engineer Eric Main's comments on the proposed Wellspan Parking Lot Expansion Project were provided to Council.
- Council reviewed a sample ordinance from the Adams County Council of Governments to enact a fire tax. It was noted that the sample ordinance did not address the amount of the tax to be levied.
- President Krall stated that copies of the audit report of the Liquid Fuels Fund for 2011 and 2012, and the audit reports of the Pension Plans for 2010 through 2012 are available in the Borough Office.
- The Founder's Day Committee meeting minutes of October 7, 2013 were reviewed by Council. Committee Chairperson Roberta Teal reported that the Committee is working diligently to organize the New Year's Eve activities. Ms. Teal stated that members of the East Berlin Area Community Center attended the October 28th Committee meeting. It was proposed to sell a \$5.00 admission button for entertainment at the Community Center including a magician and a band, and admittance to the Park for hot chocolate or cider, bon fire, lantern raising, and a brief display of fire works. Commemorative items including special label bottled wine would be available for purchase.
- The Planning Commission meeting minutes of September 26, 2013 were provided to Council.
- The Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce October newsletter was received.
- A newsletter was received from the Abbottstown/East Berlin Food Pantry.
- A letter of appreciation was received from the East Berlin Area Historical Society for the Borough's assistance with Colonial Day. It was noted that the event was successful.
- A donation request was received from the Rabbit Transit System.
- Council was reminded of training opportunities and webinars available. President Krall discussed a Stormwater Management Workshop on November 15, 2013 noting that Robert Meminger would be attending, and encouraged Council Members to register for this opportunity.
- Andrew Raymond reported that a million dollar upgrade is planned for the Adams County SPCA and that the facility would accommodate farm animals. Mr. Raymond also reported that a turkey raffle is scheduled for 12:00 PM on November 16th at the VFW.
- In response to Donald Dixon's inquiry of the drainage project at the Park, President Krall stated that the project was successful in removing the water from the proposed playground area.
- President Krall discussed a proposal from Bermudian Youth Baseball to establish additional ball fields on both Zeigler's property and the Borough's Parkland and noted that the organization has met with the Lion's Club, Zeigler's, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission to discuss the project.
- There was some discussion of Officer Grim's illness. Mayor Hoffman stated that Officer Grim would be taking off for the remainder of the week to recuperate, and that the State Police would cover the Borough for tomorrow night's Trick or Treat.
- Donald Dixon reminded all to vote next Tuesday, November 5, 2013.

The meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene McArthur
Secretary/Treasurer of Borough Council