

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

July 15, 2015

The second monthly meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council was held July 15, 2015, at the East Berlin Borough Hall. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM.

**Members Present:** Vice President James LeVan; Roberta Teal; Jason Wood; and Donald Dixon

**Members Absent:** Catherine Lockey; Andrew Raymond; and Charles Krall

**Also Present:** Secretary/Treasurer Darlene McArthur; and Thomas Teal

**Adoption of the Minutes:** The meeting minutes of Council's Session on July 1, 2015, were reviewed. *A motion to approve the minutes was made by Roberta Teal; seconded by Jason Wood. Motion approved with all in favor.*

**Payment of Bills:** A summary of bills for the end of July totaling \$8,985.56 was reviewed. *Jason Wood motioned to pay the bills for the end of July; seconded by Roberta Teal. Motion approved with no dissenting votes.*

**Constituents Addressing Borough Council:** None.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** Vice President LeVan discussed the upcoming flood insurance policy renewal for the Borough municipal building and noted the increasing cost of the annual premium over the past five (5) years escalating from \$1,649.00 in 2010 to \$2,158.00 in 2015. It was also noted that the municipal building is not located in the one hundred year floodplain zone, and that flood water has not reached the building since 1976 when it rose to the level of the far corner of the original garage but never reached the office building section. Vice President LeVan stated that the increasing rates are likely related to recent flooding events including Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina, and noted that there would be further discussion of this topic later in the meeting under New Business.

**Maintenance:** Roberta Teal reported that two (2) pedestrian crossing signs were stolen last week from West King Street. Borough Engineer Eric Mains and PennDOT Representative Ricky Barnett are still communicating about issues concerning the Borough's request to modify the traffic signal permit by moving back the stop bars on the westbound lane of East King Street and posting a "No Turn on Red" sign at this location. Ms. Teal reported that the Borough is currently obtaining quotes to upgrade the interior lights of the municipal building to more energy efficient bulbs and ballasts, and noted that Met Ed is offering incentive cost coverage of up to eighty percent (80%).

**Planning/Zoning:** Vice President LeVan reported that there was no new business before the Planning Commission at the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, but a land development plan is expected in the near future for the Zeigler Bros. expansion project. Mayor Hoffman noted that Hamilton Township has made greatly needed improvements to their portion of Beaver Street.

**Personnel:** Vice President LeVan reviewed updates to the police employment application per Solicitor Battersby and presented the final version to Council. *Roberta Teal motioned to approve the revised police employment application; seconded by Jason Wood. Motion approved with all in favor.* Regarding a draft of the advertisement for the position of police officer, Secretary McArthur noted that per the Borough's Hiring Process Policy, Council must approve the position (temporary or

permanent, part-time or full-time) and the rate of pay prior to advertising the position. There was some discussion of the appropriate pay rate. It was noted that the position would be offered as part-time with a possible full-time opportunity upon Police Chief Grim's retirement on August 31, 2016. *Jason Wood motioned to approve the part-time position of police officer with a starting rate of pay between fifteen dollars (\$15.00) and twenty dollars (\$20.00) per hour; seconded by Roberta Teal. Motion approved with no dissenting votes.* There was some discussion of the length of the proposed advertisement which would create considerable cost. It was decided that the advertisement would be shortened, but would include a website link to the full content. Secretary McArthur stated that she would obtain cost quotes to run the advertisement for approval at the next meeting of Council.

**Park/Recreation:** Jason Wood stated that he does not yet have the financial totals for the recent Evening in the Park event on June 28th. Secretary McArthur reported that after paying the expenses of the event including entertainment and advertising, the net profit was \$458.90, and noted that Commission Chairman Phil Keener stated that the annual event is intended more so as an offering to the community.

**Unfinished Business:** Vice President LeVan reported that trash collection bids have been requested per advertisement published on July 14<sup>th</sup> and a pre-bid conference will be held on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Bids will be accepted until 4:00 PM on August 5<sup>th</sup> and opened at the Council meeting that evening.

**New Business:** On the issue of the increasing cost of flood insurance for the Borough's municipal building as previously discussed under Finance Committee Reports, Vice President LeVan requested any further input from Council. *Roberta Teal motioned to cancel the flood insurance coverage; seconded by Jason Wood. Motion approved unanimously.*

Regarding a request from David Bolton for the Borough's support to legalize medicinal cannabis in Pennsylvania, Vice President LeVan noted that the issue is being addressed by the State Legislators. Mr. LeVan is of the opinion that garnering this support from local municipalities is purely political and that no action is needed. Council concurred.

**Correspondence:**

Training and Webinars Available

Mayor Hoffman reported that he spoke with the Lieutenant of the State Police in Gettysburg regarding oversized truck trailers causing incidents at the square and was told that the Borough is at the mercy of PennDOT in posting signs to prohibit tractor trailers over forty-eight feet (48') in length, or modifying the traffic signal permit by moving back crossbars at the square. It was noted, however, that tractor trailers over forty-eight feet (48') in length can be ticketed per the trucker regulations map issued by PennDOT which prohibits them through East Berlin.

Vice President LeVan stated that he would be out of town and unable to attend the next meeting of Council on August 5, 2015.

*Roberta Teal motioned to adjourn the meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council at 8:08 PM; seconded by Jason Wood. Motion approved with all voting in favor.*

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene McArthur  
Secretary/Treasurer of Borough Council