

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

July 6, 2016

The first monthly meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council was held July 6, 2016, at the East Berlin Borough Hall. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM.

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

Members Absent: Catherine Lockey

Also Present: Solicitor Matthew Battersby; and Mayor Keith Hoffman

Adoption of the Minutes: The meeting minutes of Council's Session on June 15, 2016, were reviewed. *A motion to approve the minutes was made by Donald Dixon; seconded by James LeVan. Motion approved with no dissenting votes.*

Payment of Bills: A summary of bills for the beginning of July totaling \$6,142.47 was reviewed. *Jason Wood motioned to pay the bills for the beginning of July; seconded by James LeVan. Motion approved with no dissenting votes.*

Constituents Addressing Borough Council: None.

Mayor's Report: Council reviewed the police report for June. Mayor Hoffman reported that Officer Seitz is doing an excellent job and he has not received any complaints from the residents. Charles Krall mentioned that Officer Seitz requested the purchase of police badge stickers to offer to children in the community as a public relations incentive. President Teal stated that the stickers would be an excellent idea.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Battersby discussed the issue of the deteriorating condition of the residence at 115 E. King Street in East Berlin and noted that the process of filing a complaint of public nuisance could be quite expensive requiring substantial evidence to prove in court. Charles Krall stated because the property owner is a relative, he may have to recuse himself from any official decision, but it is his understanding that the property is not in foreclosure and not listed for Sheriff's Sale with the County. After Secretary McArthur's attempt to reach the property owner, Mr. Krall stated that he was contacted regarding their intention to make repairs to the crumbling chimney but he didn't know when that would happen. Mr. Krall reported that the owner, Donald Hull, is willing to sell the property but the interested parties are unwilling to pay the asking price. Mr. Krall suggested the possibility of having the property condemned, which would require the cost of a structural inspection, or to consider the Borough's claim of eminent domain. Solicitor Battersby explained the difficulties in substantiating a claim of eminent domain and stated that he would do research at the Adams County Courthouse on taxes owed or liens on the property. Mr. Krall stated that there are liens on the property and utilities are off, so it is uninhabitable. It is the consensus of Council that the Borough should not get involved at this point, and to let the property go to Sheriff's Sale. In response to Mayor Hoffman's report of complaints from residents, Solicitor Battersby stated that he is unaware of any property maintenance ordinance.

Charles Krall mentioned a recent meeting in Harrisburg, also attended by Solicitor Battersby, to discuss issues with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC). Solicitor Battersby reported that hearings will be scheduled to review the activities of the SRBC, and there will also be a possible audit of their finances.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Council reviewed the Previous Year Financial Comparison Report and Summary of Accounts. Charles Krall reminded the members of the Finance Committee that a meeting will be scheduled to begin an extensive review of next year's budget and adequate funding.

Streets/ Maintenance: Andrew Raymond reported that twelve (12) stop signs have been replaced so far in the signs upgrade program. A local tree service company was paid fifty dollars (\$50.00) to remove storm damaged tree limbs over one of the Park trails. Soccer goals have been purchased by the Park Commission and will be installed within a week. Street edge delineators along the curve at North Avenue and Sixth Street were replaced due to vehicle damage. The skate park and playground have been inspected with no major issues and additional wood carpet was installed at the playground. Lease Garage has repaired the gear selector in the steering column of the F250. The Borough Hall air conditioner and furnace core were replaced by John M. Wilhide Plumbing and Heating at a cost of \$3,125.00. A circuit breaker and outside wiring were also replaced. Charles Krall stated that Robert Meminger has requested to purchase two (2) chairs with damaged seats formerly used in the meeting room for ten dollars (\$10.00). *Jason Wood motion to sell the two (2) chairs to Mr. Meminger for a total of ten dollars (\$10.00); seconded by Andrew Raymond. Motion approved with no dissenting votes.*

Planning/Zoning: Council was provided the Planning Commission meeting minutes of May 26, 2016. James LeVan reported that there was no meeting of the Commission in June while awaiting future project activities.

Personnel: James LeVan stated that Officer Seitz is very pleased with Council's official notice that he will be offered the position of Chief of Police to commence on September 1, 2016, and noted that a contract would be needed for this position. Mr. LeVan also reported that he witnessed Officer Seitz performing his duties during a recent incident at the Community Center when two (2) elderly ladies fell to the ground with one (1) sustaining injuries. Officer Seitz ran to assist and called for an ambulance which arrived very quickly.

Park and Recreation: Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: President Teal reported that Borough Engineer Eric Mains has left Bucharthorn for an engineering firm near Camp Hill. There was some discussion of various firms and former Borough engineers. Charles Krall suggested requesting proposals from several engineering firms. Mr. Krall also suggested that Council consider reducing the membership of Council from seven (7) to five (5) at the end of the next term expirations in 2017, and noted that much larger municipalities operate with as few as three (3) Board Members. It was also noted that there would be a cost savings in compensation of \$2,000.00 per year. Mr. Krall stated that this action would create four (4) four-year member terms, and one (1) four-year member term ending at two-year intervals, and inquired of Solicitor Battersby how this might be adjusted to three (3) and two (2) at two-year intervals. Solicitor Battersby stated that he would research the issue.

Correspondence:

- Gettysburg Chamber of Commerce July Newsletter
- Training and Webinars Available

Donald Dixon motioned to adjourn the meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council at 7:44 PM; seconded by Jason Wood. Motion approved with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene McArthur
Secretary/Treasurer of Borough Council