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

Call to Order: The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council, including all business conducted and public hearings held as part of the meeting agenda, began with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at the East Berlin Borough Hall, with Council President Robert Larson presiding.
Members Present: Robert Larson, Roberta Teal, Heather Gentzler, Anna DeVita, Charles Philips, and Gregery Green, Mayor Stephanie Haley.
Members Absent: Judith Salomon
Also Present: Solicitor Matt Battersby, Administrator/Treasurer Cindy Smith, Chris Warner Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC)
Approval of Agenda: Roberta Teal motioned for approval, seconded by Heather Gentzler. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report / Executive Session Summary Statement – Solicitor Battersby

- Council met in Executive Session from 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM to discuss police staffing matters. Solicitor Battersby reported that the Borough anticipated receiving police service proposals for Council's review and consideration. Until contracts are negotiated and finalized, Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) will provide police coverage. The two police departments that may submit proposals are Eastern Adams Regional Police and Reading Township.
- No other information to report.

Message(s) from Council President Robert Larson: none

Chris Warner - Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC):

- The Emergency Management Report was reviewed at Council's leisure.
- The Emergency Services Report was reviewed at Council's leisure.
- The Fire Department Financial Reporting was reviewed at Council's leisure.
- The EMC reported that he would be holding a one-hour training session regarding emergency preparedness / Emergency Operation Center at a date forthcoming.

Administrator's Report:

- Planning Commission draft June Meeting Minutes / July Agenda for review at Council's leisure.
- Roberta Teal motioned to reinvest $150,000 in a one-year CD at ACNB Bank at an interest rate of 4%–4.1%. Seconded by Gregery Green. Motion carried.
- Roberta Teal motioned to accept the Chicken Ordinance package for advertisement, hearing, and adoption, as presented, seconded by Heather Gentzler. Motion carried.
- Council acknowledged receipt of the Borough Engineer's Report dated July 8, 2026.
    - Item 1 – Charles Philips motioned to accept the proposal for survey work to be completed at the East Berlin Park, 523 North Avenue in the amount of $3,985.00 from Beyond All Boundaries, seconded by Anna DeVita. Motion carried.
    - Item 2 - The remainder of the report was received by Council for review at their leisure.

Approval of Minutes:
Anna DeVita motioned to accept the June 10, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Charles Philips. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- Council acknowledged receipt of the Profit & Loss Statement and the Summary of Accounts.
- Roberta Teal motioned to approve payment of the June bills in the amount of $16,346.61 from all accounts. Motion seconded by Heather Gentzler. Motion carried.

Robert Larson - Personnel: Committee Re-Appointments

- Roberta Teal motioned appointment of Robert Benson to the Parks & Recreation Committee (completing an unexpired term) ending 12/31/2027, seconded by Charles Philips. Motion carried.

Mayor's Reporting:

- The Mayor's report was reviewed at Council's leisure.
- The Mayor shared upcoming events and dates within the Borough.
- June Police report was provided for review at Council's leisure.
- The Mayor provided an update on the Ordinance Enforcement Door Hanger process.

Constituents / Guests Present:

Kevin Mauro, Melissa Ann Pero, Robert Benson, Benjamin Perone, David Woodward, Jeb Anderson Sarah Roberson, Jan Hoffman, John Schlaline, Loy Elliott.

- Various members of the public expressed support for retaining chicken keeping within the Borough and updating the previously rescinded Chicken Ordinance. Concerns were expressed regarding the proposed initial permit fee of $100 and annual renewal fee of $50.
- Additional public comments included:
- Jan Hoffman requested consideration of a bike rack at the Borough Building. Anna DeVita stated she would look into the matter. Jan Hoffman also asked the Solicitor whether there are any further developments regarding his anticipated retirement. The Solicitor stated that the matter remains undecided and that he would locate a replacement Solicitor when the time comes.
- John Schlaline expressed concern regarding residents' focus on Borough priorities and the potential impact of individual actions on neighboring properties, noting that ordinances affect the broader community.
- Kevin Mauro distributed a written statement addressing Borough communication, public access to Council information, enforcement of existing ordinances, use of certain vehicles on Borough roads, the proposed Chicken Ordinance and associated fees. He also raised concerns regarding Borough priorities, ordinance enforcement, and the costs and administration associated with Borough ordinances.
- Robert Benson questioned the Solicitor regarding the chain of command within local municipalities.

Adjournment: Heather Gentzler motioned adjournment at 7:15 PM, seconded by Roberta Teal. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Smith
Administrator / Treasurer