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, May 13, 2026 at the East Berlin Borough Hall, with Council President Robert Larson presiding.
Members Present: Robert Larson, Roberta Teal, Judith Salomon, Heather Gentzler, Anna DeVita, Charles Philips, Gregery Green, and Mayor Stephanie Haley.
Jr. Council Member: Layna Lowry
Members absent: none
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.

Hearings

Noise Ordinance Hearing: 6:05 -6:28
Various members of the public spoke out in opposition to the proposed Noise Ordinance language.
Council action following closure of the Noise Ordinance Hearing:

- Judith Salomon motioned to postpone further review, discussion, and adoption of a Noise Ordinance. Seconded by Charles Philips. Motion carried with two dissenting votes.
- Anna DeVita motioned that, in accordance with Pennsylvania public notice and publication requirements, ordinance advertisements continue to be published in the Borough's newspaper of record and that the same notice information also be posted concurrently on the Borough website during the newspaper publication period as an additional means of public communication. Seconded by Charles Philips. Motion carried.

Rental Property Ordinance Hearing: 6:30 -6:45
Various members of the public spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment to the Rental Property Ordinance language.
Council action following closure of the Rental Property Ordinance Hearing:
Anna DeVita motioned to postpone further review, discussion, and amendment of the Rental Property Ordinance and remain with the current complaint driven basis. Seconded by Charles Philips. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report / Executive Session Summary Statement – Solicitor Battersby
Council met to discuss staffing matters from 5:30 – 6:00PM

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

Administrator's Report:

- Council acknowledged receipt of draft Planning Commission April Meeting Minutes & May Agenda.
- Anna DeVita motioned an expenditure for four solar stops signs at a cost of $2,124.38 each. Second by Judith Salomon. Motion carried.
- Council acknowledged receipt of the Borough Engineer's Report dated May 13, 2026.
- Item 2b – The Administrator will request a proposal for a Dog Park boundary survey, consistent with prior EBACC & Kuhn's Woods surveys.

- The remainder of the report was received by Council for review.
- Anna DeVita motioned to allow the after-hours use of the park for the Library Stargazer Program. Second by Charles Philips. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

- Roberta Teal motioned to accept the April 8, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Gregery Green. Motion carried.
- Judith Salomon motioned to accept the April 8, 2026 Chicken Ordinance Revocation Hearing Meeting Minutes as presented. Seconded by Heather Gentzler. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- Council acknowledged receipt of the **Profit & Loss Statement** and the **Summary of Accounts**.
- Gregery Green motioned payment of the April bills in the amount of **$ 42,540.92** from all accounts. Motion seconded by Judith Salomon. Motion carried.

Robert Larson - Personnel:

- None

Mayor Stephanie Haley:

- The Mayor presented and submitted a written report for Council's review.
- Anna DeVita motioned approval for a parade (as needed) and use of the park after-hours on August 1, 2026. Seconded by Judith Salomon. Motion carried.
- The Mayor thanked Layna Lowry for her participation on the Borough Junior Council.

Junior Council Member Layna Lowry:

- Presented activities report from Bermudian Springs High School ("The BERM").

Message(s) from Council President Robert Larson:

- Council President provided opening remarks regarding public comment procedures and offered background information related to the rescinded chicken permit program and associated public health considerations.

Constituents / Guests Present:

- Angela McKown, John McKown, Melissa Pero, Gage Mauro, Lenora Mauro, David Baubilitz, Andrea Smith, Celeste Wolf, Mike Wolf, Joann Van Scijoe, Jan Hoffmann, Luke Miller, Rhonda Rulen, Brian & Melissa Shipley, Robert Benson, Ron Little Jr., Dave Jacobs, David O. Stephens, Benjamin Smith, Cassandra Romero, Danielle Porter, Tina Gutridge, Jeff Dombach, Jessie Dombach, Benjamin Perrone, Laurie Perone, Scott Boeckel, Andrea Rivera, John Schlaline, Loy Elliott, Dmyiro Roman , Tetiana Roman, Catherine Vasko, Raeann Hamon
- Various members of the public spoke out against repeal of the Chicken Ordinance. Multiple members of the public expressed support for retaining a Chicken Ordinance and continuing to permit chickens within the Borough.

In response to the public outcry, Charles Philips motioned to reconsider the prior action rescinding the Chicken Ordinance. Seconded by Heather Gentzler. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Charles Philips motioned to adjourn at 8:01 PM, seconded by Anna DeVita. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Smith
Administrator / Treasurer