

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

September 12, 2018

A special meeting of the East Berlin Borough Council was held September 12, 2018 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; Donald Dixon; James LeVan; Anne Geiger; David Meixner; and Jason Wood

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Mayor Keith Hoffman; Solicitor Matthew Battersby; Secretary/Treasurer Darlene McArthur; Curvin Dennis; Joy Steinhart; Sue Hess; Marilyn Detweiler; Jackie Dillian; Mary Beth LeVan; Jean Heininger; Sean Miriello; Ralph Myers; Jacque Hoffman; Michael Baker; John Baker; Fran Dudek; Sharon Dudek; Walt Geiger; Larry Fissel; C. Chronister; Rebecca Meixner; Jeanie Wood; Emma Diehl; Rob Larson; Julie Crider; Judi Puffenberger; Carl Puffenberger; Eric Yurick; Stephanie Haley; Greta Haley; Bill Powell; David Woodward; Jan Hoffman; Bev Jadus; Debra Iozza; and James Smith

Special Meeting: President Teal stated that the topic of tonight's special meeting is to discuss the new trash contract and a possible recycling alternative. President Teal stated that the only bid received for residential service as accepted by Council at last week's meeting includes curbside recycling which would increase the quarterly cost from \$52.00 to \$82.00 per quarter, and has caused quite a bit of backlash.

Curvin Dennis stated that he is on a fixed income and opposes the increase. Julie Crider stated that the residents are already overpaying for water and sewer, and she can't imagine paying an even higher cost for trash service. Sean Miriello stated that he is in favor of keeping the curbside recycling at the higher cost. Jan Hoffman wishes to continue curbside pickup to encourage the ease of recycling, and suggests consulting other municipalities to inquire of their costs and services. Marilyn Detweiler stated that she understands there is a proposal for a drop-off location for recyclables which is a favorable alternative to the increased cost. Sharon Dudek opposes the curbside recycling option. Sue Hess favors curbside recycling noting that it is good for the Earth. Rebecca Meixner wishes to continue curbside recycling. Emma Diehl understands the hardship of a \$10.00 per month increase and is in favor of an alternative drop-off location, and she is glad to see the interest and turnout at tonight's meeting. Joy Steinhart favors curbside recycling. Debra Iozza is agreeable to a drop-off location for recyclables. Stephanie Haley inquired what prompted tonight's meeting and favors curbside pickup. Jeanie Wood wishes to continue curbside recycling, states that a drop-off location would have inconvenient hours, and that recycling is important as reusable materials.

There was some further discussion of the cost difference of the bids received with and without recycling. In response to Jason Wood's inquiry, President Teal stated that tonight's meeting was called due to the considerable backlash received to the new contract. Charles Krall discussed the ever-increasing cost of recycling and noted that the cost a recycling dumpster would be \$2,400.00 per year to the Borough, while the cost of curbside pickup would be \$75,000.00 to the residents as reflected in their quarterly trash bill. Mr. Krall noted that the exact location is yet to be determined, and the hours could be adjusted as needed. *Charles Krall motioned to rescind the*

vote to accept the Republic Services bid including curbside recycling; seconded by James LeVan. Per roll call vote, Members voted as follows: Donald Dixon, yes; Anne Geiger, no; Charles Krall, yes; David Meixner, no; Jason Wood, no; James LeVan, yes, and Roberta Teal, yes. Motion passed with a vote of four (4) to three (3).

President Teal discussed the details of the proposed single stream recycling dumpster. *James LeVan motioned to provide an eight (8) cubic yard single stream dumpsters for drop-off recycling; seconded by Charles Krall.* Anne Geiger discussed a program provided by Adams County which offers joint municipal contracts to obtain lower costs for services. The County recommends the Southeast Group Contract, which includes Abbottstown Borough, Cumberland Township, and Straban Township. Mrs. Geiger reported that this contract offers weekly trash pickup, biweekly recycling pickup, and quarterly covered device recycling at a designated location, at a cost of \$47.00 per quarter. The contract also allows Tag-Bag Purchase at a lower cost with a minimum purchase required. Mrs. Geiger received applause for her presentation. Solicitor Battersby warned of possible difficulties in attempting to enter an existing contract. Mrs. Geiger referenced the Assignability of Contract clause in the specifications that allows municipalities to enter the contract at any time if the Collector agrees. Solicitor Battersby stated the Borough's current Trash Collection Ordinance must be repealed to allow this, and that time is very short until the end of the current contract. Solicitor Battersby stated that the current bid must be rejected to proceed on this course. *Charles Krall withdrew his second motion to provide recycling dumpster. No other second was received. Jason Wood motioned to reject all bids; seconded by David Meixner. Per roll call vote, Members cast their votes as follows: Donald Dixon, no; Anne Geiger, yes; Charles Krall, yes; David Meixner, yes; Jason Wood, yes; James LeVan, no; and Roberta Teal, no. Motion carried by a vote of four (4) to three (3). Anne Geiger motioned to repeal the Borough's current Trash Collection Ordinance; seconded by Jason Wood. Per roll call vote, Members cast their votes as follows: Donald Dixon, yes; Anne Geiger, yes; Charles Krall, yes; David Meixner, yes; Jason Wood, yes; James LeVan, no; and Roberta Teal, no. Motion carried by a vote of five (5) to two (2).*

A resident inquired what would be the worst case scenario to proceed with the attempt to enter the joint municipal contract as described. Solicitor Battersby stated that in the worst case, the Borough could be taken to court by Republic Services and have no collection service in place. Solicitor Battersby requested a Committee of Council Members to work with him to discuss possibilities with Adams County. Anne Geiger and Jason Wood volunteered.

Charles Krall motioned to adjourn the special meeting of Council at 8:14 PM; seconded by Donald Dixon. Motion approved with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene McArthur, Secretary