

**NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on October 13, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the New Berlin Borough Community Center located at 318 Vine Street, New Berlin, PA. Those in attendance were Councilman Barry Kuhns, President Julianne Finkbiner, Councilwoman Barbara Stamm, Vice-President Lisa Decker, Councilwoman Betty Kratzer, Councilwoman Meghan Shambach and Councilwoman Lynda Frederick. Rebecca Witmer, Secretary/Treasurer; and Joshua Dreisbach, Chief of Police. Curt Keister, Street Department Supervisor was also present. Solicitor Wendy Cole and Mayor Bonnie Hamilton were absent from the meeting. Visitors present were residents Christine Benfer, Sally Farmer, David Farmer, Nancy Showers, Michael Palermo, and Mary Palermo.

The meeting was brought to order by President Julianne Finkbiner with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – September 8, 2021 – Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the September 8, 2021, council meeting. Vice-President Lisa Decker made a 2nd to the motion. One correction was noted. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

VISITOR BUSINESS – No visitor business was brought before council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –Fire Company Liaison – FEMA Grants - Councilwoman Meghan Shambach stated that the Fire Company is working at closing out their 2020-2021 FEMA grants.

Fire Truck Rides – The fire truck rides during Fire Safety Week were a success.

Fire Responder Halloween Parade – Registration for the New Berlin First Responder Halloween Parade is underway. The parade will be held on October 28th. The New Berlin Police Department will also be participating. Candy donations have been good so far. The corporations in town and around the local area have been very generous.

Finance Committee – The finance committee finished the budget and was before council for consideration. The budget was balanced without a raise in taxes. The police department received all their hours back at the 120 hours a month for patrol officers; the secretary/treasurer received a raise; the contract with Limestone Township for snow removal remained the same at \$5,000.00; there was money set aside for the matching portion of the feasibility study grant.

The budget will need to be advertised in November.

POLICE REPORT – September 2021 Police Report – The September 2021 Police Report was reviewed.

DUI Checkpoint – Chief Dreisbach answered several questions regarding a DUI checkpoint which was held in New Berlin on September 24th.

STREET SUPERVISORS REPORT – The Street Department Supervisor did not have a report.

MAYOR’S REPORT – No report was given in Mayor Hamilton’s absence.

SOLICITORS REPORT – No report was given in the Solicitor’s absence.

NEW BERLIN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Minutes – There were no questions regarding the minutes.

NBMA Board Appointment – The New Berlin Municipal Authority Board does not yet have a recommendation for appointment to the NBMA Board.

2020 Audit Complete – The 2020 New Berlin Municipal Authority Audit is complete. A copy was submitted to the Borough Office as required.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Balance – General Fund – The Secretary/Treasurer reported the balance in the general fund as \$138,415.24. That balance still includes 50% of the American Rescue

Plan Funds.

Seda COG American Rescue Fund Administration – The Secretary/Treasurer is administrating American Rescue Fund projects for municipalities. A contract and more details will be provided soon for council’s consideration. The Walnut Street Culvert/Bridge rehabilitation should be a permitted project due to there being some stormwater runoff issues at that location.

Liquid Fuels Allocation 2022 – The projected 2022 Liquid Fuels Allocation is \$30,054.77.

READING AND SIGNING OF BILLS/PAYROLL – Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a motion to pay the bills with any additions. Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE PAID – GENERAL FUND

M&T Bank – Service Charge	25.00
A-1 Lock and Key	9.20
AT&T Mobility	91.13
B.S. & B. Repair	8.57
Bilger Automotive	360.00
Cardmember Service	547.78
Country Garden Farm Supply	44.93
Jo’s Equipment and Supply	70.72
Martin’s Small Engine Repair	43.95
New Berlin Fire Company	312.85
Pittsburgh Public Safety Supply	755.79
Richard’s Portable Toilets	160.00
Star Seal of Pennsylvania	561.60
Curt Keister	565.82
George Geise	478.04
Jason Engleman	247.85
Joshua Dreisbach	882.94
Martez Faulkner	39.25
Michael Mattocks	1,140.89
Rebecca Witmer	2,719.21
Rex Solomon	626.89
Riley Bremigen	1,019.08
Rodney Styers	100.54
William Stamm	1,340.96
Aurand’s Auto Service, LLC	97.99

Stahl Brothers Garage LLC	194.77
A+ Office Outlet	64.98
Coles Hardware	137.48
The Daily Item	128.55
DE LANGE Landen Financial	75.57
Hometown Disposal, Ip	77.90
PP&L Electric Utilities Corporation	920.48
Windstream Buffalo Valley, Inc.	401.84
PA UC	162.64
AT&T Mobility	91.05
Ervin Blank Associates Inc.	125.00
Fisher Auto Parts	50.36
Kim Barton	65.00
Pittsburgh Public Safety Supply	1,237.98
PP&L	275.40
Richard’s Portable Toilets	160.00
Union County Treasurer	8.00
Total	15,989.94

OLD BUSINESS – No old business was brought for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS – Subdivision Plan – 524 Front Street & 117 Hazel Street – The Union County Planning Department administers subdivision applications for the Borough. An application for subdivision of the property known as 524 Front Street & 117 Hazel Street in the Borough has been submitted to Union County Planning. There are already two addresses on the property even though it is one lot. Each address represents a separate structure on the property. The property in question is a corner lot and is a decent size lot when considering lot size in the Borough. The required square footage of the lot will be a factor. If both lots will not have the required square footage, the subdivision will be denied pending New Berlin Zoning Board consideration. The Borough can provide comment, but a large consideration will be given more to the zoning officer. The zoning officer has a copy of the subdivision plan and will provide comment. Borough Council can either provide comment, not give any comment, and/or give it to the New Berlin Planning Commission for comment.

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Council decided to ask the New Berlin Planning Commission to submit comment to the Borough Office. The Secretary/Treasurer will then submit the comment to Union County Planning on Borough letterhead.

Street Department Log of Snow Maintenance – It was asked if the street department kept a log of winter maintenance as asked last year. The Street Department Supervisor will check into the matter.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion – Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca A. Witmer,
Secretary/Treasurer

MAYOR