

NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A regular meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on April 11, 2018, at 7:00 pm at the New Berlin Borough Community Center located at 318 Vine Street, New Berlin, PA. Present were President Julianne Finkbiner, Vice-President Jared Busby, Councilwoman Elaine Hopkins, Councilwoman Lisa Decker, and Councilwoman Barbara Stamm. Lester Hummel, Street Department Supervisor; Rebecca Witmer, Secretary/Treasurer; Bonnie Hamilton, Mayor; and Wendy Cole, Solicitor were also present. President Pro-Tem Betty Kratzer, Councilwoman Lynda Frederick and Chief of Police L. Eric Hassenplug was absent from the meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 14, 2018 Council Meeting – Vice-President Jared Busby made a motion to approve the March 14, 2018 Council Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

VISITOR BUSINESS – No Visitor Business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Sidewalk Ordinance – The sidewalk ordinance committee explained the reasoning for the content in the recently drafted sidewalk ordinance. Several questions were answered. Enforcement details, reasonable time limits for clearing snow and off sidewalks, reasonable time limits for sidewalk repair, and sidewalks in the PennDOT right-of-way were discussed. Solicitor Cole will make some suggestions as discussed and give a new draft to the committee for review.

Animal Ordinance – The animal ordinance committee has not yet met regarding a new animal ordinance. President Finkbiner stated she would like to see a draft ordinance from the committee by the next council meeting.

Landlord Ordinance Committee – The landlord committee will meet with CKCOG to hear different options for a landlord ordinance. Information from CKCOG was given to the committee to review in preparation for that meeting. President Finkbiner stated she would like to see a draft ordinance from the committee by the next council meeting.

Activities Committee Dates – The activities committee submitted activity dates for approval. The list included: Building of the Butterfly Gardens at the Commons on May 19th, Community Yard Sales on May 5th, Art in the Park on June 9th, July 4th Activities and Fireworks, and New Berlin Day on August 25th.

The Girl Scouts are helping promote the butterfly garden construction and sponsors are being solicited, a budget for the garden has been established by the activities committee.

The Secretary/Treasurer asked for language for the butterfly garden event and the art in the park event so it can be placed on the borough calendar.

Motion – Activity Committee Dates – Vice-President Jared Busby made a motion to approve the Activities Committee Dates as submitted to the Borough Office and distributed to Borough Council. Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Flag Contest – The activities committee is having a flag contest. The contest will be to design a New Berlin flag. The rules and information regarding the contest were established. A flyer should be out to the committee within the next few weeks as the deadline for submission is May 31st. The winner will be announced July 4th. T-shirts will be made to sell as a fundraiser for the activities committee.

POLICE REPORT – March Police Report – The March Police Report was reviewed. No questions were raised.

STREET SUPERVISOR REPORT – Mr. Hummel reported brush and limb pickup will be April 28th.

Mountain Brush Area – Mr. Hummel stated there is an issue with the mountain brush area. He has been getting an exorbitant number of people coming to his house for the key since the hours have been restricted. President Finkbiner stated the reason the hours were restricted was because Mr. Hummel asked council to do something about people from out of town who were coming in to use the area and also because there were people placing non organic material in the area. Mr. Hummel stated the hours aren't long enough and sometimes it's not opened at 8am.

Council discussed several options of mitigating abuse of the mountain brush area.

Motion – Councilwoman Elaine Hopkins made a motion to open the gate on Saturdays from 8am to 5pm. A key can be made available, to residents only, on Wednesdays if prior arrangements for the key are made. A key to the gate should not be given out any other time and the key should not be given out to anyone who is not a resident of New Berlin. Vice-President Jared Busby made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Recreation Complex Maintenance – Mr. Hummel reported that the street department picked up the tasks of trimming the lawn and collecting trash at the recreation complex last year. This year he would like permission for the street department to pick up the task of cleaning the restrooms as the person who is volunteering is no longer interested in performing that task. Council did not have objection to the street department cleaning the restrooms. The borough will secure paper products for the recreation complex and the recreation association will reimburse the borough for those products. Repairs to building fixtures at the recreation complex will be paid for by the borough.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Hamilton stated she already reported her items under the committee reports.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Solicitor Cole reported she has been working on the Walnut Street Bridge issue with the Secretary/Treasurer. The issue is quite complex. Solicitor Cole will provide the Secretary/Treasurer a detailed email for distribution to council outlining the details and issues

before the next meeting. The item will be listed on the May Council Agenda for discussion.

NEW BERLIN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Minutes – There were no questions or discussion regarding the New Berlin Municipal Authority Minutes.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Balance – General Fund - Rebecca Witmer reported the balance in the General Fund as \$39,271.35.

NBES Park Name – Ms. Witmer stated council desired to change the name of the park on Plum and Liberty Street currently referred to as the New Berlin Elementary School (NBES) Park.

Motion – Councilwoman Elaine Hopkins made a motion to change the name of the park now referred to as the New Berlin Elementary School Park to Plum Street Park. Councilwoman Lisa Decker made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Park Project Update – A contractor’s pre-bid meeting will be held on April 24th at 10am at the park site. The project bid opening will be held on April 27th at 10am. Council is expected to award the bid at the May 9th meeting should all DCNR guidelines be met.

Liquid Fuels Audit – The 2016 Liquid Fuels Audit was sent via email. If anyone needs a hard copy or has any questions, please let the Secretary/Treasurer know.

SIGNING OF BILLS/PAYROLL – Motion to Pay Bills – Councilwoman Elaine Hopkins made a motion to pay the bills with any additions. Councilwoman Lisa Decker made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE PAID FROM M&T GENERAL FUNDS ACCOUNT

M&T Bank – March Checking Service Charge	53.01
M&T Bank – April School Payment	1,994.36
New Berlin Fire Company	645.44

Phil Miller's Electric	75.00
Phillips Office Solutions	3.46
PP&L	583.75
Union County Commissioners	28.00
Windstream Buffalo Valley, Inc.	244.03
AT&T	130.76
Kim Barton	35.00
Union County Commissioners	25.00
Willard Battery	31.20
Cardmember Service	130.65
Curt Keister	183.67
Jackson Stroup	209.76
Jacob Shipman	165.26
Leif E. Hassenplug	571.03
Lester O. Hummel	591.35
Michael H. Mattocks	159.35
Rebecca A. Witmer	1,567.89
Rodney E. Styers	109.52
William Stamm	238.90
Coles Hardware	26.10
Kathy A. Hummel Diehl	75.00
PP&L	973.24
Susquehanna Fire Equipment	416.10
The Daily Item	227.65
Windstream Buffalo Valley, Inc.	266.56
PA Department of Revenue	141.05
US Treasury	1,086.94
Berkheimer	282.50
TOTAL	\$11,271.53

DCNR Grant Acct

YSM, Inc.	1,450.00
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OLD BUSINESS – Statement of Financial Interest Forms – Statement of Financial Interest Forms are due to the office by May 1st.

New Berlin Elementary School Use Update – James Downey, the gentleman who was interested in pioneering a charter school at the old elementary school, stopped by the borough office. Should council want to continue with the opening of a charter school, community interest would need to be solicited and a committee put together. At one time, Mr. Downey was agreeable to be the person to move forward with those tasks but he is no longer able to do that. After discussion,

council decided to explore other options for the building.

Community Development Block Grant monies were briefly discussed. No decision was made nor was a consensus reached regarding neither a grant nor the future of the school building.

NEW BUSINESS - Community Clean-up Day – John and Nancy Showers are offering to rent dumpsters for community residents to dispose of unwanted items. It was thought that the date of May 19th would be a good day for the dumpsters and May 12th might be a good day for the community to set items out for people to take for free. The Borough Street Department workers will be on duty for people to bring their unwanted items to the dumpsters. Details regarding allowed items, dumpster placement, and advertisement of the event will be worked out with John and Nancy Showers before the event. Proof of residency will be required to utilize the dumpsters on May 19th.

After discussion, it was decided that May 6th should be the community free day and May 12th will be the community clean-up day for the dumpsters.

The Secretary/Treasurer inquired if John and Nancy Showers would be the ones advertising the event via The Herald or if she would be putting out a flyer for more events. If the borough office is putting out a flyer, information on the events is needed as soon as possible. The last full week in April would be preferred for all information to be received by the office since the free day is May 6th. The Secretary/Treasurer detailed information she would need for the flyer. Vice-President Busby will find out if John and Nancy are putting out The Herald for the events.

Motion – Councilwoman Elaine Hopkins made a motion to make May 6th a town-wide free for the taking day when residents can set out unwanted items in their yard for people to take for free and to make May 12th a town-wide clean-up day allowing residents to use dumpsters that will be rented by John and Nancy Showers. Vice-President Jared Busby made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion – Councilwoman Lisa Decker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-President Jared Busby 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