

**NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on June 9, 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. Wendy Cole, Solicitor; Rebecca Witmer, Secretary/Treasurer; Joshua Dreisbach, Officer in Charge of the Police Department; and Bonnie Hamilton, Mayor were also present. Visitors present were residents Christine Benfer, Nancy Showers, David Farmer, and Michael Palermo, Sally Farmer, and Mary Palermo were present as visitors.

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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – May 12, 2021 – Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May 12, 2021, council meeting. Councilman Barry Kuhns made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

VISITOR BUSINESS – Nancy Showers – Nancy Showers, New Berlin resident, stated she has noticed speeding, noise, unattended burning, and burning of illegal substances. The incidents will be reported. She also stated she wanted Borough Council to be committed to the residents of the Borough should there be repercussions for reporting such incidences and that she is working with other municipalities.

David Farmer – David Farmer, New Berlin resident, stated that when police aren't working on a major crime in the Borough, they could be sitting at the stop sign, looking for speeders, driving around town to look for violations, or walking the streets to introduce themselves to members of the community. Mr. Farmer asked what the priorities of the police department are when there isn't a major crime being investigated. It was explained that all of the things Mr. Farmer mentioned

are being done. It was also explained that council does not direct the police department. Officer-in-Charge Dreisbach addressed Mr. Farmer and explained the priorities of the police department, what the police department does when they come on duty in New Berlin, and reaffirmed that all of the things Mr. Farmer mentioned are being done on a regular basis.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Fire Company Liaison – Events – The Fire Company Liaison reported that the New Berlin Fire Company will have a festival Thursday, June 24th through June 26th and a Chicken BBQ Event on July 10th. The Fire Company expects the return of its carnival next year.

Activities Committee – 4th of July – The fireworks are scheduled for July 4th with a rain date of July 5th. A cardboard boat regatta, the turtle derby, cornhole tournament, and pet parade will be held during the daytime hours.

Community Center Landscaping Committee – Councilwoman Meghan Shambach will send a map of the landscaping to be done at the community center. Discussed was with what material to replace the rotting wooden fence delineating the property border. A decision was made to go with a vinyl fence. A decision was not yet made regarding the style. Also discussed was that the filler to be used between the plantings should remain the same.

Police Committee – OIC Dreisbach Probationary Period – Mayor Bonnie Hamilton stated that the recommendation of the police committee is to end OIC Dreisbach's probation 6 months from his starting date with the New Berlin Police Department pending successful completion of the remainder of his background check. Vice-President Lisa Decker made the motion as stated above. Councilman Barry Kuhns made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

POLICE REPORT – May 2021 Police Report – The May 2021 Police Report was reviewed. No questions were asked.

STREET SUPERVISORS REPORT – Office Paint and Drywall - Street Department Supervisor Curt Keister reported that the contractor who submitted the lowest quote for the office paint and

drywall service has since gotten too busy to fit New Berlin into his schedule. The contractor with the next lowest quote was contacted; he will try to fit the Borough into his schedule.

T-Tag Maintenance – The Street Department Supervisor presented a quote for the T-Tag undercarriage to be sandblasted and epoxy painted to prevent further rust damage. JD welding submitted a quote for \$1,000.00. The other garages that were consulted either did not perform that type of service or did not return contact.

Motion – T-Tag Maintenance - Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a motion to hire JD Welding for the T-Tag maintenance. Vice-President Lisa Decker made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken on the motion with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Crosswalk and Curb Maintenance – Crosswalk and curb maintenance was discussed. PennDOT is responsible for the crosswalk at the main intersection since it was done with geothermal paint. Painting other crosswalks and painting curbs are the Borough’s responsibility. The Street Department Supervisor was urged to add the duties of painting crosswalks and curbs to the Borough Street Department maintenance schedule. The purchase of a paint sprayer to complete those tasks was suggested.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Hamilton stated that, thanks to recent efforts, the feral cat population is significantly better than it has been in years.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Zoning - Solicitor Cole has nothing new to report about the zoning but asked that it go back on the agenda next month.

NEW BERLIN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – Minutes – There was no question regarding the minutes.

Liaison – NBMA Board Member Resignation – Lloyd Swanger submitted a letter resigning from the NBMA Board. Council is required to fill that position. The NBMA Board hopes to soon have a recommendation for council as to who should fill that position.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Balance – General Fund – The secretary/treasurer reported the balance in the general fund as \$130,141.31.

READING AND SIGNING OF BILLS/PAYROLL – Vice-President Lisa Decker 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
Hometown Disposal Ip	72.42
Quest Diagnostics	99.25
Valley Pest Management	525.00
Out Shine Promotions	106.50
DE LANGE Landen Financial Services, Inc.	75.57
Iddings Quarry	66.69
PP&L	370.81
State Industrial Products	4,087.00
US Treasury	1,577.88
PA Department of Revenue	215.29
Cardmember Service	162.22
Central Keystone COG	512.00
Coles Hardware	62.58
Kim Barton	140.00
NAPA Auto Parts	139.99
AT&T Mobility	53.50
Richard’s Portable Toilets	160.00
Topp Business Solutions	24.33
Curt Keister	667.41
George Geise	426.09
Joshua Dreisbach	422.24
Martez Faulkner	131.06
Michael Mattocks	933.81
Rawlin Swanger	218.49
Rebecca Witmer	2,055.03
Rodney Styers	175.98
William Stamm	921.95
Barbara Stamm	150.00
Barry Kuhns	150.00
Betty Kratzer	150.00
Bonnie Hamilton	150.00
Julianne Finkbiner	150.00
Lisa Decker	150.00

Lynda Frederick	150.00
Meghan Shambach	150.00
Jo's Equipment and Supply	1,450.00
AT&T Mobility	58.76
DE LANGE LANDEN Financial Services Inc.	75.57
Hometown Disposal, Ip	73.76
New Berlin Activities Committee	2,000.00
New Berlin Fire Company	375.28
Pittsburgh Public Safety Supply	43.50
PP&L Electric	1,268.01
Windstream Buffalo Valley, Inc.	412.95
AT&T Mobility	54.18
Martin's Small Engine Repair	44.49
Quill Corporation	99.35
Stahl Brothers Garage LLC	199.66
YCG, Inc.	162.50
TOTAL	21,946.10

OLD BUSINESS – PA Beautiful Grant – No direction was given regarding a project for which to apply for the PA Beautiful Grant. However, Councilwoman Stamm is considering a dog park at the recreation complex. The recreation association will write the grant should they agree on that project and receive all the necessary quotes in time.

NEW BUSINESS – CKCOG – Funds Request – The Borough has not yet received the American Rescue Plan funds and, therefore, will not yet discuss the request from CKCOG. A fact sheet regarding permitted use of the American Rescue Plan funds was distributed to council.

Commons Lawnmower – Councilwoman Betty Kratzer reported that the lawnmower that is used to mow the New Berlin Commons is in great disrepair and a new one is needed. After discussion, council agreed to purchase another lawnmower to mow the New Berlin Commons. No motion was needed due to the anticipated cost being under \$2,000.00.

Landlord Registration Fee Exemption Request – A request was made for a landlord registration fee exemption for residents who remain living in their home but sign their house over to their children for life estate purposes. After discussion it was determined that the registration will still be required but the fee will be exempt for those providing proof via deed that the property was signed

over to a relative for life estate purposes. The exemption will only be permitted if the original owner(s) continue to reside in the home.

Fee Resolution – Councilman Barry Kuhns made a motion to add to the fee resolution a fee exemption for anyone having a life estate transfer under the above circumstances. Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion – Councilman Barry Kuhns 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