

**NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on June 8, 2022, 7:00 pm at the New Berlin Borough Community Center located at 318 Vine Street, New Berlin, PA. Those in attendance were Vice-President Barry Kuhns, Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner, Councilwoman Barbara Stamm, Councilman Michael Palermo, Councilman David Wertz, and Councilwoman Lynda Frederick. Wendy Cole, Solicitor; Rebecca Witmer, Secretary/Treasurer; Joshua Dreisbach, Chief of Police; and Scott Benfer, Mayor were also present. President Meghan Shambach was absent from the meeting. Visitors present were residents Christine Benfer, Mary Palermo, David Finkbiner, David Benjo, Edward Pilko, Sharnel Pilko, and Sherry Benjo were present as visitors.

The meeting was brought to order by Vice-President Barry Kuhns with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – May 11, 2022 – Motion – Councilman Michael Palermo made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman David Wertz made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

VISITOR BUSINESS – David Benjo, Borough Resident – Feral Cats – Mr. Benjo stated that he feels the feral cat issue is no longer a problem but more of a sporadic issue. There is a big difference between a problem and a sporadic issue. The reason that changed is because several people in town decided to band together and address the feral cat problem. The results speak for themselves.

David Benjo next stated that he has an issue with his name being in a committee report written by one of the feral cat committee members. The report gave his name, his wife's name, and Bonnie's name were given with regards to a complaint that was lodged regarding skunks being lured to a neighboring property due to his wife feeding feral cats. Mr. Benjo stated that he feels the individual writing that report should have come to speak with them to get their side.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Fire Company Liaison – AEDs – Councilman David Wertz reported that they spoke with Geisinger who may be able to get three AEDs at no cost to the borough. One would be placed at the community center; one would be placed at the borough office; and one would be for the police department. It will take approximately 5 months for the AEDs to arrive once ordered. There will be several applications to fill out but it will all be at no cost. There were no objections to applying for the AEDs through Geisinger.

DCNR Study Committee – Flyers were sent to all residents explaining the feasibility study project and providing information on how to take the recreational needs survey and notifying them of the public meeting to be held on June 16th at 6pm at the New Berlin Community Center.

POLICE REPORT – May 2022 Police Report –The May 2022 Police Report was reviewed. There were no questions or comments.

STREET SUPERVISORS REPORT – New Hire – Street Department Supervisor Curt Keister reported that Casey Zimmerman is still interested in a street department laborer position. The Secretary/Treasurer stated that the application was completed in full.

Borough Office Maintenance and Repairs – The Street Department Supervisor reported that the drywall and painting at the borough office has been completed.

Motion – New Hire – Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner made a motion to hire Casey Zimmerman as a part-time, as needed, Street Department Laborer at the typical starting hourly rate of pay. Councilman David Wertz made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Councilwoman Barbara Stamm abstained from the motion due to being related to Mr. Zimmerman.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Benfer stated it has taken him a little while to get acclimated to his role. He intends to now be more proactive. He wants to hear the needs and desires of the people in town. Mayor Benfer has met with the Pilkos and the Roats regarding the cat issue and heard both sides of the matter. In his opinion, the cat issue is not one that should be before council. If

anyone as any issues with a neighbor in town, he hopes they call him so it can be worked out. He understands that Mrs. Pilko loves the cats and he loves animals too but one of the things that he wouldn't do is allow an animal to come between him and a neighbor. Mayor Benfer stated he knows the issue needs to be resolved but he does not feel it is an issue for council. Further, he hopes New Berlin does not become the laughingstock of the Country because of all the publicity. Nowadays every time someone has an issue, we want to put it on Facebook, we want to call someone to put it all out there but the reality is the people with the issues should be going to each other to work it out. There's no reason to go to the media to call attention to an issue and yet not try to work it out.

Mayor Benfer stated that the issue with the cats should be worked out between the neighbors without involving council and he does not believe the ordinances need to be or should be changed.

There are people in town who are having trouble mowing their grass and he thinks the community should be coming together to help people like that. He is asking for the community to help with matters like that and to make contact him if they are willing to do so.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Park Ordinance – Solicitor Cole reported she emailed out to everyone proposed park ordinance. The ordinance provides for park hours but does not restrict the use of the park for any official, scheduled borough recreational activities.

Motion – Park Ordinance Advertisement – Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner made a motion to advertise the park ordinance. Councilman Michael Palermo made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Code of Conduct –Resolution – A proposed Code of Conduct Resolution was sent for council to review. Vice-President Barry Kuhn asked if there was a desire to pass the resolution.

Motion to Table Resolution – Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a motion to table the discussion about the Code of Conduct Resolution. Councilman Michael Palermo made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and Julianne Finkbiner opposed. Motion carried.

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

Hydrant Flushing – The hydrants in town are currently being flushed.

Water Meters – The New Berlin Municipal Authority purchased 25 new water meters and they are getting a new water meter as well.

Blocked Sewer – There was a blocked sewer line on Market Street. There were stones found in the line.

PennDOT Paving - As reported at a previous meeting, PennDOT will soon be paving state routes in the borough. The manhole covers will be raised when the paving is completed.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Balance – General Fund – The secretary/treasurer reported the balance in the general fund as \$143,633.43.

READING AND SIGNING OF BILLS/PAYROLL – Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner made a motion to pay the bills with any additions. Councilman David Wertz made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken on the motion with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE PAID – GENERAL FUND

M&T Bank – Service Charge	25.00
US Treasury	1,609.18
PA Department of Revenue	230.62
BS&B Repair	57.61
Cardmember Service	595.26
Coles Hardware	36.51
Country Garden Farm Supply	24.35
DE LAGE Landen Financial Services	75.57
Hometown Disposal	94.25
Mifflinburg Lumber	49.95
Mr. Mulch & More	130.00
PP&L	1,396.17
Wendy Yoder, Tax Collector	45.50

Keystone Communications	5,324.32
Cole & Varano	1,037.50
WEX	286.58
Merroth Enterprises LLC	400.00
Richard's Portable Toilets	160.00
Valley Pest Management	600.00
Curt Keister	613.10
George Geise	195.96
Jason Engleman	201.94
Joshua Dreisbach	1,000.07
Martez Faulkner	61.54
Michael H Mattocks	487.23
Rebecca A. Witmer	2,702.00
Rex Solomon	602.64
Rodney E. Styers	89.93
AT&T Mobility	131.17
Barbara Stamm	150.00
Barry Kuhns	150.00
David Wertz	150.00
Julianne Finkbinder	150.00
Lynda Frederick	150.00
Meghan Shambach	150.00
Michael Palermo	150.00
Scott Benfer	150.00
Cardmember Service	527.39
Fisher Auto Parts	60.70
Kim Barton	170.00
New Berlin Activities Committee	2,000.00
Norm's Drywall	4,358.00
Star Seal of Pennsylvania	698.40
Topp Business Solutions	27.37
WEX Bank	335.33
PA Department of Revenue	259.46
US Treasury	1,801.86
Windstream Buffalo Valley, Inc.	415.57
A-1 Lock & Key	134.45
DE LAGE Landen Financial Services	75.57
Hometown Disposal, Ip	100.36
PP&L	1,269.16
Wendy Yoder	45.50
AT&T Mobility	131.17
TOTAL	31,874.24

OLD BUSINESS – No old business was brought before council.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business was brought before council.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion – Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a motion to adjourn.

Councilman David Wertz 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