

**NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on July 14, 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 Meghan Shambach and Councilwoman Lynda Frederick. Wendy Cole, Solicitor; Rebecca Witmer, Secretary/Treasurer; Joshua Dreisbach, Officer in Charge of the Police Department; Curt Keister, Street Department Supervisor; and Bonnie Hamilton, Mayor, were also present. Bonnie Hamilton, Mayor; Betty Kratzer, Councilwoman; and Lynda Frederick, Councilwoman, was absent from the meeting. Visitors present were residents Sarah Ockershauren Delp, Michael Palermo, Mary Palermo, Nancy Showers, Cheryl Hoover, David Farmer, and Sally Farmer were present as visitors.

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

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – June 9, 2021 – Vice-President Lisa Decker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the June 9, 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 – Sarah Ockershauren Delp – New Berlin Resident - Sarah Ockershauren Delp, Borough resident, suggested council utilize zoom meetings or use Facebook live to stream them so more people could participate and feel included in meetings.

David Farmer – David Farmer, New Berlin resident, stated he made an observation that council often immediately acts on a new idea brought before them rather than wait and think of the implications and related issues before deciding on that issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Fire Company Liaison – Events – The Fire Company Liaison reported that the New Berlin Fire Company will hold its Chicken BBQ on July 24th rather than July 10th. The Fire Company festival was a success.

Fire Company Festival – The 2021 Fire Company Festival went well. Next year the Fire Company plans on going back to their usual Fireman’s Carnival which will include rides.

Activities Committee – 4th of July Events and Fireworks – The 4th of July events went well. There were only 6 turtles that qualified for participation in the turtle derby. There were only a few boats that participated in the boat regatta. The water was especially low so the boats had a hard time floating. There were many compliments on the fireworks.

Gazebo Vine & Water Street - The activities committee hired a contractor to power wash the gazebo on Vine and Water Street.

POLICE REPORT – June 2021 Police Report – The June 2021 Police Report was reviewed. Council was pleased to see the amount of hours and activity.

Police Interceptor – The purchase of a used police interceptor was proposed. Finances were discussed as well as the condition of the current vehicles. There is one police interceptor that is of particular interest. The specs for that vehicle were discussed. However, it is not known if it will still be available for purchase after the meeting or if it will already be sold.

Motion – Police Interceptor - Vice-President Lisa Decker made a motion to purchase the police interceptor vehicle of interest for the price as presented. If that vehicle is no longer available, a similar vehicle may be purchased with a purchase price not to exceed \$18,000.00. Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Proposed New Hire – Officer Dreisbach recommended hiring a new officer pending a successful interview with the police committee and a successful background check. The proposed new hire recently submitted an application and currently works part-time at two other nearby departments.

Motion – New Hire – Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a motion to hire a new officer as recommended by Officer Dreisbach, probationary status, pending a successful interview with the police committee and background check. Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

STREET SUPERVISORS REPORT – The Street Department Supervisor had nothing to report.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Hamilton was absent from the meeting. No report was given in her absence.

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. It was noted that the NBMA May minutes reported 8,000 gallons of water used but it was actually 80,000 gallons.

Logging Company – The logging company has not yet contacted the Borough regarding moving the logs across the brush dump site but expects they will do so closer to that time. The Municipal Authority has been very involved in selecting which trees will be logged.

Liaison – NBMA Board Member – There has not yet been any recommendations to fill the spot left open when Lloyd Swanger resigned from the Municipal Authority Board.

Final Payment – Waterline Project – Final payment was made for the recently completed NBMA waterline project.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Balance – General Fund – The secretary/treasurer reported the balance in the general fund as \$115,994.67.

Budget as of Report – A report was distributed to council showing the budget versus actual spending as of July 9, 2021. The report showed 66% of the budgeted income received and 46.4% of projected expenses expended.

American Rescue Plan Funds – The government required local municipalities to make application for the allotted American Rescue Plan Funds. An application has been submitted by New Berlin Borough to receive the funds.

CKCOG – Funds Request – Council tabled the discussion regarding the CKCOG’s request for New Berlin Borough to allot a percentage of the American Rescue Funds to their entity.

Community Center Vinyl Fence – The PHMC was consulted about a vinyl fence to replace the current wooden fence bordering the New Berlin Community Center’s south property line. The PHMC did not have an issue with a vinyl fence.

Councilman Barry Kuhns obtained a price for white vinyl fencing at \$104.89 per 8 foot section. Each 8 foot section includes two posts and two rails. A total of twelve, ten foot sections are needed. Councilman Kuhns will receive quotes for the price to include installation.

DCNR Feasibility Study – Consultant Advertising – The Borough placed the required advertisement for a consultant to complete a feasibility study on the former elementary school building. Free internet advertising was also utilized. Consultant proposals will be opened at the New Berlin Borough Office on August 11, 2021 at 12pm.

Budget Requests due September 1, 2021 – A reminder was made regarding budget requests being due from all department supervisors by September 1, 2021.

READING AND SIGNING OF BILLS/PAYROLL – Councilman Barry Kuhns made a motion to pay the bills with any additions. Vice-President Lisa Decker 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
US Treasury	1,616.16
PA Dept of Revenue	226.56
PA UC	13.39
Berkheimer	444.47
Curt Keister	654.26
George Geise	83.36
Joshua Dreisbach	638.39
Martez Faulkner	323.81
Michael Mattocks	1,146.06
Rawlin Swanger	220.69
Rebecca Witmer	2,476.47
Rodney Styers	134.04
William Stamm	1,233.46
B.S.& B. Repair, Inc.	31.50
Cardmember Service	1,270.06
Coles Hardware	111.57
Emery and Son Lumber, LLC	1,000.00
Informant Technologies, Inc.	1,200.00
Kim Barton	80.00
Richard’s Portable Toilets	160.00
Hometown Disposal, Ip	73.76
PP&L	881.33
The Daily Item	124.95
Windstream Buffalo Valley, Inc.	430.42
TOTAL	14,599.71

OLD BUSINESS – Recycling Grant 2020 – Round 59 – The Borough received notice that they were awarded funds from Round 59 of the DEP Recycling Grant for purchase and installation of new security cameras at the office and recycling center. The grant conditions require the Borough to pay cost for the cameras and install in full and then the Borough will be reimbursed 90% of the total cost.

Landscaping – New Berlin Community Center – Council discussed the landscaping at the community center. It was decided to disregard planting flowers under the windows on the north side of the community center. The landscaping will be done by the street department in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS – PA Beautiful Giant Grant – The New Berlin Recreation Association submitted a grant for a dog park to be placed at the New Berlin Recreation Complex which is Borough property. The Borough should approve submission of the grant since it will be on Borough Property.

Motion - Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a motion to approve submission of a grant for a dog park on Borough Property known as the New Berlin Recreation Complex. Vice-President Lisa Decker made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Front Street Property – 30 Day Extension Requested – Chip Schlegel requested a 30 day extension to demolish the structures on Front Street. The log home has been sold and will be removed very soon. The barn in the back still has electrical wires connected to it and he is waiting for PP&L to disconnect the lines. A 30 day extension will only bring the deadline to this Friday which is only a few days from now.

Motion – 30 Day Extension - Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a motion to grant a 30 day extension to the contract for demolition of the structures. Councilman Barry Kuhn made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Motion – Another 30 Day Extension, If Requested – Vice-President Lisa Decker made a motion to grant another 30 day extension to the contract for demolition of the structures should the contractor request additional time beyond the first 30 day extension. Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

2021 Recycling Grant – DEP Grant Round 60 – Some of the recycling bin lids are cracking and need replaced. A quote was received for 12 lids which will give the Borough a few spare lids for future

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use. The price, with shipping, is \$584.00. With a new DEP Recycling Grant round open, it was decided that the Borough should submit a grant application for the lids.

Motion – DEP Recycling Grant Round 60 – Bin Lids – Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a motion to submit a DEP Recycling Grant for the bin lids. Vice-President Lisa Decker made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion – Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Barry Kuhns 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