

**NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on July 13, 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, Councilman Michael Palermo, Councilman David Wertz, and Councilwoman Lynda Frederick. Wendy Cole, Solicitor; Rebecca Witmer, Secretary/Treasurer; and Scott Benfer, Mayor were also present. President Meghan Shambach, Joshua Dreisbach, Chief of Police, and Councilwoman Barbara Stamm were absent from the meeting. Visitors present were residents Mary Palermo, Nancy Showers, Sharnel Pilko, and Patty Yeager 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 – June 8, 2022 – Motion** – Councilman Michael Palermo made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS – Fire Company Liaison – AEDs** – Councilman David Wertz reported he had nothing new to report except that Geisinger was contacted regarding the AEDs and applications were completed. The fire company is waiting to hear if the grant was approved.

**DCNR Study Committee** – The public meeting concerning the feasibility study for the former New Berlin Elementary School building Flyers was held on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The meeting was held to collect input from New Berlin residents regarding the future of the former school building. Approximately 15 visitors attended the meeting and most visitors present gave a lot of input so the meeting went well.

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

**2005 Crown Victoria – Municibid** – The 2005 Crown Victoria police interceptor sold on Municibid for \$1,550.00.

**DUI Roving Patrol Grant** – The police department received a \$500.00 grant for roving patrol wages. The borough will receive a \$500.00 reimbursement for wages paid while doing speed enforcement.

**STREET SUPERVISORS REPORT** – The street department supervisor had nothing to report.

**MAYOR’S REPORT** – Mayor Benfer thanked everyone who took part in New Berlin’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration. He hopes to be involved more with the celebration next year as well as the New Berlin Activities Committee.

**SOLICITORS REPORT – Amendment to Junk Ordinance** – Solicitor Cole sent an amendment to the junk ordinance for discussion next month. Council previously discussed including a clause to allow removal of abandoned vehicles from private property. There is already a clause that allows removal of abandoned vehicles from public property and streets.

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

**Water Meter Replacement** – Councilman Michael Palermo stated he was not able to attend the last meeting but the municipal authority should be in the process of replacing some of the water meters that are in disrepair. Once those are done, they will move forward with replacing some of the older meters.

**Water Leak** – The authority is currently looking for a water leak that they believe may be in the Vista Heights area.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Balance – General Fund** – The secretary/treasurer reported the balance in the general fund as \$120,369.88.

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

**BILLS TO BE PAID – GENERAL FUND**

Curt Keister	512.59
George Geise	424.02
Jason Engleman	110.58
Joshua Dreisbach	1,150.55
Martez Faulkner	109.63
Michael H Mattocks	496.34
Rebecca A. Witmer	2,578.27
Rex Solomon	462.40
Rodney E. Styers	107.54
Cardmember Services	2,523.85
Kim Barton	50.00
Richard’s Portable Toilets	160.00
The Daily Item	85.80
PA Department of Revenue	258.99
US Treasury	1,837.68
WEX	263.96
Coles Hardware	52.18
Environmental Planning & Design	10,793.33
Hometown Disposal, Ip	101.97
Informant Technologies, Inc.	1,320.00
New Berlin Fire Company	299.43
PP&L	878.00
S.J. Eaton Plumbing & Heating	192.11
SEDA-COG	271.95
Windstream Buffalo Valley, Inc.	419.56
Berkheimer	424.41
PA UC	13.15
Ace of Signs	418.52
PP&L	292.31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,609.12</b>

**Motion – Park Ordinance Advertisement** – Councilwoman Julianne Finkbinder made a motion to pass the park ordinance as advertised. Councilman David Wertz made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Zoning Officer Hourly Rate** – The zoning officer met with the secretary/treasurer to express his need for a pay rate increase. The zoning officer’s current hourly pay is \$10.06 per hour. Due to inflation and high gas prices, his current hourly rate does not even cover his round-trip gas expense when coming to the borough to meet someone who needs a zoning permit.

**Motion** - Councilwoman Julianne Finkbiner made a motion to raise the rate of pay for the zoning officer to \$15.00 per hour. Councilman David Wertz made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Zoning Permit Fee** – The finance committee will determine if they recommend raising the zoning permit fee during budget time.

**OLD BUSINESS** – No old business was brought before council.

**NEW BUSINESS** – No new business was brought before council.

**ADJOURNMENT – Motion** – Councilman David Wertz made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Michael Palermo made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca A. Witmer,  
Secretary/Treasurer

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MAYOR