

**NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

A regular meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on August 14, 2019, at 7:00 pm at the New Berlin Borough Community Center located at 318 Vine Street, New Berlin, PA. Present were President Julianne Finkbiner, President Pro-Tem Betty Kratzer, Councilwoman Barbara Stamm, Vice-President Elaine Hopkins, Councilwoman Lynda Frederick, Councilwoman Lisa Decker, and Councilwoman Meghan Shambach. Wendy Cole, Solicitor; Bonnie Hamilton, Mayor; Curt Keister, Street Department Supervisor; Rebecca Witmer, Secretary/Treasurer and L. Eric Hassenplug, Chief of Police were also present. Brett Runkle, David Farmer, Sally Farmer, John Showers, Nancy Showers, Ronald Blatchley, and Cheryl Hoover, all residents and part of the New Berlin Citizen's Group, were present to speak at the meeting to ask the council to consider changing certain parts of and for better enforcement of the burning ordinance. Betty Hollenbach, Amy Runkle, Bethany Runkle, and Frances Blatchley were also present as part of the citizens group but did not speak. Barry Kuhns, Larry Harder, and another unidentified person were also present.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 10, 2019** - Discussion was brought regarding the July 10, 2019 minutes. Vice-President Elaine Hopkins made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**VISITOR BUSINESS – Burning Enforcement Request – Brett Runkle** – Brett Runkle stated he and a group of citizens were present to ask for better enforcement of the burning ordinances. Mr. Runkle spoke to council about the burning ordinance. The focus of his statements centered around the premise that the burning of illegal items is hazardous to the health of the community.

**Cheryl Hoover** – Cheryl Hoover stated she was present to voice her concerns about the health and safety of burning within the borough, with her primary focus being on safety. Ms. Hoover's statements centered around the premise that if there are consistent efforts to enforce illegal burning, and if there are consistent efforts to minimize illegal burning, the practice of outdoor

burning would become safer.

Ms. Hoover also asked that council review and consider updating the ordinances to address burning barrel placement with regard to their proximity in relation to structures and also burning on windy days.

**Nancy Showers** – Mrs. Showers stated that the August 2008 “New Berlin Herald” was distributed to every resident in New Berlin and included an article about burning and details about New Berlin’s burning ordinance. Even though it’s been 11 years since that article and the problems still persists. Ms. Showers beseeched council for a better method of enforcing the ordinance.

**Sally Farmer** – Ms. Farmer stated she would like to see a change in the way the town approaches the problem of illegal burning. The past advice of council was to report violators to the police or approach violators about their illegal burning. Ms. Farmer stated she has made several reports to the police about illegal burning and found it very unpleasant to do so. One of the strengths of New Berlin is the sense of community. Asking people to report their neighbors is erroneous, unpleasant, and counterproductive to New Berlin’s harmonious environment. Ms. Farmer stated she is no longer willing to report such activity. She asked council to find a better method of enforcing illegal burning.

**John Showers** – Mr. Showers stated he has been a resident of New Berlin for 67 years and stated he hopes to spend more time in New Berlin under more pleasant circumstances and be able to breathe when he retires in January. He remembers when his Mom and Dad used to burn a lot in New Berlin. In those days, people just burned paper, they didn’t burn anything else. People had a compost pit where they placed their garbage. Mr. Showers stated he is not asking for people to stop burning paper but he would like people to stop burning plastic. He would like to see better enforcement of the ordinance.

**David Farmer** – David Farmer read a letter addressed to Members of the New Berlin Borough Council and signed by Ronald Blatchley, Nancy Showers, John Showers, David Farmer, Sally Farmer, Bethany H. Runkle, John Showers, Amy L. Runkle, Brett T. Runkle, Frances Blatchley, Betty

Hollenbach, and Cheryl Hoover. The letter stated as follows:

“Dear members of the New Berlin Borough Council,

On several occasions over the past few years, a concern about illegal burning has been brought to the attention of the Borough Council. Complaints include people burning at prohibited times, burning prohibited items, burning on windy days, and allowing unattended burners to smolder. We are here to report that the problem persists and to request your attention to this quality-of-life issue.

Since past efforts to address this problem have been unsuccessful, we are writing to gain clarity on the Borough’s plans for better enforcing these ordinances. Our specific question is:

Q1. What plans does the Borough have for effectively enforcing the existing ordinances?

In the past the Borough has suggested that individuals should approach people who are burning illegally. We find that suggestion to be unreasonable because it pits neighbor against neighbor. We also find it odd that the Borough treats violations of these laws differently than violations of other laws. Past efforts have also included mailing the ordinances to town residents, and asking people who notice illegal burning to contact the police. If your intention is to continue with the current approach, which clearly is ineffective, then we ask:

Q2. How do you plan to address the concerns of those community members who have been impacted by these persistent violations to the point that they feel compelled to petition the Borough Council?

To clarify our request, the ordinances we refer to are 88·6, which prohibits all burning on public ground or in close proximity to any structure, and 2001· 3, which prohibits burning garbage, plastics, newspapers, magazines, and several other substances, and specifies when and how legal substances may be burned.

We hope to enter into a constructive dialogue where, together, we can work to find a satisfying resolution to this matter. We look forward to discussing this at future Council meetings. We can also be reached by email at [citizens@newberlinpa.org](mailto:citizens@newberlinpa.org).”

Mr. Farmer stated the letter seems more harsh than intended but it ends very well. The citizen’s group wishes to enter into a productive dialogue with council to come up with a resolution of this matter.

**Larry Harder** – Mr. Harder stated that paper takes over 100 years to dissolve. We have enough landfills and we do not need more. All of the paper from New Berlin could be burnt into ash rather than waiting for it to dissolve. The dissolving of the paper also causes more methane gas to be

released into the atmosphere which poses another issue to the environment.

**Barry Kuhns** – Mr. Kuhns stated he burns but he burns legally and properly. He opposes any type of burn ban and has talked to others that oppose it as well. Mr. Kuhns asked that council not make a decision to change burning laws within the borough without first making it known to the entire town that they are considering a burning ban.

**Ronald Blatchley** - Mr. Blatchley stated that he has lived in New Berlin for 52 years, is a chemist, and wants to say that methane gas has no odor. He is asking that the current ordinance be enforced. When people put their paper inside a plastic bag, take it to the burning barrel, and throw it inside their barrel to burn with the plastic bag, that is an infraction and should be addressed.

**Chief of Police – L. Eric Hassenplug** – Chief Hassenplug stated that the police department follows up on every complaint received. The police cannot be in town every day and all times of the day. Chief Hassenplug stated that the complaints about smoldering are not addressed because smoldering is not against the ordinance unless what is smoldering is garbage and not paper. Mayor Hamilton stated she directed the police force to patrol for illegal burning on days they are working in New Berlin. Mayor Hamilton also stated that it is a concern that New Berlin does not have a lot of police hours and there are people who specifically wait to burn until they know the police are not on duty. Chief Hassenplug continued stating that the police generally give a warning for a first offense of an ordinance violation. If there is a repeat offense, a citation is issued. Of the burning complaints received, none of the violators have been repeat offenders. Nancy Showers inquired if that was the case, why they smelled something burning again last evening. Chief Hassenplug stated that whether it is a criminal complaint, ordinance violation, or other matter; if an officer does not witness the act taking place, an arrest cannot be made unless there is a witness willing to come forward. Ms. Showers stated that what the officer is saying is that the ordinance is not enforceable. Chief Hassenplug stated that is not what he said. Further, the police either need a witness to come forward or the borough needs to have police coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and also be present wherever and whenever the act is taking place in order for any crime to be prosecuted. Ms. Showers inquired if the officer is able to defer the discussion until another time and sit down to talk with the group. Chief Hassenplug stated that is something council would need

to decide. Sally Farmer stated the current discussion shows that the current method of enforcing ordinances is not sustainable and is not working.

**Councilwoman Betty Kratzer** – Councilwoman Kratzer stated she has lived in New Berlin for 80+ years. The council is present to help people if they can but they are not present to be the bad guys. If the group wants to see the ordinance changed, they should be out knocking on doors and getting signatures of people in town that are against burning. If they obtain signatures of more than 50% of the townspeople, then council will see what they can do. Until then, it's up to people to report it so police can enforce violations.

**Mayor Bonnie Hamilton** – Mayor Hamilton stated she disagrees. People are breaking the law and are ignoring ordinances. People who are breaking the law should be held accountable for those actions. It is not up to the townspeople to be nosy neighbors. She stated that council is present to represent the people and hear their grievances. The law enforcement should be enforcing those laws. Councilwoman Kratzer stated that is correct but people need to be reported in order to do so. Otherwise, if they want to see something changed, they should obtain signatures to do so. Mayor Hamilton stated no one present stated they wanted to ban burning. They said that a law is being broken and they want it enforced.

Council discussed the process of changing an ordinance, alternative possibilities for enforcement, and some of the roadblocks to the possible alternative enforcement. It was stated that borough does have other means of code enforcement for \$64.00 per hour and it was stated that, for that enforcement, a witness would still need to make a report. The possibility of a neighborhood watch was discussed but the conclusion was the same, people still need to make a report to the police for violations to be enforced.

**Chief Hassenplug** – Chief Hassenplug stated the police do enforce the law and do not have a problem doing so. However, if they are not present, they need information to go on. At the very least, they need an address where a violation is happening. When a report is made, the police always follow up on it. When speaking of the burning ordinance, there have not been any repeat offenders.

**John Showers** – Mr. Showers inquired if the police could patrol for illegal burning on some Tuesday and Thursday evenings and, while they are doing that, do some speed enforcement as well. Word would spread that the police are driving down alleys and looking for burning violations.

**Nancy Showers** – Nancy Showers stated the issue needs to be addressed. The group will not drop the issue. They will be coming back to council meetings for solutions.

President Finkbiner assured the group that council continuously seeks more part-time police officers in order to get more police hours in the borough and it is not something they give up on.

There was discussion of the possibility of the group meeting with a sub-group of council to come up with solutions. A member of the citizen group again stated the people in their group do not want to report their neighbors. There was further discussion about instances of illegal burning and ways to help with enforcement.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS - Activities Committee – New Berlin Day** – The Activities Committee is looking for volunteers and people willing to donate baked goods. The activities committee meeting is tomorrow evening if anyone wishes to attend. There was encouragement to lead potential volunteers to the activities committee. Councilwoman Stamm expressed doubt that the New Berlin Day celebration will be able to continue after the 50<sup>th</sup> year, which is next year, due to lack of volunteers.

**New Berlin School Building Committee** – Councilwoman Shambach stated she obtained several estimates to get an idea of the cost for the New Berlin Elementary asbestos removal, rehabilitation, and demolition.

The estimated lump sum total from Elk Environmental is \$97,730.00. That number does not include mold remediation.

Zartman Construction gave a ballpark estimate of ballpark of \$150,000 to \$200,000 for demolition.

Zartman Construction also gave a ballpark estimate of 1.3 million dollars for rehabilitation of the same. The estimate does not include mold or asbestos removal. There was discussion that the estimate included restoration of the entire former school building but it is possible that restoration of the entire building is not needed because some of the building could be demolished rather than restored. For instance, any new proposed use of the building may only need 9,000 square foot to operation rather than the current square footage. A feasibility study will help determine future use, the square footage needed, and aid in getting grants.

A new 4,000 square foot turnkey building can be placed on the land for \$800,000.

If council wanted to start with the asbestos removal there are loans available through the USDA for zero percent interest. Grant money is available for certain phases of the building, depending on the decision for its future use. However, removing the asbestos must be done regardless of whether council decides to demolish or rehabilitate. Councilwoman Shambach does not recommend seeking a grant for asbestos removal since there aren't any funds available and the wait time for any funds that may be available would take a year and a half to two years to receive, which would hold up the process even further. The process would be more expedient if the borough obtains a loan for the asbestos removal. President Finkbiner stated the finance committee will talk about options during their upcoming budget meetings.

Councilwoman Shambach is also looking into and will continue to look into funds that may become available through a new program Governor Wolfe is proposing called "Restore Pennsylvania".

Councilwoman Stamm inquired if a new roof would be installed before the removal of the asbestos and remediation of the mold or after. It was answered that, if it was decided to remediate, the roof may need to be done before the mold is remediated but there is mold in some of the sections of the roof so that would need to be remediated. A new roof would likely not need to be placed before the asbestos removal. However, it would be wise to trust a contractor to make those decisions.

A tour of RB Winter State Park Educational Center is being organized for the council people on the school committee and UC Soil Conservation District.

There was more discussion about the feasibility study and the square footage of the current building and the proposed building.

**POLICE REPORT- August Police Report** - Council reviewed the August police report. No comments were made regarding the report.

An inquiry was made about the recent new hire. Chief Hassenplug stated the officer will likely be resigning due to obtaining another position a great distance from New Berlin.

An advertisement was already placed for a part-time police officer. If there are enough acceptable candidates, borough council desires to hire two more part-time officers.

**STREET SUPERVISOR'S REPORT – Cherry Street Culvert** – The inlet at Cherry Street has been replaced. The street department supervisor inspected and approved the completed work.

Last month's minutes reflect that while council approved the work to be done, no official motion was made.

**Motion** – Vice-President Elaine Hopkins motion to hire Fairchild Brothers, Inc. to replace the Cherry Street Inlet and add an additional inlet on the west side of Cherry Street. Betty Kratzer made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Street Department Cell** – The street department supervisor does not feel the need to carry a borough cell phone when he has his own that he has been using. Council desired to cancel the cell phone number. The secretary/treasurer will make sure the phones are still on a 30-day contract and, if so, will cancel the service. The finance committee will address full and/or partial

reimbursements for personal cell phone usage for all borough workers.

**Dirt and Gravel Road Training** – A Dirt and Gravel Road Training will be held on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> in Danville. At least one of the street department personnel is required to complete the training if the borough wishes to obtain a Dirt and Gravel Grant for Walnut Street Bridge. The street department supervisor guaranteed that someone from the street department will attend the training.

**High Street Culvert Update** – The High Street Culvert has been completed and the roadway is now back open.

**Cinder Spreader** – There was discussion about quotes received for an additional cinder spreader to aid the department with winter maintenance. At the present time, only one truck has a cinder spreader. If the truck that has the cinder spreader attached breaks down, the workers have no ability to spread cinders. Once ordered, they take approximately 6 months to arrive so there's no hurry to approve since it will not be received by the coming next winter season. The purchase will be considered by the finance committee for next year's budget.

**Salt and Cinders** – The street department supervisor stated the cinders being used tend to clog pipes and storm drains. The only other alternative is using pure salt which is very expensive and there will be other issues without using cinders. The street department supervisor stated he doesn't have an alternative answer but the borough does not have the equipment to unclog the pipes and storm drains.

**Pressure Washer** – A pressure washer will be purchased by the street department. The street department is trying to determine if they want the feature that heats water and if the cost difference between that and a regular, cold water pressure washer is worth it. The hot water will clean better, especially if any surface they are cleaning has any amount of grease on it.

**Fountain for Plum Street Park** - The drinking fountain for Plum Street Park was received last week and will hopefully be placed in the near future.

**MAYOR'S REPORT** – Mayor Hamilton stated she had nothing to report other than what she had to say under the activities committee report.

**SOLICITORS REPORT – Mid-Penn Engineering Invoices** – The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

**608 Spangler Street** – Solicitor Cole stated the Writ of Possession was granted to the borough on August 1, 2019. The demolition of the structure is anticipated to happen mid-September.

**407-411 Front Street** – The engineer report was received. Due to the late hour it was received, any questions can be forwarded to the secretary/treasurer by the end of the month and she will forward them to the engineer. The engineer report was forwarded to Attorney Showalter to give to the Greiners for consideration since they were interested in purchasing the property.

**NEW BERLIN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY - Minutes** – There were no questions about the NBMA Minutes.

**Water Advisory FB Post** – Councilwoman Shambach stated the New Berlin Bulletin Board Facebook Page, which is not administered by the borough, had posted something about using water in certain ways during the boil water advisory without first boiling the water, which is not safe. While the borough does not administer the page, it is something to keep an eye on for safety reasons.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Balance – General Fund** - Rebecca Witmer reported the balance in the General Fund as \$111,955.81.

**Balance – Liquid Fuels** - Balance in the Liquid Fuels account was reported as \$78,534.32

**Budget Report** – Everyone received a report showing the borough's actual income and expenses compared to those budgeted. The report showed data from January 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019. The borough has received 78% of the projected income for the year and has expended 65.6% of the

anticipated expenditures.

**Motion to Pay Bills** – Councilwoman Lisa Decker made a motion to pay the bills with any additions. Vice-President Elaine Hopkins made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Motion – Liquid Fuels Fund Use** – Vice-President Elaine Hopkins made a motion to pay Livic Civil \$1,800.00 from the Liquid Fuels PLGIT account for engineer services related to the High Street culvert and roadway. Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Motion – Liquid Fuels Fund Use** – Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a motion to pay Fairchild Brothers, Inc. \$41,964.58 from the Liquid Fuels PLGIT account for services to repair the High Street culvert and roadway. Vice-President Elaine Hopkins made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**2020 Budget** – The secretary/treasurer stated the finance committee and council will soon need to start considering the 2020 budget. The borough’s annual budget is approximately \$250,000. That number is for operating expenses alone with a very small amount of savings for future projects and needs. Over the past 3 to 5 years the borough has had net profit of approximately \$5,000 to \$9,000 per year. There are a number of projects that need to be done in the borough and issues to consider which may bring about more staffing hours or higher pay rates. When going into the budget meetings, it would be good for the finance committee and the treasurer to know what priorities council has for 2020 as the knowledge will help the budget process go more smoothly. Each individual council member should start to consider what they consider as priorities and then try to come to a consensus as to what council, as a whole, should consider a priority.

**BILLS TO BE PAID FROM M&T GENERAL FUNDS ACCOUNT**

M&T Bank – July Checking Service Charge	25.00
M&T Bank – August School Payment	1,994.26
PA UC	10.08
Cardmember Service	1,400.02

Informant Technologies	1,200.00
PP&L Electric Utilities	878.41
Windstream Buffalo Valley, Inc.	260.40
PP&L	345.88
RR Donnelley	39.80
Union County Tax Claim Bureau	5.00
AT&T Mobility	133.62
Central Keystone COG	112.00
Hometown Disposal, lp	71.34
New Berlin Fire Company	10.00
Friedman Electric	98.99
Union County Commissioners	1.00
Berkheimer	337.60
Marco Technologies, LLC	29.46
Richard's Portable Toilets	160.00
New Berlin Fire Company	10,186.00
Benjamin Pilko	4.85
Curt Keister	673.26
Jacob Shipman	246.31
Leif E. Hassenplug	476.51
Michael H. Mattocks	872.42
Rebecca A. Witmer	1,896.39
Rodney E. Styers	104.89
William Stamm	1,003.94
American Rock Salt Company LLC	1,482.49
Cardmember Service	511.19
Coles Hardware	15.10
Friedman Electric Supply Co, Inc.	54.08
Hometown Disposal, lp	71.34
Kim Barton	35.00
Mifflinburg Lumber	144.80
PP&L	1,242.82
The Daily Item	213.90
Windstream Buffalo Valley	264.23
Fairchild Brothers, Inc.	8,377.00
CKCOG	1,479.50
PA Department of Revenue	205.20
US Treasury	1,531.74

TOTAL	\$38,205.82
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**BILLS TO BE PAID FROM LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT**

Livic Civil	1,800.00
Fairchild Brothers, Inc.	41,964.58
TOTAL	43,764.58

**OLD BUSINESS – Update on Pollination Gardens & Motion for Application** – Councilwoman Shambach gave an update on the pollination gardens stating that she will be attending the upcoming NBMA meeting to request permission for the borough to place the pollination gardens on the their property west of town. An easement will need to be prepared and signed if they approve.

**Motion Application for Pollination Grant** – Vice-President Elaine Hopkins made a motion to submit application for the grant for the pollination gardens. Councilwoman Lisa Decker made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Towing Ordinance** – Adoption of an amendment to the towing section of the borough’s vehicle ordinance was discussed at the last meeting and advertising for the same was approved. The secretary/treasurer verified that the ordinance was advertised in the paper on July 19, 2019.

**Motion Adoption of Towing Ordinance** – Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a motion to adopt the towing ordinance. Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Bing’s Auto** – Council reviewed the fee schedule and certificate of liability for Bing’s Auto in Mifflinburg as required by the vehicle code and found it acceptable.

**Motion Towing Company** – Councilwoman Lisa Decker made a motion to accept Bing’s Auto in Mifflinburg as an acceptable service to use for towing vehicles. Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**CKCOG Fire Assistance – Secure Structure** – At last month’s meeting Jim Emery from CKCOG told the fire company the COG could help them out as far as going through the building after a fire to check for safety issues. Council should be informed that the borough does get charged the \$64.00 per hour rate for those services. If the fire company needs the COG’s services for a fire situation, council does not have an issue with them being used but someone should also make the fire

company aware of the circumstances and have them use discretion.

**Community Center Parking Lot Lease** – At the last meeting, council agreed to renew and sign a 10-year lease with the New Berlin Fire Company for the extra community center parking lot but an official motion was never made.

**Motion to Sign Community Center Parking Lot Lease** - Councilwoman Lisa Decker made a motion to renew and sign the 10-year lease for the New Berlin Community center parking lot. Vice-President Elaine Hopkins made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS – Vacancy Board** – Council needs to appoint someone to the vacancy board due to the passing of long-time vacancy board member Mary Ellen Egli. There was discussion about asking several people in town who have showed interest in past vacant positions. There was also discussion about putting a post regarding the vacancy on the New Berlin Facebook Page. A letter of interest must be received by the borough office for the position.

**RTK Resolution** – A councilman from the small Borough of West Easton reached out to other public agencies asking them to consider passing a resolution requesting the Pennsylvania State Legislature to enact an amendment to: 1. Define the words, “harass” and “overburden” in the current Right to Know Law. 2. Alternatively, provide a venue of remedy for a public body to solicit relief from the Office of Open Records or the Courts, to address those who could be recognized as a “Vexatious Requester.”

The request came with an explanation that while he is an advocate and supporter of transparency, there are those who have weaponized the RTKL asking for "metadata" from all emails received, browser history from all computers, license information for your agency's PDF program, and other nonsense, taking 20-30 hours per week of employees' time fulfilling the multiple requests, or answering appeals to the Office of Open Records when something doesn't exist, or does not meet the expectations of a vexatious requester.

**Motion RTK Resolution** – Vice-President Elaine Hopkins made a motion to pass New Berlin Resolution 2019-4 Requesting Amendment of the Right to Know Law Requesting Relief from Vexatious Requesters. Councilwoman Lisa Decker made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Liberty Street Bridge Project – Request or Engineering Services** – A request for engineering services for the Liberty Street Bridge Project will be sent out in a few days. Proposals will be sent to the borough in sealed envelopes marked “Engineer Proposal”. Envelopes will be opened at the office, by the Secretary/Treasurer at the end of August on a certain date and at a certain time designated and advertised in the newspaper. The opening will need to be witnessed since if they are not being opened during a public meeting. Council will be expected to award the services at the September Council Meeting.

**Citizen Letter to Council - Burning** – Council received a letter signed by Borough Resident Lynn Shambach. President Julianne Finkbiner read the letter aloud as follows:

“Dear Council,

Recently I have been accused of a violation of the Boro's guidelines on burning in my facility at 600 Market St., New Berlin, Pa. 17855, I would like to state that my accuser has not seen fit to confront me on my supposed violation, but has in fact placed upon our police department this responsibility. I see the New Berlin Police very seldom and I am sure that the added responsibility of following up on citizens making accusations (unclarified) that so and so may have operated their burn barrel improperly is NOT how I want their salary to be spent, I desire the other things they may do that benefit the Community.

I recently observed one of our good citizens under the guise of walking her dog, come onto my property and physically look at and smell my barrel to see if I had used the facility on a Wednesday afternoon. I do not want my rights as a citizen of New Berlin to be altered by someone who has an agenda. I do not oppose someone coming onto my property but do object to trespass when I have not authorized their presence.

I question the need for certified mail and then a follow up in regular mail, as I think the Borough must maintain a budget on their expenses.

If this is a serious matter let them confront citizens and get a petition and place on the ballot and let the people decide.”

August 14, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT – Motion** – Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice-President Elaine Hopkins 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

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MAYOR