

**NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on August 11, 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. Bonnie Hamilton, Mayor; Wendy Cole, Solicitor; Rebecca Witmer, Secretary/Treasurer; Joshua Dreisbach, Officer in Charge of the Police Department; Curt Keister, Street Department Supervisor were also present. Visitors present were residents Christine Benfer, Sally Farmer, and David Farmer.

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

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – July 14, 2021** – Vice-President Lisa Decker made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the July 14, 2021, council meeting. Councilman Barry Kuhns made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**VISITOR BUSINESS** – There was no visitor business brought before council.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS – Police Committee** – The police committee made a recommendation to hire Jason Engleman as a probationary police patrol officer.

**Motion** - Councilman Barry Kuhns made a motion to hire Jason Engleman as a probationary police patrol officer at the standard starting rate. Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Fire Company Liaison – Events** – The Fire Company Liaison reported that the New Berlin First Responders may do another Halloween Trick-or-Treat Parade. The tentative date is October 28, 2021 but the fire company still needs to confirm.

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

**Police Interceptor** – The police interceptor which was proposed to be purchased at the July meeting was no longer available. However, Milton Police Department may put one of their interceptors up for sale soon. The Officer-in- Charge will continue to pursue the purchase of a police interceptor.

**Firearm Purchase** – The police department is short on handguns due to so many new hires. A new Glock 22 will need to be purchased for the police department.

**Motion – Firearm Purchase** - Vice-President Lisa Decker made a motion to purchase a handgun in the Borough’s name and to complete and sign all necessary paperwork. Councilwoman Shambach made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Body Worn Camera Grant** – Officer-in-Charge Dreisbach would like for him and the Secretary to work on submitting a grant for body worn cameras for the police department. The Borough would be required to match the federal grant funds. The grant would be for three body worn cameras, software, charging station, and any other necessary equipment associated with the cameras. The grant will be for \$6,000.00 and the Borough matching funds would be for the same amount.

**Motion – Body Worn Camera Grant** – Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a motion to apply for the federal grant and commit \$6,000.00 in funds to match the grant. Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**STREET SUPERVISORS REPORT – Resignation of Rawlin Swanger** - The Street Department Supervisor reported the resignation of Rawlin Swanger, Street Department Laborer. Mr. Swanger resigned due to personal reasons.

**Motion – Resignation Acceptance** – Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a motion to accept the resignation of Rawlin Swanger. Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**New Hire – Rex Solomon** – The Street Department Supervisor requested Rex Solomon as a new Street Department Laborer. Mr. Solomon is a long-time New Berlin resident who recently submitted an application for part-time employment.

**Motion – New Hire** – Councilman Barry Kuhns made a motion to hire Rex Solomon on an as needed basis at the standard starting street department rate. Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**Fall Limb and Brush Pick-Up** – Council discussed whether or not to have the Street Department Supervisor schedule a Fall Limb and Brush Pick-Up.

**Fall Limb and Brush Pick-Up - Motion**– Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a motion for the Street Department Supervisor to schedule a Fall Limb and Brush Pick-Up. Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. There was no vote on the motion.

**MAYOR’S REPORT** – Mayor Hamilton had nothing to report.

**SOLICITORS REPORT – Zoning** - Solicitor Cole has nothing new to report.

**Empty Lot at Front Street – Former 407-411 Front Street** - Discussed was whether the structures were demolished at the empty lot on Front Street. The log home has been removed but the lines are still attached to the garage at the rear of the property. The Secretary/Treasurer will make some telephone calls for updates and to try to keep things progressing.

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

**NBMA Board Seat** – The New Berlin Municipal Authority Board is talking to a few people regarding

the empty NBMA Board seat and hopes to have a recommendation for council at the next meeting.

**Sewer Project** – The NBMA is looking into replacing a few sewer lines at the lower end of town. More updates will be coming regarding those projects.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Balance – General Fund** – The secretary/treasurer reported the balance in the general fund as \$158,856.12. That balance includes 50% of the American Rescue Plan Funds recently received. The Secretary/Treasurer will confirm the date but she believes the American Rescue Plan Funds need to be expended by December of 2024.

**Ford Taurus Police Car – Final Payment** – The final payment on the Ford Taurus Police Car will be made on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**CKCOG – Funds Request** – Council did not make a motion to grant CKCOG’s request for New Berlin Borough to allot a percentage of the American Rescue Funds to their entity.

**DCNR Feasibility Study Committee** – The Study Committee will be meeting tomorrow evening to review the two consultant proposals received.

**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** – Vice-President Lisa Decker made a motion to pay the bills with any additions. Councilman Barry Kuhns 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
Union County Treasurer	1.25
AT&T Mobility	91.13
DE LANGE Landen Financial Services, Inc.	75.57

Ervin Blank Associates, Inc.	125.00
Pittsburgh Public Safety Supply	3,540.00
PP&L	353.92
Union County Treasurer	171.00
Gessner Excavating	200.00
LB Water, Inc.	4.35
Martin's Small Engine Repair	12.48
Susquehanna Fire Equipment	171.10
Merroth Enterprises, LLC	8,000.00
Merroth Enterprises, LLC	110.00
Bilger Automotive	50.00
Devlins Auto Glass LLC	230.00
Bilger Automotive	60.00
Curt Keister	658.88
George Geise	588.22
Joshua Dreisbach	804.27
Martez Faulkner	186.12
Michael Mattocks	902.39
Rebecca Witmer	2,513.81
Rodney Styers	140.29
William Stamm	922.78
PA Department of Revenue	265.20
US Treasury	1,944.68
A1 Lock & Key	30.00
Hometown Disposal Ip	73.76
Kim Barton	125.00
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co, Inc.	466.32
PP&L	899.13
Richard's Portable Toilets	160.00
TOTAL	23,901.65

**OLD BUSINESS – Community Center Fence Quotes** – Councilman Barry Kuhns presented quotes for a vinyl fence at the community center. One was from Buffalo Valley Fence in the amount of \$4,100.00 and the other was from Stauffer Brothers Fence in the amount of \$3,257.20.

**Motion –Fence** – Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a motion to accept the quote from Stauffer Brothers Fence in the amount of \$3,257.20. Lynda Frederick made a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

August 11, 2021

**NEW BUSINESS – Trick-or-Treat – Motion** – Councilwoman Meghan Shambach made a motion to schedule New Berlin Trick-or-Treat for October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6pm to 9pm. Councilwoman Lynda Frederick make a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT – Motion** – Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Barry Kuhns 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