

## MINUTES

### REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING January 20, 2025 6:00PM Council Meeting

THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. Call to Order by presiding officer  
Moment of silence, Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call (if quorum is not present, the meeting shall thereupon be Adjourned to a specific date by the majority vote of those present)
3. Review and approval of agenda.
4. Presentation
5. Citizen Correspondence/Personal Appeals - Agenda Items
6. Reports of Committees
7. Business Not Ready for Action or No Action Needed
8. Old Business
9. Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions
10. Consent Agenda
11. New Business
12. Added Items
13. Citizen Correspondence/Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items
14. Adjournment

**ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDING OFFICER: Council President Robert Lewis**

**ITEM 2. ROLL CALL (Attendance)**

| <u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u><br><u>&amp; MAYOR</u> | PRESENT       | ABSENT        | <u>OFFICERS</u>  | PRESENT                    | ABSENT        |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| LEWIS                                        | <u>X</u>      | <u>      </u> |                  |                            |               |
| JARRETT                                      | <u>X</u>      | <u>      </u> | Chief of Police  | <u>X</u>                   | <u>      </u> |
| KARAFINSKI                                   | <u>X</u>      | <u>      </u> | Solicitor        | <u>X</u>                   | <u>      </u> |
| LEARN                                        | <u>X</u>      | <u>      </u> | Engineer         | <u>      </u>              | <u>X</u>      |
| MOCCIA                                       | <u>X</u>      | <u>      </u> | DPW Foreman      | <u>      </u>              | <u>X</u>      |
| TROIANI                                      | <u>X</u>      | <u>      </u> | Reporter(s)      | <u>Susan Schwartz (PE)</u> | <u>      </u> |
| WOZNIAK                                      | <u>      </u> | <u>X</u>      | Fire Chief       | <u>X</u>                   | <u>      </u> |
| MAYOR BURKE                                  | <u>X</u>      | <u>      </u> | Code Enforcement | <u>      </u>              | <u>X</u>      |
| Borough Manager                              | <u>X</u>      | <u>      </u> |                  |                            |               |

**ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:**

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Mr. Jarrett

All in favor, agenda approved.

**ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: None**

## **ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items**

- John Cipala - Concerned about bad that might happen if Code Blue were shut down.
- Barb Kleckner, E. 13<sup>th</sup> Street - Code Blue is filling a need, and an example of basic human decency.
- Rob Longenberger - Code Blue is a small battle in a big war.
- Noe Fuentes - He and his young children have utilized Code Blue, fills a crucial need.
- Michelle Robbins, Ida Street - Lives next door to Code Blue, has no problem with it being there.
- Karen Maciejewski, Pine Street - Ex-teacher, spoke of importance of learning kids' stories and having empathy.
- Brooke, LaSalle Street - Has volunteered at Code Blue, spoke in favor.
- Krunal Thakore, Gatehouse - Hopes that everything said tonight will have an impact.
- Sally Evans - Talked about Berwick being a community that cares.
- Devon Harvey, E. Second Street - Talked favorably about Frank Spaid.
- Lisa Mullens - Talked about the need for Code Blue, and ending stigma around homelessness.
- Stan Zubrick - Hopes Council will support Code Blue.
- Xavier Castillo - Talked about a personal example of a time when helping others had a positive outcome.
- Devina Castillo - Talked about the importance of giving people a chance.
- Don Smith, Spring Garden Avenue - Regular visitor of Test Track Park, talked about experiences where individuals there were using drugs. Worried that Code Blue could attract more homeless people to Berwick.
- Krunal Thakore, Gatehouse - Clarified that people are not pouring in from other areas to use Code Blue. Shared statistics.
- Karla Alexander, Agape - Explained Code Blue program, shared successes.
- Frank Spaid - Talked about the importance of building trust over time, and that some people are fearful of trusting.
- Jennifer Buzzard, Berwick Salvation Army - Noted that S.A. building is open during daily office hours, 9-2. Talked about other available resources.

## **ITEM 6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

No committees provided reports.

## **ITEM 7. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:**

1. Police Department - Back Pay Authorization - Chief Strish explained. Borough Manager will work on verifying applicability and come back to Council with a total cost for consideration.
2. IPMC Update Ordinance - Borough Manager explained need. Will work with solicitor to draft update and bring to Council.
3. Ice Skating Update - Borough Manager provided update.

**ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**ITEM 9. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

None

**ITEM 10. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Consider and take action to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:
  - a. Approve the minutes of the January 6, 2025 Council meeting
  - b. Approve payment of the January 2025 bill listing
  - c. Appoint Reagan Rafferty as alternate police representative to the Police Pension Committee
  - d. Appoint Damien Scoblink as alternate delegate to the Columbia County Tax Collection Committee
  - e. Appoint Teresa Peters as Borough of Berwick Right to Know Officer
  - f. Certify Borough of Berwick CDBG FFY 2024 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment #1

Discussion: None

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Ms. Troiani ☒ Approved, ☐  
Denied, ☐ Tabled

All in favor, consent agenda approved.

**ITEM 11. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider and take action to appoint Mr. Karafinski as Council representative to the Police Pension Committee  
Discussion: Mr. Karafinski volunteered, if no one else was interested. No other members of Council expressed interest.

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Learn ☒ Approved, ☐  
Denied, ☐ Tabled

All in favor, with Mr. Karafinski abstaining. Motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to offer free access to the Borough of Berwick recycling drop-off site to Briar Creek Borough residents, at an annual cost of \$1.00 per resident to Briar Creek Borough, for the balance of 2025.

Discussion: Borough Manager discussed history of good relationship, and that this proposal could be re-examined at a later date if needed.

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Karafinski ☒  
Approved, ☐ Denied, ☐ Tabled

All in favor, motion approved.

3. Consider and take action to authorize Borough of Berwick Police Department to enter into a five-year contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc., at a total cost of \$63,193.06, utilizing Capital Projects funds

Discussion: Chief Strish explained that this cost is for continued use of body cams. Explained benefits of body cams.

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Ms. Troiani ☒ Approved, ☐  
Denied, ☐ Tabled

All in favor, motion approved.

4. Consider and take action to approve continuation emergency approval of Code Blue Drop-In Center, located at 715 Susquehanna Avenue, Berwick, through end of April, with stipulations as follows: Open at the discretion of Agape.

Discussion: Conversation on how this plan came about on such short notice, and whether Council should have been notified at its last meeting. Upon motion and second, a roll call vote was called for.

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Moccia ☒ Approved,  
☐ Denied, ☐ Tabled

Roll call vote was performed as follows: Mr. Jarrett, yes; Mr. Karafinski, yes; Mr. Learn, yes; Mr. Moccia, yes; Ms. Troiani, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes. Motion approved via 6-0 vote in favor.

## **ITEM 12. ADDED ITEMS**

None

## **ITEM 13. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items**

- Randy Panetta, 833 Salem Boulevard - Is having a problem with a tenant, who Mr. Panetta reports is running an illegal business out of

his garage. After some discussion, Borough Manager agreed to talk with solicitor about drafting a cease and desist letter.

**ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Ms. Troiani

Meeting adjourned.