

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING February 3, 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. Business Not Ready for Action or No Action Needed
7. Old Business
8. Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions
9. Consent Agenda
10. New Business
11. Added Items
12. Citizen Correspondence/Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items
13. Adjournment

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

ITEM 2. ROLL CALL (Attendance)

<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u> <u>& 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> </u>	<u>X</u>
LEARN	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Engineer	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>
MOCCIA	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	DPW Foreman	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
TROIANI	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Reporter(s)	Susan Schwartz (PE)	<u> </u>
WOZNIAK	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Fire Chief	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
MAYOR BURKE	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Code Enforcement	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Borough Manager	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>			

ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Ms. Troiani

All in favor, agenda approved.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: Connie Donlin, Berwick Arts Association - Provided an update on BAA's projects. Requested permission to place an eagle

sculpture in St. Charles Park; request will be added to future agenda.
Request \$10,000 in funding for a mural project; request will be added to a future agenda.

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

None

ITEM 6. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. Stormwater Ordinance Update - Borough Manager explained need to update to meet DEP requirements, as per MS4 guidelines. Will add advertisement to a future agenda.
2. Zoning Hearing Fees - Borough Manager presented option to look at waiving fees for zoning hearings in certain circumstances. Discussion indicated it was worth further consideration, and to keep on agenda as an item not ready for action at this time.
3. Civil Service 2024 Annual Report - Report provided by Borough Manager, on behalf of Civil Service Commission.
4. Grass Alley Vacation Request - Borough Manager noted requests from two conflicting sides. Given that the sides are asking for opposite things, Borough Manager recommended Council do nothing, and allow the status quo, with the understanding that either side could ultimately pursue civil action to obtain what they're asking for.
5. Around the Table
 - a. Chief Coolbaugh - Reviewed statistics. Possible purchasers are coming to look at ladder truck. Viewing for new ladder truck later this month in Wisconsin.
 - b. Mr. Karafinski - Thanked all involved with Test Track cleanup.
 - c. Mr. Moccia - Questioned reasons for apparent breakdown in relationship between Code Blue and Agape/Gatehouse. Recommended that other sites be considered for future Code Blue, including possibly Nescopeck Elementary. Recommended that Council not grant any special privileges in efforts to make Code Blue permanent.
 - d. Chief Strish - Reviewed statistics.
 - e. Mayor Burke - Echoed Mr. Karafinski in thanking all involved with Test Track cleanup.
 - f. Borough Manager - Noted that ice skating rink has been going well since initial concerns. Provided update on upgrades to locks/cameras at City Hall/Police Station.
 - g. Mr. Jarrett - Reminded Council of upcoming Blueprint Community event.
 - h. DPW Foreman - Informed that wood hog is almost ready to be operational again. Discussed concerns with recycling trucks.

- i. Codes Officer - Noted that report was provided, and he was available for any questions.

ITEM 7. OLD BUSINESS:

None

ITEM 8. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

None

ITEM 9. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider and take action to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:
- a. Approve the minutes of the January 20, 2025 meeting of Council
 - b. Accept resignation of Jay Jarrett as the Borough of Berwick Council representative to the Berwick Area Swimming Pool, Inc. board of directors
 - c. Appoint Ray Karafinski as the Borough of Berwick Council representative to the Berwick Area Swimming Pool, Inc. board of directors
 - d. Approve payment of SEDA-COG CDBG FFY 2021 invoice of January 22, 2025, in the amount of \$2,800, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds
 - e. Approve payment of SEDA-COG CDBG FFY 2022 invoice of January 22, 2025, in the amount of \$3,400, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds
 - f. Approve payment of SEDA-COG CDBG FFY 2023 invoice of January 22, 2025, in the amount of \$7,700, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, consent agenda approved.

ITEM 10. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to amend, at the recommendation of the Borough of Berwick Civil Service Commission, Borough of Berwick Police Civil Service Rules and Regulations Chapter 4, Section A.4.4, to henceforth read, "4.4 Age and Residency Requirements. All applicants must have reached their twenty-first (21st) birthday prior to being eligible to receive a conditional offer of employment. All successful applicants shall reside with the Borough of Berwick or within twenty-five (25) air miles of the borough border within six (6) months of the completion of the probationary period."

Discussion: Chief Strish explained reasoning for updated language.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 11. ADDED ITEMS

None

ITEM 12. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items

- Randy Panetta, Salem Blvd. - Reported ongoing concerns with tenant he is trying to remove from his property. Provided photos he said displayed an illegal business being run out of garage. Borough Manager noted that photos provided simply showed parked vehicles, which was not a violation of Borough ordinances. Extensive conversation on what Borough can and cannot do in disputes between landlords and tenants.
- Don Smith, Spring Garden Ave. - Question on the cleanup of Test Track Park. Hopes that it won't be allowed to get bad again.
- Connie Donlin - Applauded what Mr. Spaid is doing with Code Blue.

ITEM 13. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. Moccia Second: Ms. Troiani

Meeting adjourned.