

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING March 17, 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> <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>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>X</u>	<u> </u>
TROIANI	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Reporter(s)	<u>Susan Schwartz (PE)</u>	<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> </u>	<u>X</u>
Borough Manager	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>			

*Borough Council met in Executive Session on March 3, 2025, immediately following the completion of its meeting of that date, for the purpose of discussing specific police personnel.

ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Mr. Jarrett

All in favor, agenda approved.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Mayoral Proclamation - Recognizing the 90th Birthday of former Berwick Mayor Lou Biacchi
2. Carol Nagel - Girl Scout Gold Award Project Request: Ms. Nagel requested permission to paint a mural on wall at the corner of Mulberry Street and Columbia Avenue, noting property owner there had already given permission as well. Council requested this be added to this evening's agenda for approval.

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

- Richard Powlus - Looking for update on request for funding for Vietnam Veterans Monument. It was noted that it was on the agenda for consideration this evening.

ITEM 6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

MAYOR: Mayor Tim Burke - Mayor's Ball coming up, tickets are selling well.

ENGINEER: Quad 3 - None

SOLICITOR: Attorney Frank Kepner - Conversation was held regarding Schain Building. Solicitor and Borough Manager will look further into history of the project, and whether a payback is actually standard.

PERSONNEL: Tom Moccia, Nelson Learn, Jay Jarrett - None

LEGAL AND FINANCE: Tom Moccia, Nelson Learn, Jay Jarrett - None

PARKS AND RECREATION: Teresa Troiani, Ray Karafinski, Jay Jarrett - None

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Greg Harkins, Jeri Wozniak, Teresa Troiani, Jay Jarrett - None

STREETS, PARKS, & BUILDINGS: Jack Kyttle - Update was provided on West Berwick Elementary school zone signage. Question was asked regarding allowance of large loads through the Borough, with the understanding that PennDOT generally has final say on its roads.

FIRE AND WATER: Jeri Wozniak, Ray Karafinski, Bob Lewis - None

CODES, RECYCLING, & ORDINANCES: Nelson Learn, Tom Moccia, Ray Karafinski - With Code Blue closing March 31, it was asked whether people would be allowed in the building during the daytime after that date. Borough Manager noted that the building is zoned for commercial use, and unless directed otherwise, it would be his stance that it was at the discretion of the business owner to allow people in the building during business

hours. After some conversation, it was left that Council would note intervene unless a problem occurred.

SAFETY: Bob Lewis - None

POLICE: Chief Ken Strish - Annual Report has been sent. Reviewed monthly statistics. Hiring process is progressing.

FIRE: Chief Bill Coolbaugh - Ladder truck is currently in Mill Hall, being clear coated this week. Should be able to bring to Berwick in the next 1-2 weeks. Moving forward with effort to sell old ladder truck.

BAJSA REPORT: See Report - Report provided.

ITEM 7. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. BAJSA/Recycling Center - BAJSA is anticipating the possibility of needing to expand in the future, and as part of that, wanted to explore possibility of acquiring the portion of Test Track park that is currently the Borough's recycling center. Conversation was held on other possible options, and the Borough's need to remain in compliance with flood zone for its recycling center. It was noted that this was a very preliminary conversation, and that the Borough and BAJSA could remain in communication moving forward.
2. Chestnut Street Traffic - Borough Manager read letter detailing concern, largely centered on need for an additional stop sign somewhere on the lower half of Chestnut Street. Chief Strish will review historical data and bring back to Council.
3. Fire Department Maintenance Contributions - Borough Manager explained that, while the contribution per station has remained the same, the total contribution has decreased, as two stations have closed over the last approximately eight years. Borough Manager requested that Council consider increasing the amount per station to a level that would bring the total contribution back to the amount that it was when there were five stations. Council asked that this be added to a future agenda for consideration.

ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consider and take action to approve payment of \$5,000 to Berwick Arts Association for mural project, contingent upon commitment for the same from Columbia County Commissioners, and contingent upon final design for project.

Discussion: Extensive debate on merits of spending taxpayer funds on public art.

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

Voting in favor were Councilpersons Lewis, Jarrett, Learn, Troiani and Wozniak. Voting in opposition were Councilpersons Karafinski and Moccia. Motion approved by a vote of five (5) votes in favor, to two (2) votes in opposition.

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 minutes of the March 3, 2025 Meeting of Council
- b. Approve March 2025 Bill Listing as presented
- c. Approve request of Berwick YMCA to hold 5K race partially on Borough streets on June 7, 2025

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 11. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to approve contribution in the amount of \$10,000 to Vietnam Veterans Memorial restoration project, to come from Capital Projects Fund

Discussion: Councilperson Moccia immediately suggested that the Borough fund the entire remaining amount needed, which was met with no opposition. Borough Manager clarified where funds should come from.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to approve payment of Glick Fire Equipment Company Invoice #PF202280, in the amount of \$1,656,600, to be paid utilizing Capital Projects Funds, with contributions from Firemen's Relief and the sale of existing ladder truck to be used to partially reimburse these funds.

Discussion: None

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

Council President Lewis called for a roll call vote:

- Mr. Karafinski - Yes
- Mr. Moccia - Yes
- Ms. Troiani - Yes
- Ms. Wozniak - Yes
- Mr. Jarrett - Yes
- Mr. Learn - Yes
- Mr. Lewis - Yes

Motion approved by a unanimous vote in favor.

ITEM 12. ADDED ITEMS

1. Consider and take action to approve request to allow Carol Nagel to complete Girl Scout mural project on wall at corner of Mulberry Street and Columbia Avenue

Discussion: It was noted that, at this point, this request comes with no cost to the Borough.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

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

- Councilperson Wozniak - Requested update on status of \$20,000 granted to CSO for homeless support projects. Borough Manager noted that he had said quarterly updates would be fine, which would make one due soon anyway, but that he would reach to request update.
- Connie Donlin, Berwick Arts Association - Passed out survey on what could be a desired visual for proposed mural. Questions were asked on the scope of the initial phase of the project.

ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Ms. Wozniak

Meeting adjourned