

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING October 6, 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> X </u>	<u> </u>
MOCCIA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	DPW Foreman	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
TROIANI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Reporter(s)	<u> </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> X </u>	<u> </u>
Borough Manager	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>			

ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Ms. Wozniak

All in favor, agenda approved.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: Public Hearing: CDBG FFY 2025 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment #1

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

- Don Smith, Spring Garden Avenue - Requested clarification on item 9.1.c, which was provided by Borough Manager.

ITEM 6. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. West End Stormwater - Borough engineer went through a variety of options to potentially help with future west end stormwater concerns.
2. Walkworks - Borough Manager invited Council to participate in future webinars.
3. Residential Handicapped Parking Signs - Borough Manager and Chief of Police described recent concern with handicapped parking sign request, and noted that a more subjective process could be useful in keeping requests from coming to Council. Council agreed that this was allowable, with the understanding that this could be walked back in the future.
4. Zoning Meeting Update - Borough Manager provided dates for public meetings, and invited Council to attend as their schedules allowed.
5. Around the Table
 - a. Fire Chief - Report provided. Did a walkthrough at AWS data center. Potential buyer has been identified on old ladder truck. New ladder truck is going in for repair. Trunk or treat scheduled.
 - b. Mr. Karafinski - Noted that DPW did a great job at Riverfest, and is doing a great job at Sponsler Park. Requested an update on Coblentz.
 - c. Mr. Moccia - Noted that Riverfest was a success.
 - d. Ms. Troiani - Agreed that Riverfest was a success.
 - e. Police Chief - Working on some aggressive driving initiatives, including E-bikes. Revamping mental health protocols for officers. Hiring testing starts this weekend. Continuing to monitor Sponsler Park for vandalism. Is aware of homeless encampment beneath bridge, and working through logistics of addressing.
 - f. Mayor Burke - Market Street paving is wrapping up.
 - g. Mr. Lewis - From Safety Committee, the state fire marshal has no restrictions on fire police needing to belong to a company. Will continue to work through this issue.
 - h. Borough Manager - Thanked all for involvement with Riverfest, particularly Council.
 - i. Ms. Wozniak - Praised efforts that went into Riverfest.
 - j. Mr. Learn - Praised DPW crew, both for Riverfest, and in general. Noted that Teresa and Dee-Dee did a great job as well.

- k. Public Works - Appreciate the support from all parties.
- l. Code Enforcement - Report provided.

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 September 15, 2025 meeting of Council
- b. Approve payment of Peters Consultants, Inc., invoice #11499643, in the amount of \$263.65, for engineering for CDBG Demolition Projects, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds
- c. Approve CSO request to amend budget for homelessness support services in Berwick to allocate \$19,000 for rental costs, and \$1,000 for hotels
- d. Set trick-or-treat dates for the Borough of Berwick for October 30 and 31, 6-8 p.m.
- e. Accept the resignation of Ms. Bette Grey from the Borough of Berwick Planning Commission, effective November 30, 2025

Discussion: Clarification from Borough Manager that second night of trick-or-treating is likely to be a home playoff football game, but that issue is negated by doing two nights.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 10. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Consider and take action to appoint Reagan Rafferty as Borough of Berwick Chief of Police, effective November 1, 2025

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

- 2. Consider and take action to set budget workshop times as follows: As part of regular Council meetings

Discussion: Borough Manager noted that Council has previously held prior to meetings, at 6:00, but this year Council changed meeting time to 6:00, and 5:00 would be earlier than some could manage. It was generally agreed that workshops could just be part of regular meetings.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

3. Consider and take action to approve signature and submission of DCED Grant Funds Repayment Agreement

Discussion: Borough Manager requested that this item be tabled, due to a potential change in policy that would allow multi-year repayment. Motion was made to table.

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

All in favor, item tabled.

4. Consider and take action to approve signature and submission of Vehicle Purchase Agreement between Borough of Berwick and Berwick Volunteer Fireman's Relief Association

Discussion: Borough Manager explained the process that got to this version of the agreement.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

5. Consider and take action to approve advertisement of Ordinance No. 2025-xx, amending Section 11 of Ordinance No. 1060 of 1972, and Ordinance to regulate, control and protect animals and birds within the corporate limits of the Borough of Berwick, with "ducks" removed

Discussion: It was agreed upon that the word "ducks" should be removed from the version to be advertised.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 11. ADDED ITEMS

None

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

- Mark Spaid, 1175 First Avenue - Noted that E-bikes/scooters are an issue. Police Chief confirmed that it is being addressed.

***Council will meet in executive session following adjournment, to discuss specific police personnel. No action will be taken following the conclusion of the executive session.**

ITEM 13. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Ms. Wozniak

Meeting adjourned.