

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING October 7, 2024 7:00PM 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>
KARAFINSKI	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Solicitor	<u>X</u>	
LEARN	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Engineer		<u>X</u>
MOCCIA	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	DPW Foreman	<u>X</u>	
TROIANI	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Reporter(s)	<u>Susan Schwartz (PE)</u>	
WOZNIAK	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Fire Chief	<u>X</u>	
MAYOR BURKE	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>			
Borough Manager	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>			

ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Jarett Second: Ms. Troiani

All in favor, agenda approved.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: None

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

- John Trivelpiece, 1930 Orange Street - Briar Creek Borough resident, asking that Council consider allowing their residents to use Berwick's recycling drop off center.

ITEM 6. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. Walnut Street and Summerhill Avenue Intersection - Borough Manager explained potential for widening this intersection/easing the angle of one specific turn. Chief Strish will be asked to investigate history of incidents, and a cost to widen will be explored.
2. Zoning Hearing Board Alternate - Borough Manager noted that Zoning Hearing Board President asked that an alternate be explored. At Council's direction, Borough Manager will solicit interested candidates on Borough's Facebook page.
3. Canal Street Stormwater Pipe - Borough Manager explained need for repair. Will give project to Borough engineer.
4. Briar Creek Borough Recycling - Borough Manager noted that Councilman from Briar Creek Borough had formally asked for consideration to have their residents be allowed to utilize recycling drop off center. Council directed to determine actual cost per resident, to allow a price to be provided to Briar Creek.
5. Jackson Mansion - Borough Manager discussed the possibility of selling Jackson Mansion to Historical Society. Council expressed interest in exploring details.
6. Around the Table
 - a. Mr. Kyttle - Thanked everyone for work on Riverfest.
 - b. Ms. Wozniak - Echoed Mr. Kyttle.
 - c. Borough Manager - Echoed thanks for Riverfest, including making a point to thank Nancy Sborz, who had done a lot of work for many years before retiring.
 - d. Mayor Burke - Echoed thanks for Riverfest.
 - e. Mr. Moccia - Asked question regarding motorized bicycles on roadways.
 - f. Chief Coolbaugh - ISO report is back, but he needs time to review. 2025 Chief list was provided for Council to consider at next meeting. Trunk or Treat scheduled for October 29. New ladder truck is on schedule for delivery by end of year.

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. Accept Quad 3 Proposal for roof replacement at the Jackson Mansion
- b. Approve the minutes of the September 16, 2024 meeting of Council
- c. Approve payment of RK Webster, LLC Invoice #2274, in the amount of \$2,645, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds
- d. Approve payment of RK Webster, LLC Invoice #2295, in the amount of \$4,028, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds
- e. Approve payment of RK Webster, LLC Invoice #2382, in the amount of \$1,450, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds
- f. Reappoint Mr. Nelson Learn as the Borough representative to BAJSA for the term from 2025 through 2029

Discussion: Borough Manager provided clarification that engineering invoices are for Washington Street project.

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

Voting in favor were Councilpersons Lewis, Jarrett, Karafinski, Moccia, Troiani and Wozniak. Councilperson Learn abstained. Consent agenda approved via 6-0 in favor, with one abstention.

ITEM 10. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to approve Big Al's Pizzeria request to close Wyandotte Avenue to through traffic for event on Sunday, November 3, 2024

Discussion: Council asked that neighbors be notified ahead of event.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to amend requirement that Community Strategies Group demolish building located at 100 W. Front Street, Berwick as follows: eliminate the established requirement, with the understanding that Council retains the right to revisit at its sole discretion.

Discussion: Extensive discussion on the merits of requiring demolition versus allowing the plan as presented at Council's last meeting.

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

Voting in favor were Councilpersons Lewis, Jarrett, Karafinski, Troiani and Wozniak. Voting in opposition was Councilperson Moccia. Motion approved via 6-1 vote in favor.

3. Consider and take action to approve advertisement of Ordinance No. 2024-xx, vacating a portion of the unnamed alley parallel to and immediately east of North Mulberry Street, between West Tenth Street and West Eleventh Street.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

4. Consider and take action to approve advertisement of Ordinance No. 2024-xx, vacating a portion of South Vine Street.

Discussion: Council indicated a willingness to approve advertisement, but asked that Borough Manager question what ultimate plans for the combined lots would be.

Motion: Mr. Moccia 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

- Katrina Karshner, 432 W. 3rd Street, Nescopeck - Expressed opposition to camping ordinance, and is not supportive of criminalization of homelessness.
- Rob Longenberger, 1510 Pine Street - Not supportive of criminalization of homelessness.
- Beth Burke, Columbia County Housing and Redevelopment - Noted that she was available as a resource for the housing piece of the homelessness discussion.
- Mark Snyder, Red Maple Inn - Was one of the homeless individuals at Test Track Park until recently, feels a better plan than criminalization is needed.

- Daniel - Has lived under the Berwick/Nescopeck bridge for some time. Was a victim of a similar ordinance in Nashville, TN, and feels a better plan is needed.
- Don Smith, Spring Garden Avenue - Concerned about the picture that homelessness paints of the town. Noted that codes requires certain standards for houses, and those standards need to apply to everyone.
- Mary Ellen Beebe, N. Vine Street - Concerned about restrictions on backyard camping for families. Feels that the homeless population need to do more for themselves.
- Mike Leffler, 2524 W. Front Street - Feels that this policy will criminalize being poor.
- Eileen Chapman, Agape - Feels there are not enough services for Drug & Alcohol and Mental Health help. Noted that rent is up significantly. Opposed to the criminalization of homelessness.
- Pat Silvetti, 1732 Spring Garden Avenue - Doesn't like the argument that homeless people can't get a job.
- Karen Heaps, Agape - 90% of people she sees are homeless because of increased cost of living. Feels that criminalizing isn't the answer.
- Joe Dell, Bowman Street - Doesn't like that a tent being up for two days can lead to a fine.
- Anonymous High School Student - Asked how passing the ordinance in question will be helpful to our community.
- Tom Jones, 409 E. 4th Street - Doesn't like that homeless individuals don't try to work. Also mentioned dog concerns with a neighbor.

ITEM 13. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Karafinski

Meeting adjourned.