

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 5, 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. Approval of the preceding meeting minutes if correct and rectifying mistakes if any exist.
7. Business Not Ready for Action or No Action Needed
8. Old Business
9. Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions
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>&amp; MAYOR</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
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>      </u>	<u>  X  </u>	Reporter(s)	<u>Susan Schwartz (PE)</u>	
WOZNIAK	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	Fire Chief	<u>      </u>	<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. Learn Second: Mr. Moccia

All in favor, agenda approved.

**ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: ~~Michael Burger, SEDA COG: CDBG Project Update~~**

Presentation did not occur, as Mr. Berger was unable to attend meeting.

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

None

**ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETINGS**

- Regular Council Meeting of January 15, 2024.

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Karafinski

All in favor, minutes approved.

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

1. Fire Chief Vehicle - Borough Manager presented request from Fire Chief for an assigned vehicle. Currently is using an unassigned police vehicle on a temporary basis. Manager noted that utilizing this vehicle, without compensation from Fire Protection Fund, would adversely affect the ability of the General Fund to maintain the police fleet at necessary levels. Discussion from Council also focused on actual need. Council sent to Fire and Water Committee for further discussion and a recommendation.
2. Around the Table
  - a. Mr. Moccia requested that an item be added to the next agenda to require that Geppetto's building be demolished this year. After some discussion, Council agreed that the requirement should be the beginning of November. It was noted by Borough Manager that Josh Nespoli of Community Strategies Group had already informed the manager that this would occur, likely by the end of this summer.
  - b. Mr. Karafinski questioned the availability of Berwick's building code for review. Borough Manager noted that he was able to borrow a copy of the IPMC.
  - c. Mr. Jarrett noted that the neighborhood around the downtown had been granted funding that could help with the Geppetto's rebuild project.
  - d. Chief Strish provided an update on the COPS grant.
  - e. Mayor Burke requested that Council consider granting a handicapped parking space for the Catholic War Veterans club. Council agreed to add to next agenda.

- f. Mr. Lewis noted that Fire Board had unanimously voted to approve Bill Coolbaugh as Fire Chief for the remainder of this year.
- g. Mr. Lewis noted that Safety Committee has been discussing the lack of fire police, and the need for traffic control volunteers at special events. Safety Committee has also had discussions regarding a Fire Police vehicle. Finally, Safety Committee requested that Greg Harkins be approved by Fire Board to serve as a department representative on the committee.
- h. Ms. Wozniak discussed having an investment plan for overages. Borough Manager will bring some information to an upcoming meeting.
- i. Mr. Jarrett asked about next steps for exploring options for selecting a fire chief moving forward.
- j. Mr. Jarrett requested that the committee exploring zoning changes meet again.
- k. Ms. Wozniak requested update on previous complaint regarding trucks cutting through a yard on Susquehanna Avenue. Mr. Kyttle informed that there wasn't a good spot to use reflective delineators as he had hoped, but that the resident had placed a large decorative rock on the corner of the lot to dissuade future incidents.
- l. Mr. Jarrett noted that Personnel Committee had met to discuss union contracts. He felt that it might be time to look at hiring a labor attorney. Requested that it be added to the next agenda to seek out options.
- m. Mr. Learn corrected a previous statement he had made regarding action at BAJSA meeting.
- n. Mr. Kyttle noted that Public Works are ahead of schedule starting street sweeping due to good weather. Also working on electric and water upgrades at Test Track Park.

**ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS:**

None

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

- 1. Ordinance No. 2024-01: Restricting the Size of Certain Vehicles on New Road; and on Freas Avenue, between New Road and LaSalle Street  
Discussion: Borough Manager confirmed that these are Borough roads.

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

All in favor, ordinance approved.

**ITEM 10. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider and take action to affirm recommendation of Berwick Fire Board to remove interim tag and appoint Bill Coolbaugh as Berwick Fire Chief for remainder of the current term.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

**ITEM 11. ADDED ITEMS**

None

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

None

**ITEM 13. ADJOURNMENT**: Motion: Ms. Wozniak Second: Mr. Learn

Meeting adjourned.