

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 18, 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. 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>&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>      </u>	<u>  X  </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>	
WOZNIAK	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	Fire Chief	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </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. Jarrett Second: Mr. Learn

All in favor, agenda approved.

**ITEM 4. PRESENTATION:** ~~Laurie Allison, Stray Cat Update~~ - Ms. Allison was unable to be present for meeting.

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

- Heidi Knorr, Berwick Fire Police - Provided update on Fire Police in general, including efforts in recruitment, while also emphasizing and explaining need for a better Fire Police vehicle.

**ITEM 6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

MAYOR: Mayor Tim Burke - Provided update on Columbia/Montour Borough Networking Cohort; Mayor's Ball planning is coming along well; recently was invited to join board of Central Susquehanna Opportunities (CSO)

ENGINEER: Quad 3 - None

SOLICITOR: Attorney Frank Kepner - Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday to address a dangerous structure; continuing to work on UGI suit

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 - Borough Manager provided update on parks plan

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

STREETS, PARKS, & BUILDINGS: Jack Kyttle - Street sweeping starting in April; took delivery of crack sealer, already being put to good use

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

CODES, RECYCLING, & ORDINANCES: Nelson Learn, Tom Moccia, Ray Karafinski - Councilman Moccia requested update on status of properties that had gone to court at county level, Borough Manager noted that he had erred in directing codes to file again at magisterial level, will work with solicitor on correcting

SAFETY: Bob Lewis - None

POLICE: Chief Ken Strish - Sent copy of 2023 annual report; reviewed monthly stats; Police Benevolent Association will hold annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 23

FIRE: Chief Bill Coolbaugh - Reviewed monthly stats; hydrants will be available for training on April 1; upgrades to hydrants are planned around

town; requested that the Borough consider signage for known dangerous structures

BAJSA REPORT: See Report - Report provided

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

None

**ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Consider and take action to approve purchase and upfit of a Fire Police vehicle as follows: Sell 2019 Ford F-350 four-door truck to fire department for fire police use, and authorize purchase of appropriate replacement for Department of Public Works, with a target of a three-month timeframe.

Discussion: Much conversation was had on various options. Focus on overall costs, reliability of a potential used vehicle, timeliness of availability of potential vehicle, and need to follow state procurement regulations. Ultimately settled on targeting the fire department purchasing a used vehicle from Public Works, contingent upon Public Works being able to purchase a replacement vehicle in a timely manner. If by next meeting Borough Manager determines that the timeframe for this will extend beyond three months, Council will consider other options at next meeting.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

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

1. Resolution 2024-02: Authorizing Participation in the Blueprint Communities Program

Discussion: Councilman Moccia questioned program. Josh Nespoli, Community Strategies Group, provided answers to questions.

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

All in favor, resolution approved.

**ITEM 10. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Consider and take action to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:
  - a. Approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting of Council

- b. Approve the payment of bills as presented in the March 2024 bill listing
- c. Approve the request of John Young to operate The Ice Cream Truck 61 with the Borough of Berwick, with the understanding that he must first submit a certificate from the Department of Agriculture to sell food, and that he may not set up in the downtown business district, or in residential areas except as approved for special events, or on private property without first providing the Borough with proof of permission from the owner(s)

Discussion: Wording of food truck item questioned. Borough Manager noted that this language has existed since before his arrival, based on requests of a previous Council. Council is able to amend these requirements if they wish.

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

All in favor, Consent Agenda approved.

**ITEM 11. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Consider and take action to approve contribution in the amount of \$0 to Berwick Theater and Center for Community Arts, to be paid utilizing CLFRF funds, to be utilized for the payment of expenses related to the reopening of the same.

Discussion: None

Motion: Mr. Moccia Second: NONE  Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

Motion died for lack of a second.

- 2. Consider and take action to approve contribution in the amount of \$25,000 to Berwick Theater and Center for Community Arts, to be paid utilizing CLFRF funds, to be utilized for the payment of expenses related to the reopening of the same.

Discussion: None

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

Voting in favor were Councilpersons Lewis, Jarrett, Learn, Troiani and Wozniak. Voting in opposition was Councilperson Moccia. Motion approved via 5-1 vote in favor.

- 3. Consider and take action to approve contractual agreement between the Borough of Berwick and Teamsters Local Union No. 764, representing a labor contract between these parties representing all non-uniformed,

blue and white collar union employees, for the period between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2026.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

**ITEM 12. ADDED ITEMS**

None

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

None

**ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion: Ms. Wozniak Second: Ms. Troiani

Meeting adjourned.