

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING April 20, 2026 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 Jeri Wozniak

ITEM 2. ROLL CALL (Attendance)

<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u> <u>& MAYOR</u>	PRESENT	ABSENT	<u>OFFICERS</u>	PRESENT	ABSENT
WOZNIAK	<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>
LEWIS	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	DPW Foreman	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
MOCCIA	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Reporter(s)	<u>Susan Schwartz (PE)</u>	<u> </u>
TROIANI	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Fire Chief	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
MAYOR BURKE	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	Code Enforcement	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>
Borough Manager	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>			

ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Lewis

All in favor, agenda approved as presented.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION:

1. Connie Donlin, Berwick Arts Association - Project Updates

Ms. Donlin reviewed upcoming projects and initiatives for the Arts Association. Indicated that no final design proposal is ready for the mural project the Borough previously committed funds to.

2. Leslie Hosterman, SEDA-COG - CDBG Public Hearing

Ms. Hosterman reviewed variety of necessary information for CDBG program. Invited public to submit project proposals.

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

None

ITEM 6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

MAYOR: Mayor Tim Burke

ENGINEER: Quad 3

SOLICITOR: Attorney Frank Kepner

PERSONNEL: Tom Moccia, Nelson Learn, Jay Jarrett

LEGAL AND FINANCE: Tom Moccia, Nelson Learn, Jay Jarrett

PARKS AND RECREATION: Teresa Troiani, Ray Karafinski, Jay Jarrett - Borough Manager invited all to final concert in the Winter Concert Series at Berwick Theater.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Greg Harkins, Jeri Wozniak, Teresa Troiani, Jay Jarrett

STREETS, PARKS, & BUILDINGS: Jack Kyttle, Bob Lewis, Nelson Learn, Jeri Wozniak - Public Works Foreman provided update on upcoming spring brush pickup.

FIRE AND WATER: Jeri Wozniak, Ray Karafinski, Bob Lewis

CODES, RECYCLING, & ORDINANCES: Nelson Learn, Tom Moccia, Ray Karafinski - Councilperson Moccia questioned status of administrative search warrants.

SAFETY: Bob Lewis

POLICE: Chief Reagan Rafferty, Teresa Troiani, Tom Moccia, Ray Karafinski - Councilperson Moccia questioned status of enforcing Borough's camping ordinance in the general area below the bridge. Also questioned whether the Borough should consider participating in the 287G program.

Councilperson Karafinski thanked police for increased traffic enforcement activities.

FIRE: Chief Bill Coolbaugh

BAJSA REPORT: See Report

ITEM 7. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. Zoning Update - Borough Manager indicated that he did not have as much of an update as he hoped, but that documents would be coming for Council to review.
2. Police Vacation/Holiday Carryover - Borough Manager and Chief Rafferty discussed options for this; will add consideration to next agenda.
3. Blueprint Event - Borough Manager invited officials and the public to event.

ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

ITEM 9. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Ordinance 2026-02: Amending Time-Limited Parking in the Borough of Berwick
Discussion: Borough Manager reminded the specific spaces this is addressing.

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

All in favor, ordinance 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 April 6, 2026 meeting of Council
 - b. Approve payment of the April 2026 bill listing, as presented
 - c. Accept the resignation of Chuck Humphrey from the Borough of Berwick Zoning Hearing Board, effective April 30, 2026
 - d. Approve request for use of portion of Market Street for Memorial Day parade, conditional upon development of appropriate traffic control plan
 - e. Accept resignation of Patrolman Joseph Loyacono, effective April 20, 2026

- f. Define a Temporary Part-Time Police Officer as temporary, remaining in effect only for the duration of the staffing need, and able to be terminated upon resolution of the manpower shortage or at the discretion of the Borough Council, and that this position shall not be construed as permanent employment or confer any right to continued employment
- g. Authorize the advertisement of openings for the position of Temporary Part-Time Police Officer, at a rate of up to \$40.00 per hour
- h. Authorize Chief of Police to make conditional offers of employment to qualified individuals for the position of Temporary Part-Time Police Officer, at a rate of up to \$40.00 per hour, without prior Borough Council approval, but with said offers to be affirmed by Borough Council at its next scheduled public meeting

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, consent agenda approved.

ITEM 11. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to authorize the appointment(s) of William McKenna as a Temporary Part-Time Police Officer, at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, to address an immediate manpower shortage.

Discussion: Chief Rafferty provided a brief biography and his endorsement.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to authorize the appointment(s) of Harold Morris as a Temporary Part-Time Police Officer, at a rate of \$40.00 per hour, to address an immediate manpower shortage.

Discussion: Chief Rafferty provided a brief biography and his endorsement.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

3. Consider and take action to appoint Daniel Elliott as a regular member of the Borough of Berwick Zoning Hearing Board, effective May 1, 2026.

Discussion: Borough Manager provided recommendation.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

4. Consider and take action to appoint Dominick Biacchi as a Borough of Berwick representative to the Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority Board of Directors, effective immediately, to fill remainder of open term to expire December 31, 2027.

Discussion: Borough Manager provided recommendation.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

5. Consider and take action to accept the resignation of Charles Gerasimoff from the Department of Public Works, effective May 4, 2026.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

6. Consider and take action to make a conditional offer of employment to Jason Auchter, to serve as a laborer in the Department of Public Works, with final offer contingent upon completion of background check, with final start date to be determined by Borough Manager.

Discussion: Borough Manager provided recommendation.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

7. Consider and take action to approve Employment Agreement between Borough Manager Damien Scoblink and the Borough of Berwick, effective retroactive to January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 12. ADDED ITEMS

None

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

- Don Smith, Spring Garden Avenue - Requested clarification on violations of the updated Mobile Home Park Ordinance. Such clarification was provided by Borough Manager.
- Ralph Schumaker - Recommended using Black's Law Dictionary for Zoning Ordinance definitions.
- Curtis Morgan, 111 E. 10th Street - Questioned why his towing company was not being provided as an option by Berwick Police Department. Chief Rafferty requested his information to provide to officers.

ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. Moccia Second: Mr. Karafinski

Meeting adjourned.