

## MINUTES

### REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING September 16, 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><br><u>&amp; 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>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>      </u> | <u>X</u>      | Reporter(s)     | <u>Susan Schwartz (PE)</u> | <u>      </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. Learn Second: Ms. Wozniak

All in favor, agenda approved.

**ITEM 4. PRESENTATION:**

- Mayoral Proclamation - Hazlee Mowery
- Columbia County SWAT - No presentation, group was not present
- Josh Nespoli, Community Strategies Group - Coblentz Building Update - Mr. Nespoli provided an update on the project, requested that Council consider removing the demolition date requirement. Council will consider request at a future meeting.

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

#### **ITEM 6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

MAYOR: Mayor Tim Burke - None

ENGINEER: Quad 3 - None

SOLICITOR: Attorney Frank Kepner - None

PERSONNEL: Tom Moccia, Nelson Learn, Jay Jarrett - Council President Lewis noted that Borough Manager had appealed a decision on a union grievance. After some discussion, Council decided to add consideration of this appeal to this meeting's agenda, to be Added Item #1.

LEGAL AND FINANCE: Tom Moccia, Nelson Learn, Jay Jarrett - None

PARKS AND RECREATION: Teresa Troiani, Ray Karafinski, Jay Jarrett - None

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

STREETS, PARKS, & BUILDINGS: Jack Kyttle - None

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

CODES, RECYCLING, & ORDINANCES: Nelson Learn, Tom Moccia, Ray Karafinski - Meeting for full Council to discuss Codes priorities was set for 6:00 p.m. on October 7, immediately before the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

SAFETY: Bob Lewis - None

POLICE: Chief Ken Strish - Reviewed monthly statistics

FIRE: Chief Bill Coolbaugh - Reviewed statistics

BAJSA REPORT: See Report - Report provided

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

1. Scheduling a special meeting for Codes discussion - This was addressed during committee reports

2. Rental Inspections, Refused Entry - Borough Manager noted instances of a landlord generally allowing Codes into rental units, but one tenant not allowing. Borough Manager noted that his preference was to not cite landlord for refusal in these instances, assuming the landlord was support of an administrative search warrant to get in the properties. Council expressed no concerns with this plan.
3. Shaffer Alley Vacation Request - Borough Manager noted that the only concern with this request had been made by a store manager of a bordering property, not the property owners themselves. Council requested that Borough Manager draft ordinance for consideration at a future meeting.
4. BAJSA Representative 2025-2029 - Borough Manager noted that Councilman Learn's term on BAJSA ends at the end of the year. Manager further noted that the last time an incumbent representative had wanted to be reappointed, no advertising for outside candidates had been done. Council asked that reappointing Councilman Learn be added to a future agenda.

**ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS:**

None

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

None

**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 August 19, 2024 meeting of Council
  - b. Approve the September 2024 bill listing as presented
  - c. Set the dates for Riverfest 2025 as October 3-5, 2025
  - d. Approve CDBG FFY 2024 Professional and Administrative Services Agreement between SEDA-COG and the Borough of Berwick
  - e. Acknowledge Application of Joinder between South Centre Township and the Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority
  - f. Approve Test Track Swale Reconstruction Survey proposal from Barry Isett & Associates in the amount of \$10,650, with total cost to be evenly shared between Borough of Berwick and Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority

Discussion: Borough Manager clarified that item (f) is not related to the current South Eaton Street project.

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

All in favor, consent agenda approved.

## ITEM 11. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to authorize Borough Manager to submit Blueprint Community Anchor Grant application.

Discussion: Borough Manager explained the desire to utilize staff time for Blueprint work, to be reimbursed by this grant. Council expressed general support for Borough Manager to determine best use of staff time.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to approve advertisement of Ordinance No. 2024-xx, Regulating Camping Within the Borough of Berwick.

Discussion: It was noted that the word "civil" needed to be changed to "criminal" for the advertised version. A motion to advertise would be made with this change considered made.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

3. Consider and take action to approve recommendation of the Safety Committee to send two (2) Borough of Berwick employees to the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors Flagger Train-The-Trainer Course on October 18, at a cost of \$250 per employee

Discussion: Borough Manager clarified which staff would attend.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

4. Consider and take action to set 2024 Trick-or-Treat dates and times as follows: October 30 and 31, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Discussion: Discussion was had on the merits of one versus two days of trick-or-treating.

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

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

5. Consider and take action to approve request for exoneration of 2022 and 2023 municipal tax bill, via veteran's exemption, for Nathan Carr of 300 Bowers Lane, Berwick.

Discussion: Borough Manager explained the request.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

**ITEM 12. ADDED ITEMS**

1. **Item:** Consider and take action to deny outstanding police grievance, as appealed by the Borough Manager on behalf of the Borough of Berwick.

Discussion: None

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

Voting in favor were Councilpersons Lewis, Jarrett, Karafinski, Moccia and Wozniak. Councilperson Learn abstained. Motion passed via 5-0 vote in favor.

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

- Bobby Maier, 250 Iron Street - Asking for help in getting rid of abandoned vehicle on Susquehanna Avenue, has been there for over two years. Chief Strish will look into with Solicitor.

**ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Karafinski

Meeting adjourned.