

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING December 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> <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>	<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 - Add two items: (1) authorizing Council President to sign public hearing affidavit, and (2) sergeant promotion

Motion: Mr. Karafinski Second: Mr. Jarrett

Agenda approved, with noted changes.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Public Hearing, Reliance Pickup Truck Loan - Attorney Barry Lewis presented information as required by law for Reliance to move forward with financing for a new pickup truck.
2. Public Hearing, CDBG 2024 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment - Leslie Hosterman, SEDA-COG, presented proposed items to be included in substantial amendment.

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

- Dave Kovach, Columbia County Commissioner - Spoke in support of social service groups seeking funding to address homelessness.

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 - None

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

PARKS AND RECREATION: Teresa Troiani, Ray Karafinski, Jay Jarrett - Councilperson Karafinski thanked all involved with making Winterfest happen.

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 - Councilperson Moccia noted that Codes had a productive meeting recently, and hopes that Council will seriously consider an action item later in the agenda.

SAFETY: Bob Lewis - None

POLICE: Chief Ken Strish - Report provided. Recommendations on staffing items on the agenda provided.

FIRE: Chief Bill Coolbaugh - Report provided. New ladder truck is now being estimated to be ready in mid-January. Waiting on numbers for the existing truck. Thanked PD for support on recent incident.

BAJSA REPORT: See Report - Report provided.

ITEM 7. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. Ice Skating Rink - Borough Manager explained proposal. Councilperson Karafinski will take the lead on organizing a meeting with the pool association and Mr. Bower about logistics.
2. Presentation of Certified List of Candidates for Sergeant - Borough Manager presented list to Council for consideration.

ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS:

None

ITEM 9. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution 2024-06 - Setting the 2025 Municipal Tax Rate
Discussion: Borough Manager noted that a resolution, not an ordinance, is required due to the tax rate staying the same.

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Karafinski ☒ 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 December 2, 2024 Meeting of Council
 - b. Approve the December 2024 Bill Listing as presented
 - c. Approve the advertisement requesting contractor bids for CDBG Demolition Phase IV project
 - d. Approve CDBG 2023 CAPER
 - e. Approve payment of M&J Excavation, Inc. CDBG Washington Street Reconstruction Project Pay App #2, in the amount of \$140,237.52

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, consent agenda approved.

ITEM 11. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to approve Borough of Berwick 2025 Municipal Budget

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to set and advertise the 2025 Council Meeting Schedule as follows: change start time to 6:00 p.m., first and third Monday of each month, with Labor Day meeting canceled.

Discussion: Borough Manager noted that the Labor Day meeting was canceled in 2024.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

3. Consider and take action to request that a representative of the Codes Department attend one Council Meeting per month beginning in 2025

Discussion: It was noted that this was discussed at Codes Committee. Made clear that this could not turn into a situation where the public is able to attack Codes at meetings, and the importance of Council President maintaining proper meeting decorum.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

4. Consider and take action to authorize Chief Strish to proceed with part-time police officer hires as follows: hire Stephen Levan, as detailed in the written report from Chief Strish dated 12/16/2024.

Discussion: Chief Strish reiterated his support for this hire.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

5. Consider and take action to act on request for funding as outlined in Berwick Housing Proposal as follows: approve \$20,000, as requested.

Discussion: Discussion was held on long-term versus temporary Berwick residents. Discussion was held on establishing short-term shelter options for cold nights versus funding rent and utilities

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

Council President Lewis called for a roll call vote, as follows:

Mr. Jarrett - Yes
Mr. Karafinski - Yes
Mr. Learn - Yes
Mr. Moccia - No
Ms. Wozniak - No
Mr. Lewis - Yes

Motion approved by way of a 4-2 vote in favor.

6. Consider and take action to accept the resignation of Mr. Kyle Trenholm, effective following completion of final shift on December 16, 2024.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 12. ADDED ITEMS

1. Consider and take action to authorize Council President to sign public hearing affidavit as presented.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to promote Joseph Loyacono to the position of Sergeant in the Berwick Police Department, effective immediately.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

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

- David Shultz, 235 W. Second Street - Problem with a pair of door-to-door electric provider solicitors, who entered his home without permission. Feels better steps need to be taken to screen people selling door-to-door.

ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Learn

Meeting adjourned.