

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
May 4, 2020  
7:00PM Council Meeting  
Meeting Via Zoom Teleconference**

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. Citizen Correspondence/Personal Appeals
5. Presentations
6. Approval of the preceding meeting minutes if correct and rectifying mistakes if any exist.
7. Approval of Payment of Bills
8. Reports of Committees
9. Business Not Ready for Action or No Action Needed
10. Old Business
11. Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions
12. New Business
13. Added 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>	PRESENT	ABSENT	<u>OFFICERS</u>	PRESENT	ABSENT
LEWIS	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>			
TROIANI	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	Chief of Police	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
ALLEY	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	Solicitor	<u>      </u>	<u>  X  </u>
BOWER	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	Engineer	<u>      </u>	<u>  X  </u>
JARRETT	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	DPW Foreman	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
LEARN	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	Reporter(s)	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
TALANCA	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>		<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
MAYOR BURKE	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>			
DAMIEN SCOBLINK, MANAGER	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>			

**ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:**

Discussion - No discussion.

Motion: Ms. Alley Second: Mr. Learn

**ITEM 4. PUBLIC HEARING / CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE / PERSONAL APPEALS:**

Fred Gause - Submitted in writing prior to meeting, expressed concerns regarding tractor trailer traffic around Wise Foods.

Luann DeGrose - Expressed concerns regarding tractor trailer traffic around Wise Foods.

**ITEM 5. PRESENTATION:** Tyler Dombrowski, SEDA-COG - FFY 2020 CDBG Project Finalization

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

- Regular Council Meeting of March 16, 2020; Special Council Meeting of March 21, 2020; and Work Shop minutes of April 6, 2020.

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Ms. Alley

**ITEM 7. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS** MOTION: Mr. Bower SECOND: Ms. Troiani

**ITEM 8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

No formal reports given.

**ITEM 9. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:**

None

**ITEM 10. OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**ITEM 11. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

None

**ITEM 12. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider and take action to initiate the 30 day comment period for the FFY 2020 CDBG Annual Action Plan and the FFY 2019 Substantial Amendment #1 to the Annual Action Plan

Discussion: None

Motion: **Mr. Jarrett** Second: **Mr. Bower** X Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

2. Consider and take action to approve payment of Invoice #4 for Berwick Borough Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program, Phase-VII, in the amount of \$4,315.00, payable to SEDA-COG.

Discussion: None

Motion: **Ms. Alley** Second: **Mr. Jarrett** X Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

3. Consider and take action to approve Invoice #109655 for Berwick Borough-Removal of Blighted Structures, in the amount of \$97.50, payable to Peters Consultants, Inc.

Discussion: None

Motion: **Mr. Bower** Second: **Mr. Talanca** X Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

4. Consider and take action to pay invoice #1099 for Berwick Borough-Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing, in the amount of \$7,687.50, payable to Hailstone Economic.

Discussion: None

Motion: Mr. Talanca Second: Mr. Jarrett X Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

5. Consider and take action to approve Borough of Berwick Citizen Participation Plan Amendment #2.

Discussion: None.

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Mr. Talanca X Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

6. Consider and take action to approve request for placement of "Customer Parking" sign in front of Shaffer's Cake and Candy Supplies at 439 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, at owner's expense, indicating only during normal business hours.

Discussion: Discussion was had about whether this was a potential zoning issue; it was determined not to be. It was mentioned that this could "open a can of worms" with other requests, but no follow-up discussion. Discussion was had regarding possibility of utilizing a side street, but ultimately dismissed.

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

All in favor, motion passed.

7. Consider and take action to move forward with USDA Rural Development Grant/Loan Application in the following manner:
- Move forward with applying for grant for the purchase of four police vehicles, with upfitting; and a new server for City Hall and the Police Station.
  - If awarded the aforementioned grant, accept USDA loan to cover a portion of the 45% not covered by the grant, up to \$100,000.
  - If necessary, explain to First Keystone Community Bank that we are in the process of exploring a grant, and are unsure about our need to finalize loan proceedings until the grant process has been completed.
  - Commit to the Borough covering the portion of the 45% match in excess of \$100,000, either through general funds or, if awarded, other grant opportunities.

Discussion: The entire USDA grant/loan was explained in detail by Borough Manager. Reasoning for considering going with USDA loan over First Keystone loan was presented.

Motion: Mr. Bower Second: Ms. Alley X Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

8. Consider and take action to take the following action regarding property at 235 E. Second Street:

- Rope off danger portion of surrounding property.
- Request that DPW Foreman and Building Inspector assess situation and determine structural needs.
- Discuss situation with solicitor, and determine Borough's legal obligations and abilities.

Discussion: Discussion was had that a portion of this building's roof/chimney was beginning to fall off, and could pose a danger to neighbors and the general public.

Motion: Ms. Alley Second: Mr. Talanca X Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

**At 8:19 PM, Council moved to executive session, to discuss specific City Hall personnel, and to discuss potential litigation related to CDBG demolition projects.**

**At 8:38 PM, Council returned from executive session.**

**ITEM 13. ADDED ITEMS**

**A. Item:** Consider and take action to put on hold the demolition of structure at 1654 Brittain Street, pending recommendation of solicitor.

Discussion: None

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Mr. Talanca X Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

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**ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion: Ms. Alley Second: Mr. Bower

Respectfully Submitted:

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Damien Scoblink  
Borough Manager