

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 1, 2022

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. Approval of the preceding meeting minutes if correct and rectifying mistakes if any exist.
7. Business Not Ready for Action or No Action Needed
8. Old Business
9. Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions
10. New Business
11. Added Items
12. Citizen Correspondence/Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items
13. Adjournment

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDING OFFICER: Council President Teresa Troiani

ITEM 2. ROLL CALL (Attendance)

<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u> <u>& MAYOR</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
TROIANI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>			
LEARN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Chief of Police	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
JARRETT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Solicitor	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
LEWIS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Engineer	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
MOCCIA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	DPW Foreman	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
TALANCA	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	Reporter(s)	<u>Susan Schwartz (PE)</u>	
WOZNIAK	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>		<u>WNEP, WBRE</u>	
MAYOR BURKE	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Fire Chief	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
DAMIEN SCOBLINK, MANAGER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>			

ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:

Discussion - Borough Manager requested that Council remove Item #1 of Business Not Ready For Action from discussion. Motion to approve agenda was made with this change.

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Mr. Jarrett

All in favor, agenda approved with proposed change.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: Connie Donlin, Berwick Arts Association

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

None

ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETINGS

- Regular Council Meeting of July 18, 2022.

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Ms. Wozniak

All in favor, minutes approved.

ITEM 7. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

- ~~1. Stuart Tank Association - Test Track Park~~
2. Around the Table
 - a. Chief Strish - Welcomed Council to attend and volunteer at National Night Out.
 - b. Mayor Burke - Noted that a resident had asked for his assistance in delivering a substantial donation to the police and fire departments.
 - c. Borough Manager - Reminded Council of Kids Night next week.

ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS:

None

ITEM 9. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

None

ITEM 10. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to approve payment of Pine Ridge Construction Management Pay App #5, in the amount of \$16,134.10, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to approve reimbursement of General Fund for payment of Cleveland Brothers Invoice #Y8314801, in the amount of \$119,437, to be reimbursed from CLFRF funds.

Discussion: Borough Manager explained reasoning for paying invoice out of general fund initially, and now reimbursing from CLFRF.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

3. Consider and take action to respond to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church request to vacate unopened extension of Salem Street as follows: require that Good Shepherd contract independently with Borough Solicitor to have ordinance drafted, at church's expense, with the understanding that neighbor on other side of unopened extension has a right to half of unopened extension unless they relinquish that right.

Discussion: Borough Manager explained his hesitance in drafting the ordinance internally, due to complications of this specific unopened alley. Recommended that Council allow church to move forward only if it is willing to have ordinance drafted by Borough Solicitor at church's expense. It was noted that the property owner on the other side of the unopened alley is entitled to half, and it would be up to the church to determine whether that property owner would relinquish its claim, as that would dictate how the ordinance would be drafted.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

4. Consider and take action to approve request of David Hamblen to operate Huck's Grill Shack food truck in 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 approved for special events, or on private property without first providing the Borough with proof of permission from the owners.

Discussion: Borough Manager noted that this is standard language for food truck requests.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

5. Consider and take action to approve request from Berwick Arts Association to update "Welcome to Berwick" sign, including \$5,000 commitment from Borough, contingent upon approval of final design.

Discussion: Council talked about specifics of proposed design. Disagreement on whether design was appropriate for the downtown area, or if it sent a negative message. Some Councilmembers felt it was inappropriate, while other felt it was progressive and welcoming. Conversation eventually went to approval for the idea, with final design needing to be approved before progressing.

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

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

6. Consider and take action to authorize Berwick Fire Department to purchase 28 units of 5 inch by 100 foot hose from Municipal Emergency Services, at a total cost of \$23,800.

Discussion: Chief Boone explained that this would ensure there was enough hose for all pieces of apparatus, while also having some pieces left in reserve for inevitable breaks.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

7. Consider and take action to authorize emergency repair of traffic signal at intersection of Market Street and Third Street by Lecce Electric, Inc., at a cost of \$58,330.

Discussion: Borough Manager explained situation.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

8. Consider and take action to approve payment of Don E. Bower, Inc. Pay App #1 for East Third Street Reconstruction Project, in the amount of \$87,782.44.

Discussion: Borough Manager noted that first block should be open by mid-week, with the remainder to be started later in the month.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 11. ADDED ITEMS

None

ITEM 12. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items

- Beverly Moore, Berwick Hospital RN - Questioned what Berwick would do if hospital became a psychiatric hospital. Noted needs of the power plant. Noted that the hospital itself never provides any information or updates.
- Amy Miller, Berwick Hospital Union - Concerned about care for stroke victims, allergic reactions, stab wounds, etc.
- Larry Massina, Nescopeck Mayor - Talked about Berwick's responsibility to look out for the health and wellness of residents. Questioned whether the Community Foundation should purchase the hospital.
- Dr. Roger Crake, former Berwick Hospital doctor - Talked about the trend of loss of services for the area.
- David Kovach, Columbia County Commissioner - Noted that the hospital is important for local businesses and the power plant, and that he would do what he could toward finding a solution, while noting that there were definite limits.
- Claudia Glennon, Action Together NEPA - Reiterated the need for local care, and called for Council to establish a committee to work on a solution.
- Jessica Brittain, Action Together NEPA - Asked for increased community advocacy, and that the public be kept informed.
- Dr. Al Suraci, Physician - Advised Council to keep an eye on hospital administration. Reported that he feels hospital will sell off everything inside the hospital, declare bankruptcy, and leave.
- Jacqueline Russich, People First Pennsylvania - Discussed personal experiences regarding the importance of the Berwick Hospital. Called out the actions of the current owner.
- Frank Berbick, Berwick resident - Saw many injuries while working in local industry over 20 years that required the hospital. Thinks the hospital needs to be a non-profit again.
- Michelle Hall, local healthcare provider - Just wants to know where to go for answers.
- Frank Berbick, Jr., Berwick resident - Asked that any experts watching the news about this call Council to offer help.
- Alice Fink - Reminded that people had money taken out of their paychecks to build the hospital.

ITEM 13. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Ms. Wozniak

Meeting adjourned