

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 5, 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 Budget
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> | PRESENT | ABSENT | <u>OFFICERS</u> | PRESENT | ABSENT |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| TROIANI | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | | | |
| LEARN | <u> </u> | <u> X </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> X </u> | <u> </u> |
| TALANCA | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | Reporter(s) | <u>Susan Schwartz (PE)</u> | |
| WOZNIAK | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | Fire Chief | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> |
| MAYOR BURKE | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | | | |
| DAMIEN SCOBLINK, MANAGER | <u>X-Phone</u> | <u> </u> | | | |

ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:

Discussion - It was noted that an executive session to discuss specific personnel would be held at the conclusion of the meeting.

Motion: Mr. Moccia Second: Mr. Jarrett

All in favor, agenda approved with addition of executive session.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: None

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

NONE

ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF BUDGET

1. Consider and take action to approve 2023 Borough of Berwick Municipal Budget.

Discussion: Mr. Talanca raised concerns over a tax increase, citing the state of the economy. Noted that CLFRF funds were still available, and could be used to make up what would have been covered by tax increase. Extensive discussion about value of beginning to build a reserve for future needs now, versus potentially having a much larger increase in the future.

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

A role call vote was called for, with results as follows:

Mr. Talanca - No
Mr. Moccia - Yes
Ms. Wozniak - No
Mr. Jarrett - No
Mr. Lewis - Yes
Ms. Troiani - Yes

Role call vote resulted in a 3-3 tie, necessitating that Mayor Burke cast a tie-breaking vote.

Mayor Burke - No

Motion denied via 3-3 vote, with Mayor Burke casting a deciding vote in opposition.

Borough Manager noted that an added item would be needed, to advertise budget with whatever changes could be agreed upon.

ITEM 7. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. Around the Table - None

ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS:

None

ITEM 9. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Ordinance No. 2022-07, Fixing the Tax Millage Rate for the Year 2023
Discussion: No action to be taken on Ordinance, due to budget having not been passed. Borough Manager noted that advertising Ordinance would be required as an added item, based on agreed upon changes to budget.

Motion: _____ Second: _____ Approved, Denied, Tabled

Item died for lack of a motion.

2. Resolution No. 2022-06, Adopting and Allocating Funds for an Outdoor Fitness Court

Discussion: Borough Manager reminded that this process was sped up by availability of 2022 grant funds, in addition to 2022 pricing being approximately \$12,000 lower than it would be for 2023. Goal is still to find outside funding for approximately half of the total cost.

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

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

ITEM 10. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to approve payment to Berwick Theater and Center for Community Arts in the amount of \$16,710.03, representing one half of Alliance Masonry Corp. Pay App #4, to be paid utilizing CLFRF funds.

Discussion: Borough Manager noted that this was an already approved expense.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to approve payment of TRA Electric Inc. Pay App #5, in the amount of \$959.40, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds.

Discussion: It was noted that this is a bathroom invoice.

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

3. Consider and take action to approve payment of Pine Ridge Construction Management Pay App #7, in the amount of \$25,019.95, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds.

Discussion: Borough Manager noted that this is also a bathroom invoice.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

4. Consider and take action to set the 2023 schedule for Borough Council Meetings to remain as the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, except as follows:

- a. Tuesday, January 3, in place of Monday, January 2
- b. Tuesday, September 5, in place of Monday, September 4

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

5. Consider and take action to approve payment of National Fitness Campaign Quote in the amount of \$112,350, to be paid utilizing CLFRF funds.

Discussion: None

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

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

ITEM 11. ADDED ITEMS

1. Consider and take action to advertise 2023 Municipal Budget, with changes from previously advertised budget as follows:

- a. Reduce line 03.301.100 (Fire Real Estate Tax - Current) by \$56,000
- b. Increase line 03.390.080 (Fire Interfund Transfer) by \$56,000

Discussion: Borough Manager proposed wording of item, based on previous discussion of how to fund Fire Budget. Noted that this was being done based on that conversation, and what appeared to be the path to a budget that would pass, but that Council could elect to go a different route.

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

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

2. Consider and take action to advertise Ordinance 2022-07 with the following changes:
- a. In the introduction, "Twenty-One and One (21.10)" will now read "Twenty and Six (20.60)"
 - b. In Section 1(c), "One and Seventy-Five (1.75) mills" will now read "One and Twenty-Five (1.25) mills"
 - c. In Section 1(c), "the sum of (\$.175)" will now read "the sum of (\$.125)"
 - d. Passed and Enacted date shall change to the 19th day of December, 2022

Discussion: Borough Manager noted that these changes are what would be necessary, based on the budget that was just approved for advertisement.

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

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

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

- Sandy McAfee, Eagle Hose - Reported to Council on steps Eagle Hose has taken toward being reinstated as an active company within the Berwick Fire Department.

ITEM 13. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. Lewis Second: Mr. Moccia

Meeting adjourned.