

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
December 16, 2019
7:00PM Council Meeting

AGENDA:

Regular meeting of the Borough Council, Borough of Berwick, Pennsylvania was held Monday, December 16, 2019 at 7:00PM; in City Hall. Presiding at this meeting was President of Council Jeri Alley, Bob Lewis, Council Members present, Jay Jarrett, Nelson Learn, Andrew Shecktor, Peter Talanca, Theresa Troiani, Mayor Tim Burke, and Borough Manager Damien Scoblink.

Also present were Chief of Police Ken Strish, Borough Solicitor Frank Kepner, DPW Foreman Jack Kyttle, Administration Assistant Nancy Sborz and Press Enterprise Reporter Susan Schwartz.

A moment of silence was observed and The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Review and
Approve Current
Agenda:**

A Motion to approve the current agenda was made by Councilwoman Troiani with two additions and an executive session at end of agenda. Seconded by Councilman Jarrett. All ayes, motion passes.

**PUBLIC HEARING
CITIZENS
CORRESPONDENCE
PERSONAL APPEALS:**

Jason Walt: Looking to use a practice field for adult football at Test Track Park for 2-3 hours on a Saturday from now until Mid-March. Will supply liability insurance. Council said once a certificate of insurance is turned into the borough then they can make a decision.

A member of the Christmas Boulevard: asked for police to put a car opposite the boulevard traffic because of speeding on Cemetery side of Market Street. Chief Strish said he see what he could do.

Fred Gause: Questioned how the truck sign ordinance is coming along for Susquehanna. Attorney Kepner said he would have it done this week to give to the Borough Manager.

Frank Berbeck Sr: Representing the Russian Club with regard to the flooding issue on street out front of the club. Said he talked to BAJSA and they said that someone at the borough approved the pitch on the street for paving. Council said they will look into that. Frank also talked about the alley behind the club and the trees. DPW Supervisor Jack Kyttle said he was down to look at them and they not seem to be dead or

diseased and he see no reason to take them down. Frank asked if the borough could at least clean out the garbage. Jack said he would schedule that.

Frank Berbeck Jr: Here to talk about a hazard at the intersection of Martzville Road & N. Mulberry Street. Would like to see a traffic mirror installed to cover the blind spot of traffic coming West on Martzville Road or ask Penn DOT to lower the traffic speed for that road. Council will have it looked into.

PRESENTATION: None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING: Motion by Councilman Jarrett and seconded by Councilman Learn to approve the Council Minutes of November 18, 2019.
All ayes. Motion passes. It was announced that an Executive Session was held after the workshop on November 4, 2019 to discuss personal issues.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: Motion by Councilwoman Troiana and seconded by Councilman Learn to pay the bill listing.
All ayes. Motion passes.

ALI ALLEY, MDPC	59.00	LAUBACH'S AUTO REPAIR	242.18
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE ASSURANCE	857.21	LAUBACH'S AUTO REPAIR	1,050.90
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE ASSURANCE	857.21	LAVERY LAW	126.00
AMERICAN PAPER & SUPPLY INC	190.50	LENDENMANN'S REMODELING	11,995.00
ANNETTE BRENNAN	50.00	MARINOS, MCDONALD & KNECHT, LLP	240.00
ANNUZIATO DEGEORGE	50.00	MARTY SITLER	866.97
ASSOCIATION OF MAYORS	80.00	MATTHEWS FUEL SERVICE, INC.	214.69
ATLANTIC BROADBAND	133.60	MATTHEWS SPRING WATER	28.75
ATLANTIC BROADBAND	4.40	MATTHEWS SPRING WATER	11.50
ATLANTIC TACTICAL	872.95	MCBRIDE MEMORIAL LIBRARY	10,000.00
AXON ENTERPRISE, INC	1,680.00	METROPOLITAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS	1,903.10
BARRY'S SERVICE INC.	1,500.00	MICHAEL KLINETOB	225.00
BEAVER VALLEY ENVIRENMENTAL LLC	275.00	MICHAEL LONG	236.32
BELLES PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC	34,780.00	NANCY SBORZ	500.00
BENCHMARK INSURANCE COMPANY	3,419.00	NAPA AUTOPARTS BERWICK	45.58
BERWICK AREA SWIMMING POOL ASSOC	5,000.00	NAPA AUTOPARTS BERWICK	14.07
BODNAR SALES & SERVICE	144.29	NAPA AUTOPARTS BERWICK	178.16
BODNAR SALES & SERVICE	95.44	NAPA AUTOPARTS BERWICK	15.49
BORO OF BWK GERNERAL FUND	15,210.90	NAPA AUTOPARTS BERWICK	54.52
BORO OF BWK GERNERAL FUND	4,316.62	NAT ALEXANDER COMPANY	152.81
BORO OF BWK MUNICIPAL PENSION	807.51	NESCOPECK AGWAY	41.97
BORO OF BWK MUNICIPAL PENSION	926.52	NMS	242.00
BORO OF BWK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	38,955.75	P A W C	100.33
BORO OF BWK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	39,696.35	P A W C	15.68
BORO OF BWK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	2,232.12	P A W C	15.68
BORO OF BWK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	50,351.67	P A W C	24.95

BORO OF BWK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	8,704.41	P A W C	2,601.58
BORO OF BWK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	41,222.86	PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, LLC	85.00
BORO OF BWK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	16.66	PAYROLL FORMS COM	94.40
BORO OF BWK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	166.67	PENNBCO	85.00
BORO OF BWK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	16.66	PENNBCO	85.00
BORO OF BWK POLICE PENSION	889.68	PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	450.00
BORO OF BWK POLICE PENSION	1,237.40	PENNSYLVANIA ONE CALL SYSTEM	30.04
BRADCO SUPPLY CO, INC.	152.50	PETERS CONSULTANTS, INC.	81.25
BRANDON SHULTZ	225.00	PETERS CONSULTANTS, INC.	93.75
CAMPBELL SUPPLY CO., LLC	1,499.96	PETERS CONSULTANTS, INC.	1,397.50
CAPITAL ONE	461.01	PETERS CONSULTANTS, INC.	1,576.25
CAPITAL ONE	397.50	PHILIP KEIFER	134.53
CAPITAL ONE	169.73	PHILIP MAINIERO	225.00
CAPITAL ONE	450.08	PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL	184.65
CAPITAL ONE	927.89	PITNEY BOWES PURCHASE POWER	800.00
CARLA ELLZY	25.00	PPL	261.16
CASSANDRA MOWERY	97.55	PPL	421.90
CENTRAL PA TEAMSTERS HEALTH & WELF.	58,266.12	PPL	806.97
CENTRAL PA TEAMSTERS HEALTH & WELF.	2,179.80	PPL	12,733.79
CENTRAL PA TEAMSTERS HEALTH & WELF.	2,549.68	PPL	28.74
CH WALTZ SONS, INC	519.96	PRECISION MILLWRIGHT & FABRICATING	153.90
CHRISTOPHER KELCHNER	225.00	PRESS-ENTERPRISE, INC.	468.80
COLE'S HARDWARE	137.06	PSAB	1,309.00
COLUMBIA COUNTY	582.20	PSAB	150.00
COL COUNTY TAX COLLECTION COMM	758.91	QUAD THREE GROUP, INC.	4,852.58
CUSTOM ADVERTISING	431.00	QUAD THREE GROUP, INC.	172.50
DEARBORN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO	1,212.67	QUILL CORPORATION	393.16
DEFEBO GRAPHICS	333.00	RANDY GAUGLER	225.00
DENNIS & MARTHA KOCH	16,000.00	RANGER HOSE CO	383.33
EAGLES FIRE COMPANY	383.33	REAGAN RAFFERTY	450.00
ERIK HELBING	50.00	REAGER & ADLER, PC	3,300.00
EUGENE GOLLA	50.00	RELIANCE FIRE CO	383.33
FASTENAL COMPANY	74.95	RHONDA T. KOCH, CCR	75.00
FIRST KEYSTONE NATIONAL BANK	3,510.75	SCOTT SIENKIEWICZ	225.00
FIRST COLUMBIA BANK & TRUST CO.	1,412.58	SEDA-COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS	2,000.00
FIRST COLUMBIA BANK & TRUST CO.	3,575.99	SQUARE 1 HOME IMPROVEMENTS, INC.	21,915.00
FTAC	200.00	SQUARE 1 HOME IMPROVEMENTS, INC.	11,100.00
GALL'S, INC.	8,435.49	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	160.98
GRASSHOPPER	608.26	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	129.85
GREGORY MARTIN	450.00	STATIONERS INC	82.95
HAZARD 4	1,724.83	STEPHEN LEVAN	225.00
HOLDEN SPRUNG	196.97	STEVE SHANNON TIRE CO	76.94
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	2,089.45	STEVE SHANNON TIRE CO	1,411.82
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	395.00	STEVE SHANNON TIRE CO	24.95
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	2,034.65	STEVEN TORRES	225.00
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	395.00	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	701.99
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	2,520.89	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	510.20
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	395.00	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	465.41

ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	2,178.50	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	545.72
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	395.00	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	217.41
INDUSTRIAL CHEM LABS	543.53	SUSQUEHANNA FIRE EQUIPMENT CO	18.80
JAMES DALBERTO	71.79	TEAM GREEN RECYCLING & CONTAINER	17,250.00
JAMES DALBERTO	28.76	TEAMSTERS	1,518.00
JEREMY MULDER	20.00	THE TIMES LEADER	349.00
JEREMY MULDER	225.00	TRI-COUNTY HARDWARE	47.98
JORDAN HOPPER	300.95	TRI-COUNTY HARDWARE	14.58
JOSEPH LOYACONO	225.00	TROY MANEVAL	225.00
JOSHUA LOWERY	225.00	TSSI	789.32
KEN POLLOCK	73.58	UGI PENN NATURAL GAS	236.66
KENNETH STRISH	500.00	VERIZON WIRELESS	300.02
KEPNER, KEPNER & CORBA, P.C.	3,496.90	VICTOR GUEVARA	225.00
KEPNER, KEPNER & CORBA, P.C.	1,938.70	WASHINGTON NATIONAL INS CO	428.00
KEVIN RYMAN INC	85.50	WEST BERWICK FIRE CO	383.33
KISSINGER'S FLOOR & WALL	263.95	WEX BANK	2,249.61
KOVATCH MOBILE EQUIPMENT	2,853.15	WEX BANK	97.97
LARRY C. FRACE INSPECTIONS, LLC	2,662.00	WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP, INC	819.66

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

MAYOR: **Mayor Tim Burke**: We helped with a few Thanksgiving meals at the Hope Center for Berwick residents.

The 7th & 14th of December he had a Santa gig.

Again doing the Christmas Wish List and it is up to 30+.

He will be working the Christmas Eve meal at the Salvation Army this year.

Will be at the Eagle Hose for the Christmas Day Meal.

The Christmas Boulevard is great again this year and they have openings for anyone wishing to volunteer to hand out chips.

The police station is getting a much needed update to their kitchen. DPW guys are doing a wonderful job. Chief Strish agreed that DPW workers are indeed doing a great job and it is much appreciated by the officers.

SOLICITOR: **Attorney Frank Kepner**: He said the Truck Sign Ordinance will be ready in a day or so and will be given to the Borough Manager to review.

PERSONNEL: **Council President Alley**: Nothing

LEGAL & FINANCE: **Council President Alley:** Budget up for a vote at this meeting.

PARKS & RECREATION: **Councilman Jarrett:** Nothing

STREETS, PARKS, & BUILDINGS: **Jack Kytte:** SEE REPORT. Regarding MS4; our pollution reduction plan will be going out to DEP for review tomorrow.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: **Councilman Shektor:** Nothing

FIRE & WATER: **Councilman Lewis:** Nothing to report.

CODES, RECYCLING & ORDINANCES: **Councilman Learn & Talanca:** Curt Rider will be checking up with a suggestion from Councilman Jarrett with regard to recycling and talking with State Representatives.

SAFETY: **Councilman Lewis:** Boulevard power issue Phase 1 is complete. And Phase 2 should start in the summer.

POLICE: **Chief Ken Strish:** See Report.

BAJSA REPORT: SEE REPORT.

**BUSINESS
NOT READY
FOR ACTION: NONE**

**OLD
BUSINESS: NONE**

**APPROVAL OF
ORDINANCES
AND RESOLUTIONS:**

RESOLUTION 2019-07 Transfer of Funds. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Jarrett and seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. All ayes. Motion passes.

RESOLUTION 2019-08 ACT 44. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Learn and seconded by Councilman Lewis. All ayes. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS

**Approved
2020 Budget**

Council President Jeri Alley thanked all department for working hard to cut expenditures for 2020.
Councilman Learn said he would like to see residents get involved in coming to the budget meeting and providing input.
Councilman Shektor thanked the Police and Dept of Public Works for submitting a tight budget. But he has a

problem with raising taxes. He would have liked to see a 5, 10 and even a 20-year plan but that didn't happen. Council President Alley said that as long as she has been on Council she never heard him bring that up.

A motion was made by Councilman Jarrett and seconded by Councilman Talanca. A roll call vote was taken. Talanca: YES, Lewis: YES, Learn: YES, Shecktor: NO, Jarrett: YES, Troiani: YES, Alley: YES.

6/1 2020 Budget passes

**Approved
Tax Millage
Rate by 1 mil**

A motion was made by Councilman Talanca to raise the tax millage rate by 1 mill. This was seconded by Councilman Lewis. A roll call vote was taken. Talanca: YES, Lewis: YES, Learn: YES, Shecktor: NO, Jarrett: YES, Troiani: YES, Alley: YES.

6/1 2020 1 Mil increase passes

**Approved
To advertise
For bids on
Police Vehicles**

Councilman Shecktor made a motion to advertise for bids on Police Vehicles. This was seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. All ayes. Motion passes.

**Approved
Change of
Insurance
Carriers**

Representatives from two insurance companies gave a short presentation on the coverage of each. Penn Prime's 2020 estimate was \$238,285.00. EHD's 2020 estimate was \$175,595.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Jarrett to change carries from Penn Prime to EHD. This was seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. A roll call votes was taken. Talanca: NO, Lewis: YES, Learn: YES, Shecktor: NO, Jarrett: YES, Troiani: YES, Alley: YES.

6/1 Motion passes.

**Approved
Resolution
2019-09 to
Join Susquehanna Municipal Trust**

A motion to join Susquehanna Municipal Trust was made by Councilman Jarrett and seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. All ayes. Motion passes.

**Approved dates
for the 2020
Council Meetings**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Troiani to approve the 2020 Council meeting dates for the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:00PM with two exceptions; January 6, 2020 re-organization meeting will be held at 5:00PM. And the 1st Monday of September meeting will be moved to Tuesday September 8, 2020. This was seconded by Councilman Jarrett. All ayes. Motion passes.

**Approved
Appointment**

A motion was made Councilman Jarrett to appoint Annette Brennan to the Zoning Board for a 5-year Term

Of Annette Brennan to Zoning board for a 5-year term to end Dec 31, 2024 ending Dec 31, 2024. This was seconded by Councilman Talanca. All ayes. Motion passes

Approved Appointment of Charles Ligosh to The Planning Commission for 4-year term to end Dec 31, 2023 A motion was made Councilman Learn to appoint Charles Ligosh to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term to end Dec 31, 2023. This was seconded by Councilman Lewis. All ayes. Motion passes. Councilman Shecktor abstains from the vote.

Approved Appointment of Councilman Lewis to the Civil Service Commission for a 6-year term to end Dec 31, 2025. A motion was made Councilwoman Troiani to reappoint Councilman Lewis to the Civil Service Commission for a 6-year term to end Dec 31, 2025. This was seconded by Councilman Jarrett. All ayes. Motion passes. Councilman Lewis abstains from the vote.

Tabled Reappointment of James Long to the Codes Appeal Board A motion was made by Councilwoman Troiani to table the reappointment of James Long to the Codes appeal Board to see if a Berwick resident could be found to to serve. This was seconded by Councilman Talanca. All Ayes. Motion to table reappointment passes.

Appointment of a representative on the Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority was removed from the agenda so the new 2020 Council could decide.

Approved Payment to Peters Consulting For \$1,576.25 From CDBG funding on the Blighted Property Projects. A motion was made by Councilman Jarrett to pay Peters Consulting \$1,576.25 from CDBG funding for the Blighted Property Project. This was seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. All ayes. Motion passes.

Tabled the Request from the Berwick Senior Citizens Inc to Refund \$525.00 Zoning Fee A motion was made by Councilman Jarrett to table a request from the Berwick Senior Citizens Inc to refund the \$525.00 Zoning fee they paid until the issue can be researched to what has been done for others in the past. This was seconded by Councilman Talanca. All ayes. Motion to table passes.

Approved FFY 2018 CAPER A motion was made by Councilwoman Troiani to approve the FFY 2018 CAPER. This was seconded by Councilman Shecktor. All ayes. Motion passes.

Approved to Advertise for Bids for the Demo project A motion was made by Councilman Jarrett to advertise for bids on the demo project. This was seconded by Councilman Talanca. All ayes. Motion passes.

Added agenda items:

Approved to repair a fuel leak on the Ladder truck for \$2,298.51 from Fire Protection fund A motion was made by Councilman Lewis to repair a fuel leak on the ladder truck at a cost of \$2,298.51 from the Fire Protection Fund. This was seconded by Councilman Learn. All ayes. Motion passes.

Approved an Estimate to Take down Trees \$700.00 A motion was made by Councilman Talanca to remove trees on the property of Helena Shultz at corner of Summerhill Ave & Chestnut Street due to decay; at a cost of \$700.00 to be billed to property owner. This was seconded by Councilman Lewis. All Ayes. Motion passes.

Councilman Jarrett said what a great pleasure it has been to serve with departing **Councilman Andrew Shecktor**. All other Council Members agreed.

A resident in attendance asked if Council would consider reinstating Dumpster Day and maybe charging residents for drop offs. Council said they would take it under consideration. But that it is costly.

Council adjourned for a short **Executive Session** to discuss a potential law suit. Council returned and council President Alley stated they reviewed a request for \$616.26 for expenses (pending documentation) from a police car hitting a parked vehicle.

Council President Alley open the request for public comment. No one spoke up.

Councilwoman Troiani made a motion to pay \$616.26 expenses pending documentation. This was seconded by Councilman Learn. All ayes. Motion passes.

Adjournment Motion to adjourn made by Councilwoman Troiani, seconded by Councilman Talanca.

Respectfully Submitted: _____
Damien Scoblink, Borough Manager