

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
October 21, 2019
7:00PM Council Meeting

AGENDA:

Regular meeting of the Borough Council, Borough of Berwick, Pennsylvania was held Monday, October 21, 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, Theresa Troiani, Mayor Tim Burke, and Borough Manager Damien Scoblinsk, and the Chief of Police Ken Strish.

Absent was Councilman Peter Talanca

Also present were Borough Solicitor's Attorney Frank Kepner Jr, DPW Foreman Jack Kyttle, Fire Chief Randy Remphrey, Administration Assistant Nancy Sborz Press Enterprise Reporter Susan Swartz.

and

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

**Review and
Approve Current
Agenda:**

A Motion to approve current agenda with 1 addition of the resignation of Officer Nardi; was made by Councilman Jarrett and seconded by Councilman Learn. All ayes, motion passes.

**PUBLIC HEARING
CITIZENS**

Bobbie Meyers: Riverfest was great this year. One suggestion would be to add more seating.

CORRESPONDENCE

PERSONAL APPEALS:

Scott Bower: He had information on 1125 Good Ave. He went to the court house tax office and this address is at the top of the delinquent list at \$26,000.00 owed in back taxes. He said the borough has been fighting this property for about 26 years.

Bill Coolbaugh: Wanted to know where the money for the up keep on Defenders was coming from and not that Defenders is sold where will the money go back to. The Borough Manager said he would find out, but where ever it came from the money will go back into that account.

Amanda Titus: Her daughter has a problem in front of her Rasley Street home. Water pools in where she parks her car and in the winter her car has actually frozen to the ground and she can't get out. She has called and called and told a ticket will be open but they never show up to fix it, Council said they would look into the situation and get back to her. Amanda left pictures for Council to see the problem.

Ron Morris: Here about vacating an alley. Council advised him it is on the agenda.

Greg & Lori Clemens: Disruptive conduct continues. Lori read a time line of the 29 months they have been living with this issue. They had 6 disruptive conducts over that time that he pleaded guilty to but no report was filed by the police to codes documenting it. Attorney Kepner said he was ready with a vacate order today and property owner Mr. Karchner was in his office ready to sign but wanted to see the video the Clemens say they have but Attorney Kepner had not received the promised video to show him. The Clemens said they had to buy a flash drive big enough to hold it and wanted to come here first. Attorney Kepner said coming here they missed a good chance to end this. The Clemens said they provide it to him immediately.

Teddy Boone: Property owner of 1145 Good Ave. Said he recently paid \$8,000.00 of the oldest taxes so his home wouldn't go to sheriff's sale. And he would like Council to consider removing his home from the demo list. He recently came into some money and has funds to get the home up to code. Council said they do not like to demo homes and when they do it is a long process. And removing them at this point they will lose money they put into the process. They recently decided that once a property goes on the demo list it does not come off as to much time and money has been invested and doing it delays the whole process with the other properties. Council President Jeri alley suggested all of council drive by and take a look at the house. The condition and cost of repairs out weights the value of the home.

Fred Gause: Truck signage for Wise is working pretty good only a few don't follow what they say. Council said that today they have 4 Ordinances on the agenda and his ordinance is up next to be worked on.

PRESENTATION:

NONE

**APPROVAL OF
THE MINUTES
OF THE
PRECEDING
MEETING:**

Motion by Councilman Jarrett and seconded by Councilman Shektor to approve the Council Minutes of September 16, 2019. And the Work Shop minutes of October 7, 2019. All ayes. Motion passes.

**APPROVE
PAYMENT
OF BILLS:**

Motion by Councilwoman Troiani and seconded by Councilman Lewis to pay the bill listing.
All ayes. Motion passes.

AARON ZANOLINE	129.99	HELLER'S GAS INC.	87.76
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE ASSURANCE	857.21	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	1,830.38
AMERICAN PAPER & SUPPLY INC	379.80	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	380.00
AMERICAN PAPER & SUPPLY INC	191.45	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	2,240.89
AMERICAN PAPER & SUPPLY INC	193.20	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	395.00
ANIMAL ADVENTURES	3,500.00	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	2,160.13
ANNETTE BRENNAN	50.00	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	395.00
ANNUZIATO DEGEORGE	50.00	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	395.00
ATLANTIC BROADBAND	138.00	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	2,096.81
ATLANTIC TACTICAL	18.00	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	2,239.72
AVAYA, INC	33.68	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	395.00
BARBARA NAGEL	125.00	JIMMY PECA	650.00
BARRY'S SERVICE INC.	202.82	KEITH CRABBS	600.00
BARRY'S SERVICE INC.	77.76	KEPNER, KEPNER & CORBA, P.C.	377.60
BEAVER VALLEY ENVIRENMENTAL LLC	275.00	LACAL EQUIPMENT, INC	186.86
BEAVER VALLEY ENVIRENMENTAL LLC	2,185.00	LARRY C. FRACE INSPECTIONS, LLC	2,550.00
BELLES PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC	56,050.00	LARRY'S LUMBER AND SUPPLY, INC.	42.56
BELLES PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC	34,780.00	LARRY'S LUMBER AND SUPPLY, INC.	31.41
BERWICK ELECTRICAL SUPPLY, INC.	260.42	LAUBACH'S AUTO REPAIR	30.00
BERWICK ELECTRICAL SUPPLY, INC.	73.75	LAUBACH'S AUTO REPAIR	32.26
BERWICK ELECTRICAL SUPPLY, INC.	7.89	LAUBACH'S AUTO REPAIR	350.00
BERWICK ELECTRICAL SUPPLY, INC.	10.50	LECCE ELECTRIC, INC.	880.00
BERWICK FIRE POLICE	2,341.75	LENDENMANN'S REMODELING	12,200.00
BEST LINE EQUIPMENT	1,600.75	LORI AND DAVE DIETRICK	240.00
BODNAR SALES & SERVICE	144.29	MACKENZIE FISH	200.00
BODNAR SALES & SERVICE	70.58	MALCOME YAPLE	650.00
BODNAR SALES & SERVICE	144.29	MARTY SITLER	213.00
BOROUGH OF BERWICK	174,293.85	MATTHEWS SPRING WATER	46.00
BOROUGH OF BERWICK	9,184.43	MATTHEWS SPRING WATER	17.25
BOROUGH OF BERWICK MUNICIPAL PENSION	824.93	MEMORY LANE	750.00
BOROUGH OF BERWICK MUNICIPAL PENSION	801.20	METROPOLITAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS	876.43
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	37,513.56	MIDLAND ASPHALT MATERIALS INC.	1,546.50
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	44,374.48	MIDLAND ASPHALT MATERIALS INC.	1,335.86
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	2,232.12	NAPA AUTOPARTS BERWICK	86.61
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	41,181.12	NAPA AUTOPARTS BERWICK	25.13
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	40,324.03	NMS	242.00
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	44,815.18	P A W C	42.97
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	12.99	P A W C	15.73
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	24.58	P A W C	22.35
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	12.99	P A W C	245.13
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	166.67	P A W C	2,601.58
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCOUNT	24.58	PACE ANALYTICAL SERVICES, LLC	60.00
BOROUGH OF BERWICK POLICE PENSION	931.09	PANORAMA MAGAZINE	205.00
BOROUGH OF BERWICK POLICE PENSION	959.43	PENNSYLVANIA ONE CALL SYSTEM	51.05

BORO OF BWK POLICE PENSION TRUST	1,828.36	PETERS CONSULTANTS, INC.	93.75
BOROUGH OF BERWICK RECYCLING FUND	17,250.00	PETERS CONSULTANTS, INC.	180.00
BRADCO SUPPLY CO, INC.	2,400.00	PITNEY BOWES PURCHASE POWER	400.00
BUCK'S LOCKSMITH SERVICE	275.00	PPL	34.60
CAMPBELL PRINTING CO.	179.62	PPL	1,695.86
CAMPBELL PRINTING CO.	241.80	PPL	70.25
CAMPBELL SUPPLY CO., LLC	379.84	PPL	12,653.17
CAPITAL ONE	31.77	PRESS-ENTERPRISE	223.60
CAPITAL ONE	69.35	PRESS-ENTERPRISE, INC.	352.65
CAPITAL ONE	37.99	PSAB MUNI RETIREMENT TRUST	88,722.00
CAPITAL ONE	195.00	PSATS	675.00
CASSANDRA MOWERY	25.44	QUAD THREE GROUP, INC.	649.57
CENTRAL CLAY PRODUCTS, INC	2,432.00	QUAD THREE GROUP, INC.	5,899.50
CENTRAL CLAY PRODUCTS, INC	350.00	QUAD THREE GROUP, INC.	2,023.59
CENTRAL CLAY PRODUCTS, INC	3,664.00	QUILL CORPORATION	906.98
CENTRAL PA TEAMSTERS HEALTH & WELF.	59,444.75	RANGER HOSE CO	383.33
CENTRAL PA TEAMSTERS HEALTH & WELF.	2,599.20	RANGER HOSE CO	392.50
CLEVELAND BROTHERS EQUIPMENT	121,572.50	RELIANCE FIRE CO	383.33
CLEVELAND BROTHERS EQUIPMENT	268.53	RHONDA T. KOCH, CCR	75.00
CLEVELAND BROTHERS EQUIPMENT	540.00	RIVERVIEW BLOCK	47.40
COLE'S HARDWARE	141.95	RIVERVIEW BLOCK	203.07
COLE'S HARDWARE	7.18	RIVERVIEW BLOCK	131.18
COLE'S HARDWARE	36.46	ROBERT MAIER	50.00
COLE'S HARDWARE	8.99	RON HAUCK	450.00
COLE'S HARDWARE	42.27	ROSE OSTROWSKI	25.00
COMPRESSED AIR SYSTEMS, INC.	130.00	SMITH FARMS	90.00
CONNER'S AUTO BODY SHOP	2,618.01	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	74.53
CUSTOM ADVERTISING	98.46	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	160.98
CUSTOM ADVERTISING	11.65	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	49.55
DEACON EQUIPMENT CO., INC.	11.28	STEVE SHANNON TIRE CO	10.00
DEARBORN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO	1,212.67	STEVE SHANNON TIRE CO	527.80
DEARBORN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO	1,212.67	STEVE SHANNON TIRE CO	8,115.20
DEFEBO GRAPHICS	198.00	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	760.30
DELL COMPUTER	323.46	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	37.17
DENT'S AUTO SERVICE	31.00	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	757.71
EAGLES FIRE COMPANY	383.33	T.E.A.M. SUPPLY INC	179.95
ERIK HELBING	50.00	TEAM GREEN RECYCLING & CONTAINER	17,250.00
EUGENE GOLLA	50.00	TEAMSTERS	1,518.00
EXETER SUPPLY CO, INC.	7,029.42	THOMAS DUNLEAVY	1,500.00
FIRST COLUMBIA BANK & TRUST CO.	1,412.58	TIFFANY WOODESHICK	25.00
FIRST COLUMBIA BANK & TRUST CO.	3,575.99	TOTAL AMUSEMENTS	80.00
FSSOLUTIONS	120.73	TRI-COUNTY HARDWARE	65.90
GOLDEN EQUIPMENT CO, INC	547.92	TRI-COUNTY HARDWARE	36.35
GOLDEN EQUIPMENT CO, INC	117.63	TRI-COUNTY HARDWARE	3.48
HALLS MARINE	233.97	TRI-COUNTY-LUMBER DIVISION	12.50
HANSON AGGREGATES INC	425.23	WASHINGTON NATIONAL INS CO	428.00
HANSON AGGREGATES INC	431.43	WEST BERWICK FIRE CO	383.33
HELENA CHEMICAL CO	115.00	YCG	65.00

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

MAYOR: **Mayor Tim Burke: 09/17/2019** Went up to Luzerne County Community College to tour the new Medical Facility.

09/21/2019 Went to the Fair to be in a grape stomping contest, my opponent was the mayor of Bloomsburg.

09/24/2019 Went to the Katie Starr dedication down on Front Street. Very well handled thing. Katie is very deserving to be acknowledged.

09/28/2019 We went to Rolling Pines for the golf Tournament that the Garibaldi Society puts on to benefit the Police.

10/11/2019 Here at City Hall in Park for the Girl Scouts dedication of the 2 Buddy Benches. Officer Torres was out there with us and he tossed a football around with some kids. I feel community policing is important and we need to teach our kids that the police are there to help them.

10/18/2019 We were at Reliance Fire Hall to help out with their fish fry.

- We received 40 brand new kids winter coats from Larry Frace.
- Our Halloween visits to the schools are set up.
- With the help of a partner we were able to buy a mobility scooter for a young girl with spina bifida. We can't do this without partners and my thanks go out to Reliance for their help with this.
- Fall Clothing Give-a-Way to be held on November 1st & 2nd.
- More donations were made out of the Mayor's Ball. Money went to Toys for Tots, the Christmas Boulevard, and the Berwick Movie Theater.
- We had major incidents in town involving the police. The assault which was despicable and alarmed the whole community. The police worked tirelessly to bring this to a close. I applaud our police department for the work they have done.
- Some cars were damaged in another incident. Damage can be fixed. Thank GOD our officers were not hurt.

SOLICITOR: **Attorney Frank Kepner**: He only has the 5 Ordinances up for vote tonight.

PERSONNEL: **Councilman Jarrett**: Nothing to report.

LEGAL & FINANCE: **Council President Alley**: Nothing to report.

PARKS & RECREATION: **Councilman Jarrett**: Riverfest. Thank you to Nancy Sborz and the committee and our Manager spent time down there also.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: **Councilman Shektor**: Going to the annual Talen dinner this week.

STREETS, PARKS, & BUILDINGS: **Jack Kyttle**: SEE REPORT. Bowman Street project complete. The system was tested and worked pretty well. During the rain storm there was some water but within an hour after stopping it drained away.

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

CODES, RECYCLING & ORDINANCES: **Councilman Learn & Talanca**: Council President Alley said there was a Codes meeting held last week and we went over some properties that had complaints and also the demo list was discussed and that in February we will send letters before we put them on the list.

SAFETY: **Councilman Lewis**: Nothing to report. We continue to go through our Loss Standards Book monthly.

POLICE: **Chief Ken Strish**: See monthly and quarterly reports. Turned in the final probationary report on Officer Torres. Councilman Jarrett said in a statement that Officer Torres was at the Beyond Violence Vigil Thursday night and it was most appreciated. But he wanted Chief Strish to know that he is a very important part of what they do there. He is a fine young officer and pass that along.

BAJSA REPORT: SEE REPORT.

BUSINESS

NOT READY

FOR ACTION: NONE

OLD

BUSINESS: NONE

**APPROVAL OF
ORDINANCES
AND RESOLUTIONS:**

ORDINANCE 2019-05 Updated Large Vehicle Parking. Councilman Jarrett made the motion to approve the Ordinance. This was seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. All ayes. **Motion passes.**

ORDINANCE 2019-06 Historical Property Designation. A motion was made by Councilman Learn to approve the Ordinance. This was seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. All ayes. **Motion passes.**

ORDINANCE 2019-07 Alley Vacating at Orange Street/Spring Garden Ave. and Blair Street/Orchard Street. Council President Alley Opened the record for resident opinions for or against. No one had anything to say. Council President Alley closed the record and a motion was made by Councilman Jarrett to approve the vacating of the alley, this was seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. All ayes. **Motion to vacate passes.**

ORDINANCE 2019-08 Alley Vacating at E. 11th Street/E. 12th Street and Market Street/Pine Street. President Alley Opened the record for resident opinions for or against. No one had anything to say. Council President Alley closed the record and a motion was made by Councilwoman Troiani to approve the vacating of the alley, this was seconded by Councilman Learn. All ayes. **Motion to vacate passes.**

ORDINANCE 2019-09 Alley Vacating at Iron Street/Hughes Street and Susquehanna Ave/Front Street. President Alley Opened the record for resident opinions for or against. No one had anything to say. Council President Alley closed the record and a motion was made by Councilman Shecktor to approve the vacating of the alley, this was seconded by Councilman Lewis. All ayes. **Motion to vacate passes.**

NEW BUSINESS

**Approved
Promotion of
Officer Torres
too Permanent**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Troiani to promote Officer Torres from probationary too permanent. This was seconded by Councilman Learn. All ayes. Motion is approved.

**Approved
MMO amount
For 2021
Minimum Municipal
Obligation**

The Borough Manager explained that Conrad Seigle Accounting is asking us to decide what we will contribute to the pension fund for 2021. Councilman Jarrett asked if they will catch it if the market is not doing well and not let it go like for 10 years before they tell us. He was assured it would be caught. So Councilman Jarrett made a motion to go with the low

estimate of \$240,000.00 for 2021, this was seconded by Councilman Shecktor. All ayes. Motion is approved.

**Approved
Purchase of
Codes Dept.**

Councilman Jarrett made a motion to approve this purchase. This was seconded by Councilman Shecktor their CDBG funding. There are protected classes with All ayes. Motion is approved.

**Approved
Moving from
A .com too
A .gov**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Troiani and seconded by Councilman Shecktor to move from a .com too a .gov. All ayes. Motion is approved.

**Approved
Tree Planting
In Ber-Vaughn
Park**

A motion was made by Councilman Learn and seconded by Councilman Lewis to allow Linda Sult to plant a a replacement tree at Ber-Vaugh Park. All ayes. Motion is approved.

**Approved
Replacement of
(2) computers
For the Admin
Office.**

A motion to replace (2) computers in the Administration office was made by Councilman Jarrett and seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. All Ayes. Motion is approved.

**Approved
Payment to
Belles Prop for
\$34,780.00
For Curb Cut
Project**

A motion was made by Councilman Lewis to approve payment to Belles Property Management for \$34,780.00. Contingent upon satisfactory submittal of all labor Standards documentation to SEDA-COG. The payment is for the Curb Cut Project. This was seconded by Councilman Shecktor. All ayes. Motion is approved.

**Approved
Payment to
Peters Consulting
For \$180.00
Blighted Structures
Project**

A motion was made by Councilman Jarrett to pay Peters Consulting \$180.00 for his work on the Blighted Structures Project. This was seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. All ayes. Motion is approved.

**Approved
Payment to
Peters Consulting
For \$577.55
Curb Cuts Project**

A motion was made by Councilman Jarrett to pay Peters Consulting \$577.55 for his work on the Curb Cuts Project. This was seconded by Councilman Learn. All ayes. Motion is approved.

**Approved
Citizens
Participation
Plan Amendment #1**

A motion was made by Councilman Shecktor to approved the Citizen Participation Plan Amendment #1. This was seconded by Councilman Jarrett. All ayes. Motion is approved.

**Approved the
Columbia County
Emergency
Operations Plan**

A motion was made by Councilman Shecktor and seconded by Councilman Learn to adopt the 2019 Columbia County Emergency Operations Plan as our own. All ayes. Motion is approved.

**Tabled
Granting
Priority status
To homeowner under
HOME EOOH program** A motion was made by Councilman Jarrett to table a request to grant priority status to a homeowner under the HOME EOOH Program to gather more information on extent of damage and home owner's insurance. This was seconded by Councilman Lewis. All ayes. Motion is approved.

ADDED ITEMS: Two added items:

**Approved
To accept
The resignation
Of Officer Nardi** Added to the agenda was the resignation letter of officer Christopher Nardi. A motion to accept was made Councilman Jarrett and seconded by Councilman Lewis. All ayes. Motion is approved.

A presentation was made by the Fire Chiefs of Eagle Hose, Ranger Hose and Reliance Fire Company. All 3 returned monies from they received from the closure of Defenders to the Borough to be put into the Fire Department budget for expenditures. Fire Chief Randy Remphrey accepted the checks than presented the checks to Council President Alley.

Adjournment Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Jarrett, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis

Councilman Lewis made a motion to go into an executive session to discuss a personnel issue. This was seconded by Councilwoman Troiani. All ayes. Motion is approved. They did not return to Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted: _____
Damien Scoblink, Borough Manager