

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 1, 2024

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. Business Not Ready for Action or No Action Needed
7. Old Business
8. Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions
9. Consent Agenda
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 Robert Lewis

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>
LEWIS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>			
JARRETT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Chief of Police	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
KARAFINSKI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Solicitor	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
LEARN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Engineer	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
MOCCIA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	DPW Foreman	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
TROIANI	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	Reporter(s)	Susan Schwartz (PE)	
WOZNIAK	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Fire Chief	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
MAYOR BURKE	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>			
Borough Manager	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>			

ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Karafinski

All in favor, agenda approved.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: CDBG FFY 2024 Public Hearing - Mr. Tyler Dombroski and Ms. Leslie Hosterman, SEDA-COG, hosted a public hearing for CDBG FFY

2024 project selection. This was originally scheduled to be a final public hearing, but recent changes to HUD LMI calculations made it such that Berwick would no longer be able to use CDBG funds for a proposed project. As such, identifying a new project was necessary, and need to be complete by the mid-August plan submission date. Dombroski and Hosterman described a plan to use funds for park projects as described in the upcoming Borough parks plan, with projects designed to address accessibility being almost automatically eligible. Council asked that an item be added to this evening's agenda to make this change.

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

None

ITEM 6. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. Running of the Sergeant List - Borough Manager explained scenario with extension of the eligibility list, as approved by the Civil Service Commission. Asked that Council consider adding a running of the list to its next meeting agenda, which would serve to formally close that list, potentially produce one candidate for sergeant, and trigger a need to run a test for either one or two sergeant positions. Council requested that this be added to next agenda.
2. Borough Manager Employment Agreement - Borough Manager noted he was asking for this to be considered now, as both union contracts appear to be wrapped up. Asked that Council consider adding approval to next agenda. Council requested that this be added to next agenda.
3. Fowler Field - Borough Manager noted that there was interest in purchase of Fowler Field. Council discussed various reasons for wanting to hold off on sale. Council did ask that Borough Manager discuss a potential sale with the solicitor, to ensure that it is done correctly when the time is right.
4. Storm Follow-up - Borough Manager provided update on what's being done to address storm damage in the Borough, including a tentative schedule moving forward.
5. Ber-Vaughn Softball Field Fence - Little League plans to install a new fence around the softball field at Ber-Vaughn Park, and is requesting a contribution from the Borough toward the total expense. Council requested consideration of this be added to next agenda.
6. Around the Table
 - a. Councilman Jarrett - Question on recycling. Borough Manager answered.
 - b. Police Chief Strish - Reiterated acknowledgement of great work done by all Borough personnel responding to recent storm.

- c. Councilman Moccia - Brought up recommendation by Codes Committee that something be done to limit chicken ownership in the Borough. After some discussion, this was sent back to Codes Committee to develop a proposal, with the understanding that some on Council were not on board with this being something that could be effectively legislated.
- d. Councilman Moccia - Brought up recommendation by Codes Committee that Borough ordinances be amended to allow for the Borough to cite property owners who won't trim trees that become a nuisance to neighboring properties. Discussion was had about Council becoming involved with neighbor disputes. Suggestion was made to word ordinance in a way that allows a resident to sue a neighbor for this, without the Borough becoming involved. Council sent back to Codes Committee to draft an ordinance.
- e. Councilman Moccia - Question on status of demo property, specifically related to damage caused to neighboring properties while awaiting demo. Borough Manager answered.
- f. Councilman Karafinski - Reiterated acknowledgement of great work done by all Borough personnel responding to recent storm.
- g. Fire Chief Coolbaugh - Noted that storm response was a good example of Fire Department working well together.
- h. Borough Manager - Reminded of 4th of July celebration on Thursday.

ITEM 7. OLD BUSINESS:

None

ITEM 8. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

- 1. Ordinance No. 2024-05 - Amending in Part Section 108.4.1 of the International Property Maintenance Code of 2018

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, ordinance approved.

ITEM 9. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Consider and take action to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:
 - a. Approve the minutes of the June 17, 2024 meeting of Council
 - b. Approve Nancy Sborz to work on a part-time, as needed basis, at a rate of \$20.59 per hour, until a permanent replacement is in place

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, consent agenda approved.

ITEM 10. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to conditionally accept South Eaton Street MS-4 Project bid from Don E. Bower, Inc., in the amount of \$760,691.35, contingent upon final solicitor and engineer approval of bid submission, and acceptance of bid by the Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority

Discussion: Borough Manager provided clarification that the bid to be accepted by BAJSA is the exact same bid as being approved by the Borough. Also provided a rough timeline for completion.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 11. ADDED ITEMS

1. **Item:** Consider and take action to remove Jackson Mansion Rehab from CDBG FFY 2024 final project selection, and add Berwick Parks Accessibility Project in the amount of \$170,983.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

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

- Terri Kessler, 225 E. 14th Street - Question on the process for recouping costs of mowing grass at abandoned properties, answered by Borough Manager. Questioned on whether chicken feed could be leading to an increase in rats and other rodents, which no one present was able to definitely answer.

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

Meeting adjourned.