

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING August 3, 2026 6:00PM 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 Jeri Wozniak

ITEM 2. ROLL CALL (Attendance)

<u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u> <u>& MAYOR</u>	PRESENT	ABSENT	<u>OFFICERS</u>	PRESENT	ABSENT
WOZNIAK	<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>
LEWIS	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	DPW Foreman	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
MOCCIA	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	Reporter(s)	Susan Schwartz (PE)	
TROIANI	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	Fire Chief	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
MAYOR BURKE	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	Code Enforcement	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Borough Manager	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>			

ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Lewis Second: Mr. Learn

All in favor, agenda approved.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: None

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

None

ITEM 6. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. Drug Testing Policy - Chief of Police and Borough Manager reviewed struggles, both logistical and financial, with current drug and alcohol testing policies. Proposed program where initial screens for post-incident and reasonable suspicion drug tests are done in house, then sent out for a second test in event of a non-negative result. Council requested that a formal policy be drafted for consideration.
2. Recycling Agreement Format - Borough Manager presented a proposed format for intermunicipal agreements for other municipalities to participate in Berwick's recycling drop off program. Question was asked on how the need for an increase in cost would be determined; Borough Manager and Public Works Foreman confirmed that expenses are tracked, and any increase would be based on increases in costs to the Borough. Format was approved. Borough Manager will send to Salem Township to consider.
3. Around the Table
 - a. Councilperson Learn - Noted that there are no BAJSA updates, but Attorney Karpowich is working on drafting an agreement for last swap at the Test Track.
 - b. Borough Manager
 - i. Reminded Council that Thursday night is Kids' Night at Sponsler Park.
 - ii. Provided update on contact made with representatives of some Borough mobile home parks.
 - c. Chief of Police - Provided monthly report. Noted that new officers are progressing well, and that testing for more potential hires.
 - d. Councilperson Moccia
 - i. Questioned timeline for Coblenz project shared on Facebook, and whether the Borough was in any way holding up the project. Borough Manager provided clarification that the years listed on that timeline were confirmed to be an error. Code enforcement confirmed that the Borough is not holding up the project.
 - ii. Requested clarification on the Borough's ability to condemn homes based on publicly available real estate photos. Borough Manager noted that Borough Solicitor provided the opinion that the Borough could condemn based on those photos.
 - iii. Questioned status of condemned 17th Street mobile home.
 - iv. Requested update from Chief of Police on homeless situation along river.

- e. Councilperson Karafinski - Noted that the Berwick Arts Association and the Winterfest Committee are joining to host a monthly "Second Friday" event downtown, starting in August.
- f. Fire Chief
 - i. No updates on sale of old ladder truck.
 - ii. Will be doing budget review.
 - iii. Talking with Salem Township supervisors about ordinance to bill for false alarms at data center sites.
- g. Code Enforcement - Report provided.

ITEM 7. OLD BUSINESS:

None

ITEM 8. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Ordinance 2026-04: Berwick Borough 2026 Zoning Ordinance

Discussion: Gratitude was expressed to Hailstone Economic for helping to get the Borough to the point that it is ready to pass this ordinance.

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Lewis ☒ 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 July 20, 2026 meeting of Council
- b. Approve submission to HUD of Borough of Berwick CDBG 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan and 2026 Action Plan
- c. Approve payment of SEDA-COG invoice of July 24, 2026, in the amount of \$14,700, for administration of FFY 2023 CDBG program, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds
- d. Approve payment of SEDA-COG invoice of July 24, 2026, in the amount of \$10,300, for administration of FFY 2024 CDBG program, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds
- e. Approve payment of SEDA-COG invoice of July 24, 2026, in the amount of \$8,000, for administration of FFY 2025 CDBG program, to be paid utilizing CDBG funds
- f. Approve advertisement of Ordinance 2026-xx, Borough of Berwick Street Opening Ordinance

Discussion: None

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Mr. Karafinski ☒ Approved, ☐
Denied, ☐ Tabled

All in favor, consent agenda approved.

ITEM 10. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to authorize Chief of Police and Borough Manager, at their joint discretion, to make conditional offers of employment to no more than four (4) candidates eligible for employment via the Academy Sponsorship Civil Service Hiring Classification, with affirmation of said conditional hires to be made by Borough Council at its regularly scheduled September 21 meeting.

Discussion: Chief of Police and Borough Manager explained the need to do this, based on timing of enrollment deadline for upcoming Police Academy class. It was agreed that four (4) would be the maximum, but that Chief should not feel pressured to hire that many if there weren't enough appropriate candidates.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to rename Vine Street Park as Dale J. Baker Memorial Park.

Discussion: Fire Chief Coolbaugh requested this as exact name, and detailed plans for memorial in the park.

Motion: Mr. Moccia Second: Mr. Karafinski ☒ Approved, ☐ Denied, ☐ Tabled

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 11. ADDED ITEMS

NONE

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

- Don Smith, Spring Garden Avenue - Thanked Council President Wozniak for stopping to talk the other day. Questioned if Code Blue had been approved permanently at Eagle Hose, or if it was a one-year thing. Borough Manager confirmed that it had been approved only for one year, with the Zoning Hearing Board noting that a new request would need to be made for future years if desired.

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

Meeting adjourned.