

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**May 6, 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>&amp; 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>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
TROIANI	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	Reporter(s)	<u>Susan Schwartz (PE)</u>	<u>      </u>
WOZNIAK	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	Fire Chief	<u>      </u>	<u>  X  </u>
MAYOR BURKE	<u>      </u>	<u>  X  </u>			
Borough Manager	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>			

**ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:**

Discussion - Borough Manager requested that consideration of transfer of a vehicle for use by fire police be added as Added Item #1. Motion was made with this amendment.

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Mr. Karafinski

All in favor, agenda approved as amended.

**ITEM 4. PRESENTATION:** CDBG FFY 2024 First Public Hearing - Tyler Dombroski, SEDA-COG, provided information on 2024 CDBG program, including an opportunity for Council and public input.

**ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items**

- Annunziato DeGeorge - Presented himself for any questions Council might have on his suitability to serve on Zoning Hearing Board.

**ITEM 6. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:**

1. Zoning Ordinance Updates - Borough Manager provided information on proposed updates from committee that has been working on this. Asked that Council take some time to consider those updates, with anticipation of making any needed changes and approving to begin the advertisement process at next scheduled meeting.
2. Recycling Updates - Borough Manager provided updates on curbside and drop-off recycling programs, noting that changes are anticipated to occur within the next two months.
3. Around the Table
  - a. Councilperson Karafinski - Questioned if return of dumpster day was an option. Borough Manager explained reasons for it stopped, and noted that it can be brought back, if Council wishes.
  - b. Councilperson Moccia - Questioned why soccer field at Test Track Park is no longer used. Borough Manager noted that Borough never stopped allowing AYSO to use, but that it was his understanding that participation is down, so the need for those fields evaporated. Another group looking to use those fields for a league could do so, following the same process of groups using baseball/softball fields.
  - c. Councilperson Moccia - Questioned if something could be done to make sure parked cars don't block postal vehicles from getting in or out of post office lot on Wyandotte Avenue. Borough Manager noted that parking changes can be made by ordinance, but Borough would need to assess exactly what is needed and word any such ordinance appropriately.
  - d. Councilperson Moccia - Questioned if anything could be done to prevent employee parking taking up spaces downtown. Borough Manager noted that 2-hour parking does exist, but that the Borough has not had a parking enforcement officer for some time. If Council wishes to prioritize enforcement, we could discuss options, but that it currently largely falls on businesses to police their own employees.
  - e. Councilperson Troiani - Questioned if community groups could use the Test Track for events. Borough Manager noted that this is both allowed and encouraged, citing a pair of events that the

- Borough has no connection with that occurring in the next month or two. Anyone interested should contact Borough Manager.
- f. Councilperson Troiani - Questioned if concert schedule was ready. Borough Manager noted that copies were printed this morning, would be in mailboxes soon, but that he could provide a copy to anyone interested before leaving City Hall tonight.
  - g. Chief Strish - Presented first quarter stats. Gave update on grant reporting.
  - h. Borough Manager - Provided CLFRF update.
  - i. Councilperson Jarrett - Noted that there is a sidewalk sale scheduled for downtown this Saturday.
  - j. Councilperson Jarrett - Gave an update on Blueprint Community, including that initial training has been held.
  - k. Mr. Kytte - Completed brush pickup. New wood chipper, which was purchased with state recycling grant, was helpful. Completed the streambank restoration project, which is an MS4 project.

**ITEM 7. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Consider and take action to approve hire of Chase Petty as a full-time Department of Public Works Laborer, with an established start date of June 3, 2024.

Discussion: Borough Manager provided Mr. Petty's name as the recommended hire.

Motion: Mr. Moccia Second: Ms. Troiani  Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion approved.

2. Consider and take action to appoint Annunziato DeGeorge as an alternate member of the Zoning Hearing Board, on a three-year term to expire 12/31/2026.

Discussion: Councilperson Karafinski noted that he wished to see a final vote on this, so it could be settled either way. Borough Manager noted that current policy is it only takes a request from one Councilperson for an item to be placed on the agenda, and that there is no guarantee that this won't find its way back again.

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

Roll call vote was called for, with results as follows:

- Mr. Learn - No
- Mr. Jarrett - No
- Ms. Wozniak - Yes
- Ms. Troiani - No
- Mr. Moccia - Yes
- Mr. Karafinski - No

Mr. Lewis - No

Motion failed, by way of a 5-2 vote in opposition.

**ITEM 8. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

None

**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 April 15, 2024 meeting of Council
- b. Approve advertisement of a request for bids for CDBG Washington Street Reconstruction Project
- c. Approve payment of Eagle Truck Invoice #24709, in the amount of \$91,377, to be partially refunded by state DEP recycling grant
- d. Authorize Borough Manager to begin advertisement process for Ordinance No. 2024-02, Floodplain Ordinance

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, consent agenda approved.

**ITEM 10. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ITEM 11. ADDED ITEMS**

1. Consider and take action to set transfer amount for 2019 Ford F-350, to be utilized as Borough of Berwick Fire Police Vehicle, at \$20,000, to be transferred from Fire Protection Fund to General Fund.

Discussion: Borough Manager noted that Blue Book value is approximately \$30,000, but did not necessarily feel that we needed to go that high on transfer amount. Councilperson Jarrett suggested \$20,000, and proceeded to make motion for the same.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

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

None

**ITEM 13. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion: Mr. Moccia Second: Ms. Wozniak

Meeting adjourned.