

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 17, 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. Reports of Committees
7. Business Not Ready for Action or No Action Needed
8. Old Business
9. Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions
10. Consent Agenda
11. New Business
12. Added Items
13. Citizen Correspondence/Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items
14. 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>  X  </u>	<u>      </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>      </u>	<u>  X  </u>	Reporter(s)	<u>Susan Schwartz (PE)</u>	
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. Learn Second: Mr. Karafinski

All in favor, agenda approved.

**ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: None**

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

None

**ITEM 6. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

MAYOR: Mayor Tim Burke - None

ENGINEER: Quad 3 - None

SOLICITOR: Attorney Frank Kepner - Borough will need to refile on suit against Mr. Babb. All documents have been found regarding Schain Building, and a letter will be sent. Significant progress on settlement of UGI suit.

PERSONNEL: Tom Moccia, Nelson Learn, Jay Jarrett - None

LEGAL AND FINANCE: Tom Moccia, Nelson Learn, Jay Jarrett - None

PARKS AND RECREATION: Teresa Troiani, Ray Karafinski, Jay Jarrett - None

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Greg Harkins, Jeri Wozniak, Teresa Troiani, Jay Jarrett - None

STREETS, PARKS, & BUILDINGS: Jack Kyttle - None

FIRE AND WATER: Jeri Wozniak, Ray Karafinski, Bob Lewis - None

CODES, RECYCLING, & ORDINANCES: Nelson Learn, Tom Moccia, Ray Karafinski - Councilperson Moccia questioned Mr. Kepner on use of drones to take pictures over fences around properties.

SAFETY: Bob Lewis - None

POLICE: Chief Ken Strish - Reviewed monthly statistics. Variety of community policing and training opportunities.

FIRE: Chief Bill Coolbaugh - Has been overwhelmed with burning complaints.

BAJSA REPORT: See Report - Borough Manager requested clarification on note on report that BAJSA would not be assuming responsibility for future sinkholes. Councilperson Learn agreed to take back to BAJSA board for further discussion. Question from Councilperson Moccia on status of manholes on Route 11.

**ITEM 7. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:**

1. Downspout Planter Boxes - Borough Manager provided recap on project, including that 13 boxes have been dispersed to homes and businesses around the Borough. Council was reminded of the environmental benefit

of these boxes, and encouraged to use them as an example of what other residents could do at their own properties to address downspout runoff. Borough Manager thanked Columbia County Conservation District for their partnership and support with this project, and general support with a variety of stormwater related initiatives.

- 2. Mercer Street Unopened Alley - Borough Manager provided update on history of situation, including that a previous Council had agreed to begin process of vacating, but then never followed through on doing so. As such, alley remains open to public use. Property owner who initially questioned status will talk with neighbors, and notify Borough Manager if a formal letter from the Borough is needed.

**ITEM 8. OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**ITEM 9. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

- 1. Ordinance No. 2024-02 - Floodplain Ordinance  
Discussion: None

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

All in favor, ordinance approved.

- 2. Ordinance No. 2024-03 - Amending Section 158-75 of the Borough Code, Parking Prohibited at All Times  
Discussion: None

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

All in favor, ordinance approved.

- 3. Ordinance No. 2024-04 - Amending Section 158-76 of the Borough Code, Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours  
Discussion: None

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

All in favor, ordinance approved.

**ITEM 10. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Consider and take action to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:
  - a. Approve the minutes of the June 3, 2024 meeting of Council

- b. Approve the June 2024 bill listing as presented
- c. Approve advertisement of Ordinance No. 2024-xx, Amending Section 108.4.1 of the 2018 IPMC, Placard Removal
- d. Approve the completion of Christopher Kelchner's twelve-month probationary period and change his status from Probationary Sergeant to Permanent Sergeant

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, consent agenda approved.

**ITEM 11. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ITEM 12. ADDED ITEMS**

None

**ITEM 13. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items**

- Councilperson Wozniak - Noted that this coming Wednesday there will be a retirement ceremony at the Berwick LCCC campus for the outgoing president.
- Randy Butz, Nescopeck - Mr. Butz owns multiple rental units in Berwick. Noted that he has received multiple citations for high grass at his units, and feels that, based on existing lease, those citations should be going to tenants. Borough Manager and Solicitor explained to Mr. Butz that existing state law mandates that citations go to property owner, and it is then incumbent upon the property owner to use his lease to seek legal recourse against his tenants.
- Cole Shaffer, 1182 Ferris Avenue - Owner of a business on Mulberry Street. Questioned need for permits on a project.

**ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion: Ms. Wozniak Second: Mr. Karafinski

Meeting adjourned.