

MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

July 12, 2021

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. Presentations
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. New Business
10. Added Items
11. Citizen Correspondence/Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items
12. Adjournment

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDING OFFICER: Council President Scott Bower

ITEM 2. ROLL CALL (Attendance)

| <u>COUNCIL MEMBERS</u> <u>& MAYOR</u> | PRESENT | ABSENT | <u>OFFICERS</u> | PRESENT | ABSENT |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| BOWER | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | | | |
| TROIANI | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | Chief of Police | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| ALLEY | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | Solicitor | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| LEWIS | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | Engineer | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| JARRETT | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | DPW Foreman | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| LEARN | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | Reporter(s) | <u> None </u> | <u> </u> |
| TALANCA | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | Fire Chief | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| MAYOR BURKE | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> | | | |
| DAMIEN SCOBLINK, MANAGER | <u> X </u> | <u> </u> | | | |

ITEM 3. REVIEW & APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA:

Discussion - None

Motion: Ms. Alley Second: Mr. Lewis

All in favor, agenda approved.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATION: Borough Manager - Reviewed the proposed uses of CLFRF for Borough expenses. Indicated that proposed uses were not all guaranteed to be allowable at this time, although many did seem likely. Ultimately recommended that Council earmark \$5 million for the Borough's expenses, leaving a total of \$2,287,582 for distribution to outside agencies.

ITEM 5. CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE / PERSONAL APPEALS:

- Laura Knorr, Berwick Theater - Discussed necessary repairs to the building, as identified by the Borough's Codes Department in 2018. Noted that theater was closed extensively throughout pandemic, putting a delay on the theater's plan to be able to afford to fix issues. Requested an estimated total of \$99,600 for repairs.
- Frank Evina, Berwick Library - Discussed need for an updated HVAC system for the library, citing the fact that the current system has reached the end of its expected life, and is frequently failing. Requested a total of \$150,000 for the repair.
- Josh Nespoli, Community Strategies Group - Discussed a plan project to rehabilitate the former Geppetto's building, with the immediate goal of utilizing the space as a combination teen and community center. This project would be done in conjunction with For the Cause, the current operator of the Berwick Area's teen center. Requested a total of \$250,000, which would be leveraged to raise over \$1.5 million in funds to complete the project.
- Nick Pajovich, Berwick YMCA - Discussed a current \$4 million capital campaign to build a new gymnasium at the YMCA. In addition to providing the new gym space, it would enhance overall YMCA offerings. Mr. Pajovich also cited YMCA's ability to provide for childcare and food insecurity during pandemic. Requested \$250,000 toward the total project.
- Jennifer Campbell, Beyond Violence - Discussed Beyond Violence's need for assistance to repair HVAC system and roof, and to replace hot water heater. Requested \$53,706 for these projects.
- Josh Kishbaugh, Berwick Area Swimming Pool - Discussed pool's desire to install a splash pad, at an estimated cost of up to \$450,000. Cited pool's ability to stay open as a recreation option during pandemic, and the increase in use that has continued this summer. Requested any amount Council felt appropriate toward that total

amount, with the goal of utilizing the Borough's contribution to leverage other funds.

- Dave Kovach, Stuart Tank Memorial - Discussed the organization's loss of fundraising ability during the pandemic. Requested that the Borough replace those lost funds, in the amount of \$33,000.
- Melissa Fisher and Don Kishbaugh, BAJSA - Discussed the joint requirement of the Borough and BAJSA to complete projects to meet sediment reductions as required by MS4. Asked that the Borough agree to fund all projects for this 5-year project round. No firm number is available at this time.
- Bette Grey - Ms. Grey provided a project proposal to the Borough Manager ahead of the meeting, who then read that proposal. Ms. Grey proposes working to develop a program to allow local businesses to provide transportation vouchers to prospective employees. Requested \$20,000 for this venture.
- Ayrin Shortlidge, Berwick United Way - Reported on a variety of programs to address bridging gaps in learning in the Berwick Area School District that arose as a result of the pandemic. Requested \$37,500 to fund these programs.

ITEM 6. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. Discussion on use of CLFRF - Council agreed that projects presented showed promise, but required time and consideration. Borough Manager will work toward gauging interest in a three-member committee, that will work toward developing a recommendation for Council on funding priorities.

ITEM 7. OLD BUSINESS:

None

ITEM 8. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

None

ITEM 9. NEW BUSINESS

None

ITEM 10. ADDED ITEMS

None

ITEM 11. CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE / PERSONAL APPEALS - NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

- Bill Coolbaugh, Reliance - Reports that Reliance would like to start a fundraising campaign for a new ladder truck, with a target goal of \$1.3 million. Is not asking for any financial commitment from the Borough at this time, but would like Council to formally commit to supporting Reliance in this effort. Borough Manager will add to agenda for next meeting.
- A.D. George, LaSalle Street - Wished to express to Council ideas he hoped they would consider for use of stimulus funds, with the understanding that not all may be allowable. Ideas included installing drywells, paving, doing work on homes to allow senior to age in place, addressing blight, upgrading parks and playgrounds, and providing air conditioning units to seniors.

ITEM 12. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Ms. Alley

Meeting adjourned.