

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

August 21, 2023

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. Approval of the preceding meeting minutes if correct and rectifying mistakes if any exist.
7. Approval of Payment of Bills
8. Reports of Committees
9. Business Not Ready for Action or No Action Needed
10. Old Business
11. Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions
12. New Business
13. Added Items
14. Citizen Correspondence/Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items
15. Adjournment

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER BY PRESIDING OFFICER: Council President Nelson Learn

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>
LEARN	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>			
JARRETT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Chief of Police	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
LEWIS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Solicitor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
MOCCIA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Engineer	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
TALANCA	<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> </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 - None

Motion: Mr. Talanca Second: Mr. Jarrett

All in favor, agenda approved.

ITEM 4. PRESENTATIONS:

1. Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Public Hearing
 - a. Mr. Joel Ruch of SEDA-COG provided update on HOME Grant, including that SEDA-COG plans to apply for another round of grant funding.

2. South Eaton Street Stormwater Project Presentation (Brent Berger - Quad3)
 - a. Mr. Brent Berger of Quad3 presented a final plan for the MS4/Stormwater project that was designed for the area around South Eaton Street. Mr. Berger explained the MS4 program, and how this project would work toward meeting Berwick's required sediment reduction, as given by DEP/EPA. Explained the overall goals of the program. Mr. Berger noted that, while this was designed as an MS4 project, it would have stormwater/flooding benefits as well. Noted that it would not be able to handle the waters of a 100-year flood, as the space that would be required for that much water would be massive, but that it was designed to handle at least a 10-year flood event, while also providing some relief for larger storms. Council and the public were given the opportunity to ask questions, both about the project specifically, and MS4 in general, which Mr. Berger provided answers to. It was noted that easements were still required from a pair of properties before moving forward.
 - b. Citizens were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and provide opinions regarding this project. Residential neighbors voiced concerns that this project might actually bring more water to the area, as there would be a detention basin located near their homes. There were also aesthetic concerns presented. Commercial neighbors—specifically the owners of Montec Self Storage—echoed concerns about bringing more water to the area. Montec owners also noted that they had built a wall along the northern edge of their property, specifically for the purpose of diverting floodwater, and that it had effectively eliminated any problem for them.

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

None

ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETINGS

- Regular Council Meeting of August 7, 2023.

Discussion - None

Motion: Ms. Wozniak Second: Mr. Jarrett

All in favor, minutes approved.

ITEM 7. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS MOTION: Mr. Talanca SECOND: Mr. Jarrett

All in favor, payment of bills approved.

ITEM 8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

MAYOR: Mayor Tim Burke - None

ENGINEER: Quad 3 - None

SOLICITOR: Attorney Frank Kepner - Provided update on Babb hearing.

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

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

PARKS AND RECREATION: Teresa Troiani, Pete Talanca, Jay Jarrett - None

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

STREETS, PARKS, & BUILDINGS: Jack Kyttle - The company installing new playground equipment at Ber-Vaughn Park is now targeting a mid-September installation date.

FIRE AND WATER: Jeri Wozniak, Pete Talanca, Bob Lewis - None

CODES, RECYCLING, & ORDINANCES: Nelson Learn, Tom Moccia, Pete Talanca - None

SAFETY: Bob Lewis - None

POLICE: Chief Ken Strish - Reviewed monthly stats. Police personnel will begin training for CODY RMS tomorrow.

FIRE: Chief Gene Boone - None

BAJSA REPORT: See Report

ITEM 9. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. Test Track Park - Native Creations Project
 - a. Borough Manager explained that a walkthrough had been done at Test Track Park, and areas identified that were more appropriate for native plant projects. A map of these areas was provided. Will add to next agenda to vote to move forward with project.

ITEM 10. OLD BUSINESS:

None

ITEM 11. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution No. 2023-08: Designating a Section of the Borough as an Arts District

Discussion: Borough Manager explained that this has no changes on day-to-day operations or allowances, but does give the Berwick Arts Association some ability to pursue additional grant funding.

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

All in favor, resolution approved.

ITEM 12. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to approve 2023 dates for trick-or-treating as follows: October 30 and 31, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Discussion: There was some discussion on the merits of having one or two nights of trick-or-treating, specifically given the presence of a variety of events for kids.

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

Voting in favor were Councilpersons Learn, Talanca, Lewis, Jarrett, and Wozniak. Voting in opposition was Councilperson Moccia. Motion approved via 5-1 vote in favor.

2. Consider and take action to approve 2024 Riverfest dates of October 4-6, 2024.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

3. Consider and take action to approve request of Color Me Crazy Salon, 110 S. Orchard Street, for the installation of one (1) handicapped parking sign to be placed on the street directly in front of this location.

Discussion: Borough Manager explained request, including why business owner felt that spaces in parking lot were not meeting this need.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

4. Consider and take action to approve public works request to install concrete floor at Borough barn, at an estimated cost of \$10,000, with labor provided by Borough employees.

Discussion: Borough Manager explained proposed funding source.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

5. Consider and take action to authorize Borough Manager to accept Dave Halman Chevrolet, Inc., sales agreement for one (1) 2023 Chevrolet Silverado, in the amount of \$70,000.

Discussion: Borough Manager explained that this was replacing one vehicle purchase that was originally approved last year, now with a pricing update.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

6. Consider and take action to approve accepting hold harmless agreement between Borough of Berwick and Berwick Arts Association for the Berwick Arts Association's stairway mural project.

Discussion: Attorney Kepner explained what had been his original holdup with the agreement, and noted that he was now satisfied with the language.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

7. Consider and take action to approve Berwick Arts Association's request to complete stairway mural project.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 13. ADDED ITEMS

None

ITEM 14. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items

- Joe Favata - Questioned the reasoning for gates remaining open at Test Track Park beyond the listed hours of operation. This spurred some conversations on whether time-locked gates could be installed. Also questioned the status of bathrooms at Test Track Park, which Borough Manager provided an answer to.

ITEM 15. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Mr. Moccia Second: Ms. Wozniak

Meeting adjourned.