

MINUTES

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

December 18, 2023

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. 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. Approval of Budget
10. Business Not Ready for Action or No Action Needed
11. Old Business
12. Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions
13. New Business
14. Added Items
15. Citizen Correspondence/Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items
16. 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> </u>	<u> X </u>
TALANCA	<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> X </u>	<u> </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:

- Chief of Police - Officer Commendation
 - Did not occur at this point in the agenda
- Greg Cromer - Berwick Aerial Photography
 - Presenter was not present

ITEM 5. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Agenda Items

None

ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETINGS

- Regular Council Meeting of December 4, 2023.

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Lewis Second: Mr. Talanca

All in favor, minutes approved.

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

All in favor, payment of bills approved.

ITEM 8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

MAYOR: Mayor Tim Burke - Reviewed variety of holiday activities. Thanked Councilman Talanca for his service.

ENGINEER: Quad 3 - None

SOLICITOR: Attorney Frank Kepner - None

PERSONNEL: Tom Moccia, Nelson Learn, Jay Jarrett - Borough Manager noted that progress is being made in union contracts, but that they will likely not be ready for the end of the year.

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 - Report Provided

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

CODES, RECYCLING, & ORDINANCES: Nelson Learn, Tom Moccia, Pete Talanca - Councilman Moccia questioned status of a sidewalk concern.

SAFETY: Bob Lewis - None

POLICE: Chief Ken Strish - Reviewed stats. Presented commendation to Officer Jeremy Mulders.

FIRE: Chief Gene Boone None

BAJSA REPORT: See Report - Report provided

ITEM 9. APPROVAL OF BUDGET:

1. Consider and take action to approve 2024 Borough of Berwick Municipal Budget.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, 2024 Borough of Berwick Municipal Budget approved.

ITEM 10. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:

1. LaSalle Street/Freas Avenue Large Vehicles

a. Borough Manager provided update on details of signage being allowed by PennDOT. Discussed other pieces of a total solution, including working with Briar Creek Township and BIDA to improve signage and direct trucks to Vine Street. Council authorized Borough Manager to begin working on draft ordinance to cover signage.

ITEM 11. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consider and take action to appoint _____ as the citizen representative to the Landlord Ordinance Appeals Board.

Discussion: Item was tabled without a motion or vote.

Motion: _____ Second: _____ Approved, Denied, Tabled

ITEM 12. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Ordinance No. 2023-08: Setting the Tax Millage Rate for the Year 2024

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, ordinance approved.

2. Resolution No. 2023-12: Authorizing the Inclusion of a Consent Agenda
Discussion: Borough Manager explained process of consent agenda, noting he had misspoken in referring to this process as unanimous consent previously.

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

All in favor, resolution approved.

ITEM 13. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider and take action to accept with regrets the resignation of Mr. Gene Boone from the position of Borough of Berwick Fire Chief, effective December 31, 2023.

Discussion: None

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

All in favor, motion approved.

Council moved to executive session to discuss specific fire department personnel.

2. Consider and take action to appoint Bill Coolbaugh to serve as Borough of Berwick Interim Fire Chief, effective January 1, 2024.

Discussion: Vote to be taken by roll call vote.

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

Vote taken by roll call, with results as follows: Mr. Talanca - Yes; Mr. Moccia - Yes; Ms. Troiani - Yes; Ms. Wozniak - Yes; Mr. Jarrett - Yes; Mr. Lewis - No

Item approved via 5-1 vote in favor, with Council President Learn having not voted.

3. Consider and take action to authorize Borough Solicitor to draft ordinance regarding the position of Borough of Berwick Fire Chief as follows: Appoint committee of Councilpersons Lewis, Jarrett and Moccia to form recommendation to full Council, defining the terms of a proposed ordinance.

Discussion: Council noted that it was not ready to provide solicitor with details of ordinance at this time, and would rely on a committee to bring a recommendation to full Council, which could be approved and passed on to solicitor.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

4. Consider and take action to approve Borough of Berwick Non-Uniformed Pension Plan Revised MMO, in the amount of \$125,067.

Discussion: Borough Manager explained need for this action.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

5. Consider and take action to approve CDBG FFY 2022 CAPER.

Discussion: Borough Manager noted that no comments had been received.

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

All in favor, motion approved.

ITEM 14. ADDED ITEMS

None

ITEM 15. Citizen Correspondence / Personal Appeals - Non-Agenda Items

None

ITEM 16. ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Ms. Wozniak Second: Mr. Talanca

Meeting adjourned.