

**MINUTES**

**COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
July 6, 2020  
7:00PM Council Meeting**

THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. Call to Order by presiding officer
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. Citizen Correspondence/Personal Appeals
5. Business Not Ready for Action or No Action Needed
6. Old Business
7. Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions
8. New Business
9. Added Items
10. 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>	PRESENT	ABSENT	<u>OFFICERS</u>	PRESENT	ABSENT
LEWIS	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>			
TROIANI	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	Chief of Police	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>
ALLEY	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	Solicitor	<u>      </u>	<u>  X  </u>
BOWER	<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>Susan Schwartz, PE</u>	<u>      </u>
TALANCA	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>			
MAYOR BURKE	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>			
DAMIEN SCOBLINK, MANAGER	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>			

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

Discussion - None

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Mr. Jarrett

All in favor, agenda approved.

**ITEM 4. PUBLIC HEARING / CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE / PERSONAL APPEALS:**

- Wayne Risch, 7564 Columbia Blvd. - Reports that his mother owns 604/606 Maple St., which is one of the homes that were being considered for demolition with 2020 CDBG funds. Reports that due to his mother's failing health, he just became aware that this was the case when he saw a letter that had been sent in February. Requested that Council give him an opportunity to rehab the property. Council agreed to give him until next month to discuss with codes what he would need to do, and determine whether or not he will. In doing so, Council also agreed to not finalize a list of properties for demolition.

**ITEM 5. BUSINESS NOT READY FOR ACTION:**

1. Fireworks - Increased police presence over 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend led to increased contacts. Warnings were given. Still work to do moving forward, but apparent progress.
2. Burning in the Borough - Reiterated that Fire Chief needs to respond to calls regarding illegal burning. Council confirmed that they are in favor of allowing residents to have small fires for cooking in commercially produced fire pits, as is presently allowed.
3. Around the Table:
  - a. Mr. Learn will address Borough's stance of Abbonizio with BAJSA at its next meeting.
  - b. Chief Strish will be ready to hire officers provided by grant moving forward, but is not rushing the process.
  - c. Mayor Burke reports that there will be a clothing giveaway July 11-12.
  - d. There was a report of a vehicle on the 400 block of E. 11<sup>th</sup> St. with an expired inspection. Police will investigate.
  - e. There has recently been a couple individuals experiencing homelessness at Ber-Vaughn Park. Borough Manager will continue to work on this concern, while making efforts to offer assistance with connecting with available resources.

**ITEM 6. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Consider and take action on Berwick Borough 2021 Recycling as follows: Move forward with Borough providing its own recycling program.

Discussion: Council reports all having had the chance to have necessary conversations to be satisfied with DPW's ability to run this program.

Motion: Mr. Talanca Second: Mr. Bower X Approved,   
Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

**ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Resolution 2020-09 - Transfer of Funds

Discussion: None

Motion: Ms. Troiani Second: Mr. Learn X Approved,  Denied,  
 Tabled

All in favor, Resolution 2020-09 adopted.

**ITEM 8. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Consider and take action to approve updated Safety and Loss Control Policy.

Discussion: This is being done as part of a requirement from new insurance company.

Motion: Mr. Talanca Second: Ms. Troiani X Approved,   
Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

2. Consider and take action designate Nancy Sborz as the Accident and Illness Prevention Program Coordinator for the Borough of Berwick.

Discussion: This is being done as part of a requirement from new insurance company.

Motion: Mr. Bower Second: Mr. Jarrett X Approved,   
Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

3. Consider and take action to accept resignation of Jordan Hopper, effective July 10, 2020.

Discussion: None

Motion: Ms. Troiani Second: Mr. Learn X Approved,   
Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

4. Consider and take action to advertise for full-time DPW employee.

Discussion: None

Motion: Mr. Bower Second: Mr. Talanca X Approved,  Denied,  
 Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

5. Consider and take action to allow Lackawanna College Police Academy, Hazleton Campus, to utilize Test Track Park for outdoor running and calisthenics, with the Borough having been provided with a certificate of insurance naming the Borough as an additional insured.

Discussion: None

Motion: Ms. Troiani Second: Ms. Alley X Approved,  Denied,  
 Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

6. Consider and take action to select CDBG-CV Projects as follows:  
a. Berwick Hand Washing/Sanitizing Restroom: \$174,487  
b. Administration: \$19,300  
c. Total Allocation: \$193,787

Discussion: Discussed the need for an updated bathroom at Ber-Vaughn Park, and a bathroom in general for Test Track Park.

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Mr. Bower X Approved,  Denied,  
 Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

7. Consider and take action to approve CDBG 2020 Annual Action Plan.

Discussion: None

Motion: Ms. Alley Second: Mr. Talanca X Approved,  Denied,  
 Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

8. Consider and take action to approve CDBG 2019 Substantial Amendment #1.

DISCUSSION: None

Motion: Mr. Bower Second: Mr. Jarrett X Approved,  Denied,  
 Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

9. Consider and take action to approve Fair Housing Study.

DISCUSSION: None

Motion: Mr. Learn Second: Mr. Talanca X Approved,  Denied,  
 Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

10. Consider and take action to approve payment of Invoice #109819 in the amount of \$97.50 to Peters Consultants, Inc.

DISCUSSION: None

Motion: Mr. Bower Second: Mr. Jarrett X Approved,  Denied,  
 Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

11. Consider and take action on to accept proposal from Midlantic Engineering for materials testing services on select roads in West Berwick, with a total estimated fee of \$1,880.00.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

All in favor, motion passed.

12. Consider and take action, having opened all submitted sealed bids, to accept the following loan proposal for payment of legal settlement: 20-year loan from First Columbia Bank and Trust at an interest rate of 3.45%.

DISCUSSION:

The following bids were submitted:

- First Columbia Bank and Trust
  - o 5 year, 1.95%
  - o 10 year, 2.49%
  - o 15 year, 3.18%
  - o 20 year, 3.45%
- Service 1<sup>st</sup> Federal Credit Union
  - o 5 year, 4.25%
  - o 10 year, 4.875%
  - o 15 year, 5.375%
  - o 20 year, 5.875%

Motion: Mr. Jarrett Second: Ms. Troiani X Approved,   
Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

13. Consider and take action to grant Marc Maset an extension of 90 days to complete work on property at 325-327 N. Vine Street, from current agreed upon end date of July 1, 2020.

DISCUSSION: An extension had been given already, but Mr. Maset reported that complications related to COVID-19 arose.

Motion: Ms. Alley Second: Ms. Troiani X Approved,  Denied,  
 Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

14. Consider and take action to approve payment of Invoice #1819328 in the amount of \$69,187.14 to HRI, Inc., for paving project.

DISCUSSION: None

Motion: Mr. Bower Second: Mr. Learn X Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

15. Consider and take action to approve Settlement and General Release Agreement between the Borough of Berwick and N. Abbonizio Contractors.

DISCUSSION: None

Motion: Mr. Talanca Second: Ms. Alley X Approved,  Denied,  Tabled

All in favor, motion passed.

16. Consider and take action to enter into Professional and Administrative Services Agreement with SEDA-COG for the performance of professional and administrative services on the Borough of Berwick's Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Response funds.

DISCUSSION: None

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

All in favor, motion passed.

**ITEM 9. ADDED ITEMS**

None

**ITEM 10. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion: Mr. Talanca Second: Ms. Alley

Meeting adjourned.