

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
January 19, 2015

AGENDA: Regular Meeting of Borough Council, Borough of Berwick, Pennsylvania was held Monday, January 19, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. with Council members Hill, Bower, Jarrett, Huntington, Petty, Oliver, and Meighan present. Also present were Mayor Tim Burke, Borough Manager Debra Force, Chief of Police Ken Strish, Code Enforcement Officer Greg Harkins, and Press Enterprise Reporter Susan Swartz

There was a prayer by the Mayor and the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance.

PRESENTATION: Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Mike Monico, John Bardo, and Joe Kliss for their dedication to the Berwick Christmas Boulevard. Presenting the awards were Council President Alvin Hill, Mayor Tim Burke, and Councilman Travis Petty. Council President Hill went on to say how not only these 3 men are responsible for the display but also Councilman Petty, many individuals, the Fire Police, the DPW Crew, and the many sponsors; such as the Press Enterprise who sponsored a display. Councilman Petty agreed and went on to say that the Columbia-Montour Visitors Bureau's web site had increased traffic in December hitting on information for the Boulevard.

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Councilman Meighan seconded by Councilman Jarrett carried unanimously to approve the Council agenda; with 2 amendments: SEDA-COG letter and a request from Northeast Cruisers. A list of residents in attendance is attached.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

CITIZENS CORRESPONDENCE/ATTENDANCE:

Citizen Rich Montosh 1405 Freas Ave, said he is worried about Fred Berlin buying up properties and getting around the Landlord Ordinance by making contracts for 'rent to own'. Tenants are in and out of the home next door to him. Tenants are loud, using foul language. He had to take out a loan to put up a fence to keep their dogs out of

his yard. Tenants are climbing out on the porch roof to smoke and be loud. Council asked if he ever called police and he said yes in the summer when it was worse. The winter now has been quite. Council advised that will speak with the Solicitor Frank Kepner regarding this issue and Codes Officer Greg Harkins said he will keep an eye on the property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Councilwoman Joanne Huntington, seconded by Councilman Arden Oliver. Motion carried unanimously to approve the Regular Council Minutes of December 15, 2014.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Borough Manager Debra Force; Police cruiser complete, 3 new 2015 Dodge Chargers purchased and now have radios and new logo installed, the 3 older ones were buffed out and had the new logo installed.

The Parking Enforcement Officer has resigned. Debra has started the process to re-interview anyone who applied before.

Codes Officer Greg Harkins; permits are ready to go out for the new school. Demo permits are pending a report on asbestos. Councilman Petty took this time to ask that the Codes Department try their best to work with new businesses trying to start up in Berwick, he stated he is not asking them to go against code, but to work with businesses. And if the Code Officers find an ordinance that is outdated or not needed he is to bring it Council for review.

Council asked about condemned homes. Specifically 317 E. 8th? GH said owner says he will demo and rebuild. House on Butternut? GH said that it is all boarded up, but will keep an eye on it. Cressella home? GH said Attorney Kepner said to hold off as he is in contact with a family member.

Harkins said that the Codes Office is getting a lot of complaints of feral cats in neighborhoods. They are being feed by one neighbor and doing their business in others yards. GH said he has called and talked to the warden and he will not come out unless it is a dog. Council said there is a place in Millville that will take trapped cats. Councilwoman Huntington suggested hiring a

3rd party to trap and take them to Millville and not hire someone employed by the borough to do the job. Council will take this issue up with the Solicitor, attorney Frank Kepner.

Police Chief Ken Strish; Read his report and statics (see attached). Said he was under budget for 2014. Councilman Jarrett commented that the department had a good year and told the Chief he did a good job. The Chief also wanted to publically thank Defebo's for the work they did for the police.

Mayor Tim Burke; Said an area business offered to grind up the Christmas trees. He also lowered the Police overtime from \$27,500.

DPW Foreman Jack Kytte; not in attendance, report submitted and attached.

Fire Chief Bill Coolbaugh; not in attendance, no report submitted.

Solicitor, Attorney Frank Kepner; not in attendance.

**REPORTS OF
COMMITTEES:**

Personnel; None.

Legal & Finance; None

Beautification & Recreation; Councilman Jarrett said he met with Nancy Sborz and are in the process of booking bands for the Summer concerts. And we will try to fill Mr. Meyers request of the 'Irem String Band'.

Emergency Management; Councilman Meighan said that did not have a meeting last month but added that the heat for upstairs is fixed.

Streets, Parks, & Buildings; Councilman Arden said that DPW is busy fixing pot holes, taking down Christmas trees, painting for spring and doing preventative maintenance on plow trucks (see attached DPW report).

Fire & Water; None

Codes, Recycling, & Ordinances; Councilman Bower read Code financials (see attached report).

Councilman Bower also said that Family Dollar & CVS are proceeding through Zoning.

Safety; Councilman Meighan said police cars are without safety reflective vests. Police Chief Strish said he only has a few old ones. Borough Manager said she can order more the next business day. And asked the Chief how many he needed. He replied about a dozen (2 for each car).

BAJSA REPORT; Councilman Bower, who is the Berwick Borough Representative on the BAJSA Board read from the attached report. Highlighted are that the meetings will remain the same as prior years (2nd Wednesdays of the month starting at 6:30pm). And 2 upcoming projects that will be going out for bid. Phase I is Mercer Street North of Front Street and Phase II is Mercer Street North of Front Street. These projects are only going out for bid.

DISCUSSION: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

Ordinances & Resolutions: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Approved the Saturday May 16th, 2015 as the annual Dumpster Day.
Discussion: Council set hours of 8am - 1pm. Residents of the Borough will only be charged for TIRES & FREON APPLIANCES. This must also be put out for bid.
Motion made by Councilman Jarrett seconded by Councilwoman Huntington, carried unanimously.
- Approved Borough participation in the Celebrate Berwick Event to be held on Saturday May 9, 2015.
Discussion: Council asked if Front Street would be closed. Fred Gaffney, Chamber President who was in the audience said yes he is requesting that. Council advised that the Chamber must get permission from PENN DOT for the road closure and that approval was contingent on that.
Motion made by Councilman Oliver seconded by Councilman Petty, carried unanimously.

- Approved the employment contract for Police Clerk James R. McClintock.
Discussion: Council President Hill said the Jim was offered a contract before nor was he part of the Police union. Jim was given the choice and opted for a 2 year contract with a 2.5% raise each year. Hill said that Jim is considering retiring in 2 years and this that was why they did a 2 year contract. Council President Hill also said the Jim would be sorely missed when he does retire, Police Chief Strish agreed.
Motion made by Councilman Meighan seconded by Councilman Bower, carried unanimously.
- Approved the retraction of funds that were allocated from the 2014 budget to the 2015 budget for the Police to purchase 2 used vehicles for the Borough.
Discussion:
Motion made by Councilman Jarrett seconded by Councilwoman Huntington, carried unanimously.
- Approved the hiring of Bill Gamble of Police/Fire Testing Personnel Management Consultants, PO Box 248 Oakdale PA 15071. Website: billgamblepolicefiretesting.com To develop job description, identify publications for advertisement, review applicants, conduct written test, prepare and administer oral exam, determine final scores, certify top 3 for consideration for hiring. Selection of top 3 is contingent on medical and psychological examination.
Discussion: Councilman Petty asked if the price was competitive with what was done before. Borough Manager Force replied that yes it was. Councilman Petty said that he would like to see the top 5 and not be limited to only 3.
Motion made by Councilman Petty seconded by Councilman Jarrett, carried unanimously.
- Approved SEDA_COG letter.
Discussion:
Motion made by Councilman Jarrett seconded by Councilman Bower, carried unanimously.
- Approved Northeast Cruisers requested use of the Test Track Park for the weekend of September 11, 12, 13, 2015 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) for a Car/Truck/Motorcycle Show to benefit the Challenger Baseball League for children with special needs and also Toys for Tots. Approved camping at Test Track Park. Any fees charged will go to the charity. Approved use of

electricity for food vendors. Approved "burn outs" on road between baseball diamond & shed. Approved second part of benefit: September 11 & 12, 2015 Friday & Saturday only; at approximately 6:30pm cars/trucks/motorcycles will leave Test Track Park and ride up town to the Front Street business district and park where space is available to show off vehicles. No street closure requested. Approved for non-profit vendors (fire department, boy scouts etc.) to set up in alley by Walkers. Approved for cars with "flame throwers" (flames that come out the back of cars) on Canal Street only. The Northeast Cruisers would supply the borough with a certificate of insurance naming the borough as an additional insured.

Discussion: Council wants Northeast Cruisers notified that they will need the following:

1. Security at Test Track Park 24/7 for campers and the event.
2. NO alcohol at Test Track Park.
3. Northeast Cruisers must provide port-a-potties.
4. They must advise campers that there is NO potable/drinkable water.

Motion made by Councilman Jarrett seconded by Councilman Meighan, carried unanimously contingent on the above.

PAYMENT OF
BILLS:

Approved the following bills to be paid.
Motion by Councilman Bower and seconded by
Councilwoman Huntington. Motion carried
unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilman Jarrett and seconded by
Councilman Meighan. The motion was carried
unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Debra Force
Borough Manager