

# REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2022

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The Regular Meeting of the Borough of Baldwin Council was called to order by President John Egger at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

The invocation was done by Mrs. Conley.

The following Council members and staff answered to roll call:

Mrs. Patty Boyer  
Mr. James Behers  
Mrs. Erin Brown  
Mr. Raymond Dee  
Mrs. Denise Maiden  
Mrs. Marianne Conley, Vice-President  
Mr. John Egger - President  
Mr. David Depretis - Mayor  
Mr. Jason Stanton - Engineer  
Mrs. Ashley Wagner - Solicitor  
Mrs. Diana Behers – Treasurer (not in attendance)  
Mr. Robert Firek - Borough Manager  
Chief Tony Cortazzo

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Egger asked for the following approval of Council Meeting Minutes:

**M-1**      *Mrs. Conley made a motion to approve the Amended Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2021; second by Mr. Behers. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions on the motion. None were asked.

**M-2**      *Mrs. Conley made a motion to approve the Agenda Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2022; second by Mrs. Brown. Upon vote, the motion passed 6-0-1 (Mrs. Maiden abstained, due to her absence from the February 8, 2022 meeting.)*

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions on the motion. None were asked.

**M-3**      *Mrs. Conley made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2022; second by Mr. Behers. Upon vote, the motion passed 6-0-1 (Mrs. Maiden abstained, due to her absence from the February 15, 2022 meeting.)*

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions on the motion. None were asked.

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## **RT. 51 STREETScape ENHANCEMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING:**

The hearing was opened by Mrs. Ashley Wagner, Solicitor, and the participants were sworn in by the Court Reporter.

The Public Hearing was recorded by the Court Reporter with members of the Planning Commission, the Interim Planning and Zoning Officer, and Rt. 51 property owners speaking.

**M-4**      *Mrs. Conley made a motion to close the hearing; second by Mrs. Boyer. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Mrs. Wagner explained that the Rt. 51 Streetscape Enhancement Overlay ordinance will be voted on at the next regular meeting, which will be advertised.

## **AUDIENCE AGENDA: Agenda Items Only: 5 MINUTES PER SPEAKER OR GROUP**

Mr. Egger asked the audience if they would like to address Council on anything that is on the agenda. No one asked to speak.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Stanton previously submitted the Monthly Engineers Report to Council at the Agenda meeting.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mr. Stanton. None were asked.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Wagner provided the Solicitor's Report at last week's meeting and has nothing new to add.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for the Solicitor. None were asked.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor provided information from the Police Monthly Activity report from February 2022:

Calls to Police: 645 calls  
Fees collected: \$745  
Arrest Totals: 15  
Citations/tags: 43

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The Mayor attended an Eagle Scout ceremony for Owen Busch on December 5, 2021. Mr. Busch erected a new bench at Sanda Park for his Eagle Scout Project.

The Mayor also added that the Borough will be testing for new police officer hires. He asked Chief Cortazzo to provide additional details:

- Applications are posted to the Borough website.
- The deadline to return applications is April 29, 2022 at 4:00 pm.
- The physical agility test will be held on May 3, 2022.
- The written portion of the test will be held on May 5, 2022.
- Candidates can now apply without completion of the Police Academy if they possess a 4-year Bachelor's Degree.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for the Mayor or Chief Cortazzo. None were asked.

## ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Firek presented his Manager's Report last week and had the following motions for Council's consideration:

**M-5**     *Mrs. Conley made a motion to Adopt **Traffic Resolution No. 368-235** designating Walton Road between Churchview Avenue and Glass Run Road as a One Way in the Northbound Direction (Churchview to Glass Run); second by Mrs. Boyer.*

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions on the motion. Mrs. Conley commented that based on the amount of people who attended the last meeting in opposition of the Resolution, she will be voting against it, but would like to see new/additional signage in the area to make the roadway safer.

A resident, Maria Neumeyer of 3183 Churchview Avenue, asked if she could speak and Mr. Egger allowed it. She asked that something be done to make the roadway safer. She doesn't feel that additional signage or making the road one way would be impactful when dealing with inebriated drivers.

A second resident, Dana DiDolce of 3183 Churchview Avenue, asked if she can turn to PennDOT for assistance. Mr. Firek replied that PennDOT would not have involvement, as the road is a Borough owned roadway. He added that the residents can take protective measures on their own property such as planting trees, erecting a

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landscape mound or placing landscape boulders outside of the right-of-way.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any additional questions on the Traffic Resolution. None were asked.

*A roll call vote was taken:*

*Mr. Dee – No*

*Mrs. Boyer – No*

*Mrs. Brown – No*

*Mr. Behers – No*

*Mrs. Maiden – No*

*Mrs. Conley - No*

*Mr. Egger – Yes*

*Upon vote, the motion failed with 1 vote in favor and 6 votes against.*

Mrs. Conley added that Chief Cortazzo had suggested a plan to add additional signage to Walton Road to make drivers more aware of the bend. The Chief responded that he will be speaking with Mr. Randy Lubin, Municipal Services Manager this week to discuss options.

**M-6** *Mrs. Conley made a motion to approve Partial Payment No. 3 in the amount of \$69,009.76 to A. Liberoni, Inc., for Contract No. 21-01 (Elm Leaf Park Ph. III) per the recommendation of HRG Engineering; second by Mrs. Maiden. Upon vote, the motion was passed unanimously.*

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions on this motion. None were asked.

**M-7** *Mrs. Maiden made a motion to authorize the Manager to enter into an Agreement with PFM to proceed with Phase 2 and 3 regarding possible sale of the Borough's Sanitary Sewer System pending review by the Solicitor; Second by Mrs. Brown. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Firek added that the Solicitor has reviewed the Agreement and the suggested changes were sent to and approved by PFM.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions on this motion. None were asked.

**M-8** *Mrs. Maiden made a motion to advertise to change the dates of the May Council meetings to accommodate the change of date for the Primary Election; second by Mr. Behers. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

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Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions on the motion or for Mr. Firek. None were asked.

## **FINANCE**

Mrs. Maiden's provided her report last week.

**M-9** *Mrs. Maiden made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for February 2022; Second by Mrs. Conley. Upon Vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

**M-10** *Mrs. Maiden made a motion to Ratify Bills in the amount of \$580,075.35 and approve bills in the amount of \$168,609.39 for a total of \$748,684.74; Second by Mrs. Conley. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Maiden. None were asked.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Dee gave his report:

- There were 5 overtime call outs in February due to snow events.
- Road restoration is being done with cold patch. Once asphalt is available, Public Works can begin to make more permanent road patches.
- Signs, manholes, and the sewer system are continuously being checked for safety.

Mr. Dee commended the Borough's professional staff for coordinating the road paving program and the effort that is made to work with utility companies to ensure roadways are paved/maintained with the best interest of the residents in mind.

Mr. Egger added that he commends the public works crew for having roadways cleared.

Mr. Egger asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Dee. None were asked.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Mrs. Boyer provided a copy of the Blanket List to Council for approval of Elm Leaf Park rentals.

**M-11** *Mrs. Boyer made a motion to approve the March Blanket List; second by Mrs. Maiden. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Boyer. None were asked.

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## ZONING & PLANNING

Mrs. Brown gave her report last week.

The Planning Commission meeting to be held March 14, 2022 has been cancelled as there were no items on the agenda.

The Zoning Hearing Board meeting to be held March 17, 2022 has been cancelled as there were no items on the agenda.

Mrs. Brown added that the Planning Commission has worked very hard on the Rt. 51 Overlay District Ordinance and that the goal is to make that corridor of Rt. 51 better and to attract people to the area. Mr. Egger agreed.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Brown. None were asked.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Behers read the following Activity Reports with the following calls/incidents and response times:

	Calls/Incidents:	Avg. Response Time:
BEMS	231	7.2 minutes
Baldwin #105	40	5.35 minutes
Option	43	6.10 minutes
SBVFC	17	7.2 minutes

Mr. Behers commended the Borough's safety personnel for their hard work.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mr. Behers. None were asked.

## PERSONNEL

Mrs. Conley had nothing to report this month.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Conley. None were asked.

## LIBRARY REPORT

Mrs. Maiden provided the following report on the Baldwin Borough Library:

- Book circulation is up 33%.
- Masks are optional, following CDC guidelines.

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- At the end of March, solicitation letters will be sent out by the Library, reminding residents that Library Giving Day is April 6, 2022.

Mr. Egger asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Maiden. None were asked.

## **AUDIENCE AGENDA - Any issue pertaining to Borough: 5 MINUTES PER SPEAKER OR GROUP**

Stephanie Paul – Joseph St. – Asked members of Council to use their microphones so that audience members can hear them more clearly when speaking. She asked Mrs. Brown for an update on a home on Joseph St. (house number not stated) that is in disrepair. Josh Smith, Baldwin Borough Code Enforcement Officer, replied that the house has been sold and the buyer will have 60 days from date of purchase to make repairs. If repairs are not made by the specified time, the owner will be cited. Mrs. Paul then asked what the stormwater fee monies are being used for. Mr. Stanton replied that the Borough has a \$1.4 million dollar budget for capital improvements to comply with state mandates pertaining to stormwater. Mr. Firek added that there are multiple other requirements from the DEP under the MS4 permit. The funds are also used for other improvements and maintenance to the Borough's stormwater system. Mrs. Conley added that this is a federal mandate and additional funds are not provided to the Borough to assist with the projects, which is why residents have to pay. She also said that the fee is a dedicated fee that can be used towards nothing else but stormwater improvements.

Jake Paul – Joseph St. – Asked why a groundwater fee of \$14 was implemented. Mr. Firek explained that there is no groundwater fee in the Borough and that this may be a charge from Pennsylvania-American Water Company.

Robert Fischer, Interim Zoning and Planning Director – Thanked Council for his time working with the Borough. He commended the Planning Commission, the Zoning Hearing Board, Borough Manager Robert Firek and the administrative staff of the Borough. He also added that he supports a stormwater fee vs. a stormwater tax because if the fee did not exist, the residential tax payers would incur a much higher rate. Businesses put a much higher amount of water into the system and residents would be forced to pay a higher share to cover these costs. Mr. Fischer added that improving stormwater infrastructure helps alleviate the number of basements that flood and does a lot of good in the community that is not often recognized.

Mrs. Conley added that churches, hospitals, businesses, the schools, apartment complexes, and the Borough itself, all pay a higher rate than residents to make the cost fair to everyone.

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Mary Kelly-Rick – 3782 Cready Hill Rd. – Has a rut going across her yard from water that is missing a catch basin and coming onto her property. She said that someone from the Borough looked at the problem last year, but nothing was done about it and it is getting worse. Mr. Firek added that Mr. Randy Lubin will be out to take a look at the problem.

Chris Seymour – Shade Tree Commission – There is a tree planting event scheduled at Leland Park on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thirty (30) volunteers are scheduled to attend to plant 23 trees. The Commission is hoping that the trees they plant will give the fields separation from The Alden and will give the fields a more park like environment.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**M-12** *Mrs. Conley made the motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss ongoing legal matters that pertain to the Borough of Baldwin; Second by Mrs. Maiden. Upon vote, motion passed unanimously.*

## **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**M-13** *Mrs. Conley made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Second by Jim Behers. Upon vote, the motion was passed unanimously.*

Respectively submitted,  
BOROUGH OF BALDWIN

Robert T. Firek  
Borough Manager