



COPY

C-1

The Berwyn City Council Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2024

Mayor Robert J. Lovero called the Regular City Council Meeting to Order at 8:00 p.m. Clerk Paul called the roll. The following Alderpeople were present in chambers: Lennon, Woywod, Leja, Fejt, Pabon, Ruiz, Arenella, and Carmichael. Attendees rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence in support of the City's First Responders.

Clerk Paul introduced Ayanna Dowd, an American Sign Language (ALS) interpreter from the Chicago Hearing Society. Ms. Dowd was available during the meeting to "sign" the meeting for anyone needing assistance.

Open Forum: Mayor Lovero opened the floor for Open Forum. The following people were recognized:

- Yadira Padilla, representing the Junior States of America – Morton West Chapter, spoke on the successful fundraising drive benefitting the club's Washington D.C. trip. She thanked various organizations, people, and Mayor Lovero for their financial support.
- Stephen Taylor and Luz Chaves each spoke on their joint federal civil lawsuit (22CV5924) filed against the City of Berwyn and Ald. Lennon. Their prepared written remarks were provided to Clerk Paul to be made a part of the record.
- Natalia Perez thanked the volunteers at Christian Life Center Food Pantry and gave information on how to access assistance.
- Ald. Pabon thanked School District 98 and all volunteers and non-profit organizations participating in the recent student Volunteer Fair event.
- Ald. Ruiz announced a Ward Meeting on February 23, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. to be held at LaLupita restaurant.

C-1 Approval of Minutes: Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to approve the January 9, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

D-1 Bid Openings: Ald. Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Ald. Arenella, to award the contract for 2024 MFT Traffic Signal and Street Light Maintenance to H & H Electric Co. as the lowest responsible bidder for \$357,586.17. The motion passed with all eight Alderpeople voting AYE.

Berwyn Development Corporation (BDC), BPHD, and Berwyn Township Submissions:

E-1: Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to accept the BDC report entitled *Berwyn Economic Resilience and Recovery* as informational. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

E-2: Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to accept the **2023 BDC Annual Report** as informational. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

F-1 Reports from the Mayor: Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Pabon, to concur with the Mayor's appointments of Erick F. Padilla, Rev. Bartholomew J. Juncer, and Joseph M. Woodward as members of the Ethics Commission. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Clerk Paul administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Padilla and Rev. Juncer. Mr. Woodward was not in attendance.

G-1 Reports from the Clerk: Ald. Ruiz made the motion, seconded by Ald. Pabon, to approve Clerk Paul's request to move future communications concerning Handicap Parking and Handicap Zone determinations from the Consent Agenda to Section G of the regular agenda beginning in February, 2024. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

H Reports from the Zoning Commission: Nothing submitted for the agenda.

I-1 Reports from the Alderpeople, Committees, and Boards: Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Fejt, to accept as informational the Fire and Police Commission's introduction of Officer Rita

Esposito as the next eligible candidate on the Sergeant's Promotion List. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Clerk's Note: Mayor Lovero recognized Ald. Lennon. Ald. Lennon read a statement concerning his involvement in federal civil suit 22CV5924. Following Ald. Lennon's remarks Mayor Lovero recognized attorney Sean Sullivan of the Del Galdo Law Group who represented the City of Berwyn and Ald. Lennon as defendants in the suit. Mr. Sullivan briefly explained the facts of the case and cause of action.

Reports from Staff:

J-1: Ald. Fejt made the motion, seconded by Ald. Leja, to authorize and approve settlement of 22CV5924 for an amount not to exceed \$55,000.00 based upon City Council authority granted in Executive session. The motion passed with 7 Alderpeople voting AYE. Ald. Lennon abstained from voting.

J-2: Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Woywod, to concur with the promotion of Officer Rita Esposito to the rank of Sergeant. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Clerk Paul administered the Oath of Office to Sgt. Esposito.

J-3: Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Pabon, to approve Chief Cimaglia's request to contact the Fire and Police Commission to hire three Probationary Police Officers in anticipation of retirements from the police ranks. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

J-4: Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Pabon, to accept Fire Chief Hayes' introduction of Kevin Cooper to be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Clerk Paul administered the Oath of Office to Lt. Cooper.

J-5: Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to accept as informational Fire Chief Hayes' introduction of Fabiola Amezcua to be sworn in to the rank of Probationary Firefighter – Paramedic. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote. Clerk Paul administered the Oath of Office to Firefighter – Paramedic Amezcua.

J-6: Ald. Leja made the motion, seconded by Ald. Woywod, to waive the bidding process and approve the Fire Chief's request to purchase an Osage Ambulance for \$285,085.00 to be delivered in 2026. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

Consent Agenda: Ald. Lennon made the motion, seconded by Ald. Carmichael, to approve all items K-1 through K-3 on the Consent Agenda as submitted. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business before the council, Ald. Carmichael made the motion, seconded by Ald. Arenella, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,


Margaret Paul, City Clerk