



Town of Berwyn Heights

5700 Berwyn Road
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
Tel. (301) 474-5000
Fax (301) 474-5002

Town Meeting Minutes Town Council Chamber May 11, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.

Call to order

At 7PM, Mayor Amanda Dewey called the meeting to order. Also present were Mayor Pro Tempore Jodie Kulpa-Eddy, Councilmember Jason Papanikolas, Councilmember Chris Brittan-Powell, and Councilmember Ethan Sweep. Town Manager Laura Allen and Town Clerk Melanie Friesen were also present as were several residents. Clerk of the Circuit Court, Mahasin El Amin joined at 8PM to swear in the 50th Town Council, including new Councilmember Shinita Hemby and Councilmember Faustino Menjivar.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Announcements

• Mental Health Month Proclamation

Mayor Dewey thanked Board of Election Supervisors for hosting a reception for the incoming and outgoing Council. MPT Kulpa-Eddy shared that the Green Team has changed their meeting to May 19 and that the Rec Council will have their next meeting on May 31. She also shared that longtime resident Betty McCaffrey passed away. CM Brittan-Powell gave thanks to all the volunteers on Berwyn Heights Day, especially those who helped him with the pancake breakfast. Mayor Dewey read the Mental Health Month Proclamation, thanking CM Sweep for being the impetuous behind the proclamation.

2. Approval of Agenda

CM Papanikolas requested to amend the agenda, first to give Mr. Huddle from the BH Volunteer Fire Department an opportunity to give his report, and second to strike Old Business item 5.e. from the agenda. CM Brittan-Powell moved to approve the agenda as amended. MPT Kulpa-Eddy seconded. After no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

- a. Amended Agenda item: BHVFD report. Mr. Huddle congratulated the new council and gave his thanks to the outgoing councilmembers. He shared that there were 87 calls for the rescue squad, which is lower than before due to the rescue squad being out of service for an extended period of time. They are transitioning to the new rescue squad over the weekend. The truck did 127 calls and the ambulance took 216.

3. Public Hearing

a. FY 2022 Budget Amendments-

Mayor Dewey introduced the public hearing on the FY 2022 Budget Amendment, reiterating that the hearing is open from last Town Meeting. TM Allen stated that the primary purpose of the amendment is to account for ARPA funds and account for some increased costs in

healthcare. MPT Kulpa-Eddy stated there is a typographical error in Section 1 of the Ordinance. Mayor Dewey shared that when they pass Ord 183A it will be “as amended” to correct the error. There were no resident comments. CM Brittan-Powell moved to close the hearing, seconded by CM Papanikolas. After no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

- b. FY 2023 Town General Fund and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Budget & Tax Rate
Mayor Dewey re-introduced the public hearing on the FY2023 Budget. MPT Kulpa-Eddy shared that in section 7 of Ord 185, the text (“ninety”) doesn’t match the dollar amount (“\$0”). TM Allen stated that the suspension of the Refuse and Recycling Collection fee was correct in the spreadsheet (“\$0”) but the text error in the ordinance needs to be corrected. There were no resident comments. CM Brittan-Powell moved to close the hearing. CM Papanikolas seconded. After no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. FY 2023 Public Safety Taxing District (PSTD) Budget
Mayor Dewey re-introduced the hearing on Ord 186, the PSTD budget, and explained the purpose of this budget is for commercial and industrial properties to fund a police officer. She shared that the businesses met on April 27th and approved the budget. There were no resident comments. MPT Kulpa-Eddy moved to close the hearing. CM Brittan-Powell seconded. After no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Resolution 7 – Comprehensive Fees and Fines Schedule
Mayor Dewey opened the public hearing for the annual setting of the fees and fines schedule. She reviewed that the only proposed changes are for the roll-off container charges. TM Allen explained the reasoning behind removing the fines and lowering the late fee to \$15 instead of \$25. There were no resident comments. CM Brittan-Powell moved to close the hearing. MPT Kulpa-Eddy seconded. After no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Consent

MPT Kulpa-Eddy moved to approve the consent agenda; CM Brittan Powell seconded. MPT Kulpa-Eddy asked for a clarification on the dates of the minutes included. TM Allen explained the absence of the April 4th minutes. After no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Old Business

- a. Ordinance 183 A – 2nd Reading and Adoption of FY 2022 General Fund Budget Amendment
CM Papanikolas moved to waive the second reading of Ordinance 183A and adopt the Ordinance. CM Brittan-Powell seconded. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Ordinance 185 – 2nd Reading and Adoption of FY 2023 Town General Fund and ARPA Budget
MPT Kulpa-Eddy shared that Council and staff have been working hard on this. She further added that she still has concerns about the not instituting the constant yield tax rate and thanked CM Papanikolas for his solution of suspending the refuse fee for this year. Mayor Dewey thanked the residents who have weighed in and thanked the staff for all their work. MPT Kulpa-Eddy moved to waive the second reading and adopt the Ordinance as amended. CM Papanikolas seconded. After no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Ordinance 186 – 2nd Reading and Adoption of FY 2023 PSTD Budget
CM Brittan-Powell moved to waive the second reading of Ordinance 186 and to adopt the Ordinance. MPT Kulpa-Eddy seconded. Mayor Dewey thanked the businesses who participated in the discussion of the Public Safety Taxing District budget. After no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

- d. Resolution 7 – Comprehensive Fees and Fines Schedule
CM Brittan-Powell thanked the leadership of the Code Compliance department, including Director Goodwin and CM Papanikolas. CM Papanikolas moved to adopt Resolution 7. MPT Kulpa-Eddy seconded. After no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.
- e. Adoption of Council Rule 2- removed from the agenda.
- f. BHEAC Grant-
Mayor Dewey reviewed the grant process used by the Berwyn Heights Educational Advisory Committee and shared that the proposed grant is for \$2000 for the Parkdale High School Seniors class banquet. MPT Kulpa-Eddy shared that this event is usually covered by fundraising, but between the pandemic and the PTA being inactive at Parkdale High School, the Seniors were unable to do fundraise as usual. CM Papanikolas declared his conflict of interest. MPT Kulpa-Eddy moved to approve the grant. CM Brittan-Powell seconded. After no further discussion, the motion passed 4 in favor, with CM Papanikolas recusing.

6. New Business

- a. None

7. Remarks from outgoing members of the 49th Town Council

CM Sweep shared his outgoing remarks. He stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as a Councilmember for the last 4 years. He has been taught so much about the power of representative local government and its impact on the lives of residents. To the oncoming Council, he gave welcome and is anxious to see all the work that will be done. He is excited to see all the public discussion about diversity and inclusion and expressed his hope that these are not just campaign promises, but that they come to fruition. He encouraged the Council to make decisions with the best intentions but with awareness of all the possible consequences. He reminded oncoming the Council that they were elected to make decisions and encouraged them to do so. He will be taking some time to rest but will not be going anywhere. He shared his concerns about the leaked opinion from Supreme Court Justice Alito regarding privacy and will be spending time working on that.

Mayor Dewey began by giving thanks to many. She stated it has been an honor and a privilege and doesn't take the trust that was placed in her lightly. She stated that the last two years haven't been what anyone expected. She thanked her colleagues who have helped find solutions through uncharted territory, and staff who have worked tirelessly to support Berwyn Heights. She thanked her friends and neighbors who have supported her, especially her husband Blake. She thanked all the residents who have volunteered to make the Town a better place. She followed that as an outgoing Mayor she has a unique position and offered the following to the upcoming Council. First, to rise to the challenge of being fully honest with residents, not just telling people what they want to hear. Second, to value staff. They do the tough daily work and provide the services to residents and should be respected and valued in their daily work lives. Finally, to balance tradition with progress. Berwyn Heights has strong traditions, but many newer residents. She encouraged Council to make sure that they modify practices to meet the needs of all. She wished the best of luck to the 50th Council.

8. Resident & Community Comments

Susan Jones thanked all councilmembers for serving the community, both those continuing and those who are not. CM Brittan-Powell expressed gratitude and stated it has been an honor to work with Mayor Dewey and CM Sweep. Mike Attick thanked Council for what they did/tried to do. He shared gratitude for interactions with CM Sweep. He also stated that he thinks the incoming Council has the mix of experience and knowledge that Council needs.

Adjournment

Mayor Dewey encouraged everyone to stay around for the swearing in of the 50th Council. MPT Kulpa-Eddy moved to adjourn the meeting. CM Papanikolas seconded. After no discussion the motion passed unanimously and the final session of the 49th Council adjourned at 7:47PM.

Swearing in Ceremony of the 50th Council

- **Announcement of the 2022 Election Results**

Town Clerk Friesen read into the record the results of the election.

- **Swearing in of the 50th Town Council by the Clerk of the Circuit Court**

Clerk of the Circuit Court El Amin swore in the 50th Council.

- **Mayor's remarks and Organization of the Town Council**

Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared that this was a tough election and tough campaign with close election results, and that she is proud to be a resident of Berwyn Heights. She shared that all Councilmembers have a department that they liaise with. As Mayor, she will be taking the Public Safety department and hopes to develop a closer working relationship with the Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department. MPT Brittan-Powell will stay on with Administration, with a focus on building communication with Town residents. CM Menjivar has a background in engineering and construction and will be liaising with the Department of Public Works. She further shared that he has an interest in engaging more with the Seniors' and Boys and Girls Club. CM Hemby will work with Code Compliance, as this meshes well with her interest in developing a "Welcome Package" for new residents, and this is an area they are often interested in more about. CM Papanikolas will become the PRECA liaison, as he expressed an interest in working with these volunteer groups.

- **Remarks of the Town Council**

MPT Brittan-Powell expressed excitement about serving with Mayor Kulpa-Eddy and relying on her leadership. He thanked his family, especially his wife Beth and children Jack, Sean, and Henry. CM Hemby expressed that it is a privilege and an honor to sit on the 50th Council. She shared that she has worked with CM Papanikolas and CM Menjivar in the Boys and Girls Club. She thanked her family and the voters. CM Menjivar expressed gratitude to colleagues and residents of Berwyn Heights for voting for him. He stated that he is looking forward to working for the community and doing more. He also expressed gratitude for the support of his wife at home. CM Papanikolas shared that he has known the new Councilmembers for years longer than he's even lived in Berwyn Heights. He is looking forward to getting to work with all the organizations in Town and to collaborate with other Councilmembers as there are a lot of good ideas to confer. Mayor Kulpa-Eddy shared that they are looking forward to working together as a team.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.