

Minutes of Berwyn Township Annual Town Meeting April 9, 2024

Town Clerk Margaret Paul called the 2024 Annual Meeting of Berwyn Township Electors to order at 6:05 p.m. The meeting was held at the PAV YMCA in Berwyn. Fifty-Nine Electors were present for the meeting. They included Town Trustees Edward Espinoza, Tomasa Ambriz, and Jesse Miranda among their number. Town Attorney Larry Zdarsky attended as well. Attendees joined Clerk Paul in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Paul opened the floor for nominations for the position of Moderator. Elector Zach Taylor nominated Alison Paul for Moderator. Elector Mary Perantau seconded the nomination. Alison Paul accepted the nomination. Clerk Paul advised the attendees, and for the record, that she was not related in any way to Alison Paul.

Elector Susan Greco nominated Mary Perantau for Moderator, seconded by Mary Ann Miller. Ms. Perantau declined the nomination. Zack Taylor moved, seconded by Ryan Sweeney, to close the nominations. Clerk Paul called for a show of hands in favor of electing Alison Paul as Moderator. The Electors present unanimously voted to elect Ms. Paul as Moderator. Clerk Paul administered the Moderator's Oath of Office to Elector Paul.

Moderator Paul appointed Jenna Mussleman Palles as Sergeant at Arms. Elector Mussleman-Palles accepted the post. Clerk Paul administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Mussleman-Palles.

Moderator Paul recognized Clerk Paul. Clerk Paul presented a Certificate of Publication of the meeting's Notice and Agenda that appeared in the Lawndale News on March 21, 2024. She informed the attendees that the Notice of Meeting and Agenda had been posted at the Township offices, at the Berwyn Public Library, at Berwyn City Hall, on the City of Berwyn website, the Berwyn Township website, and at the location of the meeting at PAV YMCA as required by the Town Code.

Approval of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Minutes: Electors were provided copies of the April 18, 2023 Annual Town Meeting Minutes upon entry. Elector Zack Taylor made the motion, seconded by Elector Mary Ann Miller, to approve the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting as submitted. The motion carried by a unanimous vote in favor.

Resolution to Hire Auditors – Certified Public Accountants: Clerk Paul read the Resolution into the record. Elector Martha Hemphill made the motion, seconded by Zack Taylor to **adopt** the **Resolution** as presented. The motion passed with 59 Electors voting AYE, 0 voting NO, 0 Abstaining. Moderator Paul signed the Resolution along with Clerk Paul.

Resolution to Authorize Town Board to Consider and Act upon the Minutes of the Meeting: Clerk Paul read the Resolution into the record. Elector Brian Sweeny made the motion, seconded by Elector Susan Greenberg, to **adopt** the **Resolution** as submitted. The motion passed with 59 Electors voting AYE, 0 voting NO, 0 Abstaining. Moderator Paul signed the Resolution along with Clerk Paul.

Resolution to Authorize the Town Board to Prepare, in Tentative Form, a Budget and Appropriation Ordinance:

Clerk Paul read the Resolution into the record. Elector Stephen Taylor made the motion, seconded by Elector Zack Taylor, to **adopt** the **Resolution** to direct the Town Supervisor to prepare in tentative form a Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025 as required by statute. The motion passed with 59 Electors voting AYE, 0 voting NO, 0 Abstaining. Moderator Paul signed the Resolution along with Clerk Paul.

Resolution Setting the Time and Place for the 2025 Annual Meeting: Clerk Paul read the Resolution into the record establishing the 2025 Township Annual Meeting on April 8, 2025 at 6:01 p.m. Elector Sweeny asked whether the suggested date was in conflict with Passover. A short discussion ensued and it was confirmed that the suggested date of April 8, 2025 did not conflict with Passover. Then Elector Sabine Krause made the motion, seconded by Elector Alex McKinley, to approve the date for the next Annual Town Meeting as April 8, 2025 at 6:01 p.m. at a location to be determined by the town board and **adopt** the **Resolution** as presented. The motion passed with 59 Electors voting AYE, 0 voting NO, 0 Abstaining. Moderator Paul signed the Resolution along with Clerk Paul.

Resolution Requiring Berwyn Township to Authorize the Designation of \$75,000 to the City of Berwyn for the Purchase and Installation of 150 Native Trees to be Planted within the City of Berwyn in Order to Promote Healthier Public Spaces and Expand Berwyn's Tree Canopy: Clerk Paul read the Resolution into the record. She announced that the Petition to place the Resolution on the Annual Town Meeting Agenda had been properly filed with sufficient signatures, that the Berwyn Town Board had reviewed the Petition and found it valid and directed that it be placed on the Agenda.

Moderator Paul opened the floor for discussion. Martha Hemphill requested clarification as to whether the vote would be on a Resolution or a Referendum. Attorney Zdarsky advised that the vote was on a submitted Resolution. Debi Donovan asked if the Town Board would have to follow the decision of the Electors if the Resolution passed. Attorney Zdarsky advised that the Town Board would be required to issue the funds during the current fiscal year following the approval of an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Berwyn and receipt of adequate documentation showing the city's installation of the trees.

Discussions continued about the City of Berwyn's process to plant trees, the type of trees it plants, and how the cost of \$500 / tree was determined by the Petitioners (Berwyn Tree Canopy Initiative). Moderator Paul asked that the attendees focus their comments on the agenda item. Elector Stephen Taylor made the motion, seconded by Elector Mary Ann Miller, to end discussion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Stephen Taylor then made the motion, seconded by Elector Leighton Schell, to call the question. The motion passed by a unanimous show of hands. Elector Schell then made the motion, seconded by Elector Ryan Sweeny, to **adopt** the **Resolution** as presented. The motion passed with 59 Electors voting AYE, 0 voting NO, 0 Abstaining. Moderator Paul signed the Resolution along with Clerk Paul.

Berwyn Township Annual Meeting Minutes 2024 cont.

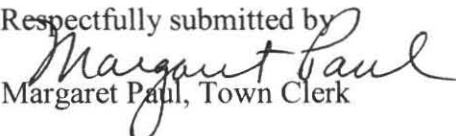
Supervisor's Annual Financial Statement: Clerk Paul stated that she had received Supervisor Avila's statement and that she had posted a copy at the meeting location and at the township office. She also provided a copy to all attendees. Elector Martha Hemphill made the motion, seconded by Elector Zack Taylor, to waive reading of the Supervisor's Statement of Financial Affairs for the Town Fund and General Assistance Fund for fiscal year ending March 31, 2024 and approve it as submitted. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

General Business: Moderator Paul invited comments from Electors and elected officials. Attorney Zdarsky read a statement submitted by Supervisor Avila. Trustee Miranda read a statement from Assessor Pareda. Clerk Paul and Trustees Espinoza and Ambriz declined the offer to speak.

Moderator Paul asked if there was any further business for the meeting. Hearing none, she declared that there was no further business to put to the Electors. Elector Zack Taylor made the motion, seconded by Elector Alex McKinley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

The 2024 Annual Town Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by


Margaret Paul, Town Clerk