

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JULY 20, 2026

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled July 20, 2026 Council meeting was called to order by President Doug Beri at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Doug Beri, Robert Morgan, Sheree Speicher, Richard Burkert, Eugene Kupchella, Kurt Wolford, Solicitor Eric Hochfeld; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Engineer Todd Banks; Police Chief William (B.J.) Newman; Fire Chief James Dailey

Absent: Council Member Matthew McVicker

Visitors: John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.); Amarisa Miles (520 State St.); Debra Noble; Judy Kelly (102 Violet St.); John Grimaldi (180 Westgate Dr); Brian Curtis (422 State St.); Robert Walker (312 State Street)

Public Comment:

Mr. Brian Curtis reported Carrot Alley behind his property is in poor condition and needs to be paved. Mr. Curtis stated the Public Works crew recently filled the potholes with tar instead of cold patch, which resulted in the tar being pulled out and sticking to his tire and his vehicle when he drove over it about a month later.

Mrs. Judy Kelly stated the storm drains need to be cleaned out regularly after storms and noted the residents at 103 Violet left a dresser, carpet, and cardboard in the alley after moving and Pro Disposal only picked up the dresser. Mrs. Kelly asked if the tree survey is completed because there are three trees on Violet Street that are in bad shape and need to be removed.

Mr. Bob Walker stated that he attended the ribbon cutting for the open house and kick-off event for the Southmont Forward Fund noting Mr. Drummy and Mr. Beri gave nice presentations and Mrs. Layton provided food and refreshments, but he was disappointed that no other officials attended. Mr. Walker stated the Diamond Blvd. playground needs updated and he noticed that the swing chains are rusted and some paint needs freshened up.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the June 15, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker was absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the July 9, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. McVicker was absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

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Police Chief's Report

The June 2026 Police Chief's Report was received and is on file. Chief Newman reported there will be a West Hills Heroes Event August 2nd from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for the emergency to interact with the public. Chief Newman stated the police will be passing out flyers to kids on scooters to inform them that riding on public property is illegal noting this is an educational approach to try and resolve the problem of scooters on public streets.

Fire Company Report

The June 2026 Fire Chief's Report was received and is on file.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks reported that he received a call from Mr. John Grimaldi about a settlement issue believed to be a sewer project issue. Mr. Banks stated that he will look into the issue and report with an update at the next meeting.

Zoning Report

The monthly report was received and is on file.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Hochfeld reported appeal briefs for the Hanevig appeal have been filed with the Commonwealth Court. Solicitor Hochfeld reported that preliminary objections have been filed in the Class Action Sewer Lawsuit noting arguments have been continued due to the Cambria County Judges recusing themselves.

Street Commissioner Report

The June report was received and is on file. Mr. Morgan reported there is a manhole that sits high on the edge of Susan Drive and may need to be painted yellow to make people aware of the situation. Mrs. Speicher stated she noticed a potential runoff issue on Susan Drive after it was paved. Mr. McAdams stated he would look into both issues.

Borough Manager Report

Mrs. Layton reported the donation response for the Southmont Forward Fund is going very well noting a total of \$18,692.00 has been raised so far leaving \$6,308.00 left to meet the \$25,000 maximum match from the Community Foundation of the Alleghenies.

Mayor's Report

Mr. Drummy reported that the open house and fundraiser kick-off event went well and was a great success and borough matters are also currently going well.

Committees:

Administration: Mr. Beri stated that Debra Noble reached out to discuss stray cat issues and work they have done to help with the issue. Ms. Noble introduced Amarisa Miles, owner of Flood City Kitties. Ms. Miles stated she has taken in over stray 30 cats since 2024 noting each cat costs approximately \$120 to spay or neuter, which is generally paid for with personal funds or donations. Ms. Miles stated current ordinances are not always enforceable and proposed several solutions that the borough may want to

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consider to help curb the stray cat issue such as partnering with local shelters and rescues, creating a spay and neuter voucher program for residents, and increasing accountability for owners that allow their pets to roam at-large.

Community Planning & Improvements: Mr. Burkert reported the consultants are beginning to get into writing the comprehensive plan and a committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Emergency Management: Mr. Drummy stated he met with the committee last week to update them on his progress noting he met with Congressman Joyce's staff at the Showcase for Commerce and Congressman Joyce will schedule time to review Southmont and meet with the fire company the next time he is in the area to discuss funding for a new fire engine and other items. Mr. Drummey reported he is moving forward with updates to the borough's Emergency Operation Plan.

Finance: Mrs. Speicher reported the committee will be meeting with the auditor on July 28th to review the 2025 audit and will schedule a meeting in August to begin working on the 2027 budget.

GJWA: A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve naming Mr. Thomas Freeman to the Greater Johnstown Water Authority board. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Mr. Kupchella reported the spillways at North Fork Dam are under renovations and Dalton Run is mandated to be renovated over the next few years. Mr. Kupchella stated the authority is continuing the lead line replacements noting they are currently working in Moxham and Hornerstown and there is nothing new scheduled in Southmont or Westmont yet.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance & Street and Sidewalks: Mr. McVicker absent. Nothing to report.

Shade Trees: Mr. Burkert reported that there will be tree tenders training on September 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. that is open to all, but there will be a preference for borough residents and those interested in serving on the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Burkert stated he has created a form to request volunteers for the Shade Tree Commission that will be available shortly.

New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve Bishop McCort's request to Turn Southmont Borough Teal. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Business Items

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from June 16, 2026, through July 20, 2026 in the amount of \$13,853.84. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Wolford in favor. Mr. McVicker absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from June 16, 2026 through July 20, 2026, in the amount of \$211,625.17. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan,

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Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Wolford in favor. Mr. McVicker absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from June 16, 2026, through July 20,2026 in the amount of \$146,510.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Wolford in favor. Mr. McVicker absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Speicher to approve the treasurer's report of June 2026. Motion seconded by Mr. Wolford. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to accept the Tax Collector's Report for the month of June 2026. Motion seconded by Mr. Wolford. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to adjourn the July 20, 2026 meeting at 5:48 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary