

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR AUGUST 18, 2025

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled August 18, 2025, council meeting was called to order by President Beri at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Doug Beri; Sheree Speicher, Eugene Kupchella, Richard Burkert, Herb Ewald, Robert Morgan, Borough Manager Amanda Layton, Solicitor Eric Hochfeld, Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Police Chief William (B.J.) Newman; Engineer Todd Banks, Deputy Fire Chief Jim Dailey; Mayor Anthony Keiper; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

Visitors: Maryann Hogue (220 Wonder Street), Mike Kane & Elizabeth Mayer (208 Gardner Street), Jo Arleen Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street), John Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street), Bob Walker (312 State Street)

Public Comment

Maryann Hogue stated that her new neighbors are not keeping up their property and it is overgrown with high grass and weeds. Ms. Hogue also stated she believes there needs to be a 3-way stop at the intersection of Gardner Street and Helen Street instead of a 2-way stop on Gardner only.

Mike Kane and Elizabeth Mayer stated that when there is major rain fall, they are having flooding issues in their yard and home from water coming from Diamond Blvd. and Gardner Street. Ms. Mayer stated a new curb and stormwater drains were installed by the borough several years ago, but the water comes over the curb at the ADA ramp and are requesting a site inspection be done to find a solution.

Jo Arlene Klanchar stated her family has lived in the borough for 48 years and are being harassed by neighbors with hang-up calls, welfare checks with county agencies, rotten peaches being hung on their door, and gummy penises being mailed to them. Ms. Klanchar stated she is tired of harassment and wanted to publicly note that she is fine and does not need anyone to check on her well-being.

John Klanchar stated he feels he is being threatened and harassed by Councilman Herb Ewald and does not want him on his property referencing an email he sent regarding a trespass notice to the borough in November 2022. Mr. Klanchar stated he was recently charged with harassment and disorderly conduct after an altercation with Mr. Ewald and would be suing the borough.

Bob Walker questioned the roof project and stated he believes there should be more progress. Mr. Walker stated he is thankful for the radar speed sign that is currently on Southmont Blvd. and stated the borough should request the county prison workers now to help with labor for the borough for next year.

Correspondence Received

Mr. Beri acknowledged two emails received from John A. Klanchar dated August 5, 2025 and August 14, 2025 and also a letter from Mike Kane and Elizabeth Mayer dated August 11, 2025.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the July 21, 2025, monthly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Chief's Report

The July 2025 Police Chief's Report was received.

Fire Company Report

The July 2025 Fire Chief's Report was received. Mr. Dailey reported the fire company would not be hosting the annual firemen's convention in 2027 as planned because they lost the vote to East Taylor Township.

Engineer Report

The July Report was received. Mr. Banks stated that the annual MS4 report will be due in September so they will begin working on that shortly.

Zoning Report

The July 2025 Zoning Report was received and is on file.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Street Commissioner Report

Mr. McAdams reported that leaf pick up will begin in September and the leaf machine is ready to go for the season.

Borough Manager's Report

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve closing the fire escrow account at Somerset Trust Company for 92 Thoburn Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mayor's Report

Nothing to report.

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvements: Mr. Burkert reported that there were 2 committee meetings working with the Cambria County Planning Commission noting one will be scheduled for the public to take part in the planning process next month.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Finance: Mrs. Speicher reported that there will be a budget workshop on September 16, 2025 and September 30, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve advertising the budget workshop dates. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

August 18, 2025 Minutes – Page 3 of 4

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve switching the current Money Market account to a Premium Green Money Market account with Somerset Trust. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Mr. Kupchella reported that the Water Authority is looking into getting a PennVest Loan and are trying to meet the deadlines noting more news will be available after their next meeting on Thursday.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance, Streets, & Sidewalks: Nothing to report.

Shade Trees: Mr. Burkert reported that there were three tree removal requests received. Mr. Burkert stated an application for two trees at 718 Diamond Blvd. and one tree 451 Orchard Street were received and determined to be dead and/or hazardous and were approved to be removed and replaced. Mr. Burkert stated an application for one tree at 317 Leila Street was received and determined to be healthy and was denied.

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve the request by Bishop McCort to “Turn the Town Teal”. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to accept Small Town Challenge Grant Award and approve Execution of agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the request from Samantha Hartland to install a lending library at Diamond Blvd. playground. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Speicher stated she reviewed the agreement with Breezeline regarding outages that have been occurring noting the agreement states Breezeline will provide uninterrupted service 95% of the time so the outages may not equal the remaining 5%. Mrs. Speicher requested Solicitor Hochfeld review the agreement before the next renewal. No action was taken.

Solicitor Hochfeld stated the Department of Community and Economic Development has not made a decision on the borough’s application for a capital project loan noting council would need to make an official decision on financing the remaining balance of the building renovation project by the next meeting in September to meet the October 3rd deadline for approving the bid. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to authorize Solicitor Hochfeld to contact the borough accountant, Kotzan & Associates, to make sure the requirements for borrowing funding from a local financial establishment are met. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

August 18, 2025 Minutes – Page 4 of 4

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll in the amount of \$13,338.74 from July 22, 2025 through August 18, 2025. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Burkert, Mr. McVicker, and Mr. Ewald, in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from July 22, 2025 through August 18, 2025 in the amount of \$115,809.13. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Ewald, in favor. (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from July 22, 2025 through August 18, 2025 in the amount of \$78,060.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Ewald, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. McVicker, in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the July 2025 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to call for an Executive Session at 4:50 p.m. to discuss legal matters. Executive Session ended at 5:17 p.m. and council resumed its regularly scheduled meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Morgan for adjournment of the August 18, 2025, meeting at 5:17 p.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary