BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 20, 2025

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled October 20, 2025, council meeting was called to order by President Beri at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Anthony Keiper; Council Members Doug Beri, Sheree Speicher, Eugene Kupchella, Richard Burkert, Robert Morgan, Matthew McVicker, Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Solicitor Eric Hochfeld, Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Police Chief William (B.J.) Newman; Engineer Todd Banks

Absent: Council Member Herb Ewald, Southmont Volunteer Fire Company, Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

Visitors: Joan Dill (402 State Street), Frank Primel (403 Southmont Blvd.), John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street), John G. Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street), Bob Walker (312 State Street), Mark Lazzari (Cambria County Planning Commission), Shanna Murphy-Sosko (Cambria County Planning Commission)

Public Comment:
Mrs. Dill stated she was attending to make sure council knows she is running as tax collector in the upcoming election noting she missed the deadline to be included on the ballot so will be running as a write-in candidate.

Mr. Primel stated he recently submitted a police misconduct report with the West Hills Regional Police and also provided a copy to the Borough Manager for her to give to the council members that serve on the Police Commission. Mr. Beri clarified that each municipality appoints members the Police Commission to represent their municipality and the council itself has no control over police matters. Mr. McVicker stated he received a copy of the report and the issue could be discussed as the Police Commission meeting the following day.

Mr. John G. Klanchar stated that every year election signs have been put out and not removed by the borough and inquired if there was a borough ordinance that was created regarding election signs. Attorney Hochfeld stated he received a copy of the email submitted by John A. Klanchar concerning election signs and would be responding in writing.

Mr. John A. Klanchar stated that the borough has never removed election signs in the past and accused borough employees of lying to the fact that they have removed signs from rights-of-way in the past. Mr. Klanchar inquired who gave the directive to remove the signs. Attorney Hochfeld stated he would be responding in writing.

Correspondence Received
Council acknowledged an email received from John A. Klanchar dated October 16, 2025.

Cambria County Planning Commission Presentation
At this time Mr. Lazzari and Mrs. Murphy-Sosko presented a brief overview and update on the progress of the Multi-Municipal Implementable Comprehensive Plan.

Minutes
A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the September 15, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the October 1, 2025 special meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Police Chief's Report
The September 2025 Police Chief's Report was received. Chief Newman noted that unlocked car break-ins are still an issue in the area.

Fire Chief's Report
The September 2025 Fire Chief's Report was received.

Engineer's Report
Mr. Banks reported that the notice to proceed for the borough building roof replacement and interior renovation project was signed and the contractor expects to begin asbestos abatement the first week of November.

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

Solicitor's Report
Nothing to report.

Street Commissioner Report
The September 2025 Street Commissioner's report was received and is on file.

Borough Manager's Report
The September 2025 Borough Manager's report was received and is on file. Mrs. Layton confirmed that voting for precinct #1 will be returning to the borough building for the November 4th election noting the construction should not have an effect on access to the fire company meeting hall for the polling machines.

Mayor's Report
Mayor Keiper reported he reviewed the two handicapped parking permit applications received for 27 Harding Street noting the property does not have a driveway and street parking is tight in the area so he recommends approval of both applications. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve both handicapped parking permit applications. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Mr. Ewald absent. Motion carried (6-0).

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvements: Nothing to report.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Finance: Mrs. Speicher reported the committee will be meeting on October 28th.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Mr. Kupchella reported the water authority recently approved an annual 4% rate increase noting the 15-year projections show that without the rate increase the authority would be below where they need to be in order to continue operations within two years.

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 the committee met with Attorney Hochfeld to review language for a draft shade tree ordinance with the intent to return the cost of tree removal to the borough instead of the property owners.

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. McVicker to approve Resolution 2025-06, approving the joinder of Upper Yoder Township to the West Hills Regional Police Commission. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Kupchella inquired where the new facility will be located. Mr. Morgan stated it will be located on Sunray Drive in Upper Yoder Township. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve advertising garbage bids. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Business Items:

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from September 16, 2025 through October 20, 2025 in the amount of $21,870.94. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Morgan, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Ewald absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from September 16, 2025 through October 20, 2025 in the amount of $201,118.33. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Morgan, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Ewald absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from September 16, 2025 through October 20, 2025 in the amount of $202,098.57. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Morgan, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Ewald absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Speicher to approve the September 2025 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Speicher to accept the September 2025 Tax Collector's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for adjournment of the October 20, 2025 meeting at 4:52 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Layton
Borough Manager