

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR MAY 18, 2026

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled May 18, 2026 Council meeting was called to order by President Doug Beri at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Doug Beri, Richard Burkert, Sheree Speicher; Bob Morgan, Eugene Kupchella, Kurt Wolford, Solicitor Eric Hochfeld; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Engineer Todd Banks; Police Chief William (B.J.) Newman; James Dailey (SVFC), Mayor Mark Drummey; Asst. Sec Debra Riek.

Absent: Council Member Matthew McVicker

Visitors: John Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street), Robert Walker (312 State Street)

Public Comment:

Mr. Klanchar stated there is a trailer on Dahlia that does not have a permit and noted he will be filing a lawsuit regarding his election signs that were removed throughout the borough and will also be filing a lawsuit against Officer Ian Olsavsky and former council member Herb Ewald.

Bids:

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve opening 2026 paving bids. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0). The bid results were as follows:

Derry Construction - \$99,086.72 Quaker Sales - \$90,673.06 A Liberoni - \$109,377.46

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the 2026 paving bid for Quaker Sales upon the review of the Solicitor in the amount of \$90,673.06. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve the April 20, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve the May 5, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Police Chief's Report

The April 2026 Police Chief's report was received and is on file. Mr. Wolford asked the Police Chief if there are any problems coming into the borough from the trouble that is happening in the City of Johnstown. Chief Newman stated that the Police Departments are all working together at this time.

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Fire Company Report

The April 2026 Fire Chief's report was received and is on file. Mr. Dailey stated the Jubilee will begin next week and they are preparing for the 100th anniversary next year.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks reported the building improvement project substantial completion is done and the punch list of items that still need done will be completed this week.

Zoning Report

The monthly report was received and is on file.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Hochfeld stated that he would like to defer his report to the executive session.

Street Commissioner Report

The May 2026 Street Commissioner's report was received and is on file.

Borough Manager Report

The May 2026 Borough Manager's report was received and is on file.

Mayor's Report

Mr. Drummey stated a tree planting ceremony to celebrate the semi quincennial will be held on Saturday, May 30th noting he and Mr. Morgan are working on trying to get a tree donated, but he has obtained a price of \$125.00 for a white swamp oak tree just in case. Mr. Drummey noted Matt Murphy from Bartlett Tree Experts took a soil sample of the planting site and recommended the swamp white oak.

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvements: Mr. Burkert stated that the public involvement portion of the comprehensive plan has been completed and the consultant is now writing the draft plan.

Emergency Management: Mr. Drummey reported he met with Senator Langerholc regarding potential grants the fire company could submit applications for a new engine truck noting the cost is too much for local grants and they should apply for something in the \$25,000-\$50,000 range.

Finance: Nothing to report.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Nothing to report.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

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Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

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

Shade Tree: A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the proposal from Bartlett Tree Experts for the tree inventory portion of the Shade Tree Inventory Grant. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0). Mr. Burkert noted that Bartlett Tree Experts expects the inventory to take approximately three weeks to complete, but they have until July 20, 2026 to complete the inventory.

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve Ordinance No. 557, updated Shade Tree Ordinance. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

New Business/Old Business:

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve Pay Application #5 Building Renovation Project in the amount of \$47,128.50. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve Pay Application #6 Building Renovation Project in the amount of \$140,853.26. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella.). Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the advertisement for the Shady Lane paving project. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. 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 April 21, 2026 through May 18, 2026 in the amount of \$15,591.70. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (6-0). Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Burkert and Mr. Wolford in favor. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from April 21, 2026 to May 18, 2026 in the amount of \$131,172.20. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (6-0). Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Burkert and Mr. Wolford in favor. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the transfers from April 21, 2026 to May 18, 2026 in the amount of \$91,850.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Burkert and Mr. Wolford in favor. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the April 2026 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

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A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to accept the Tax Collection's Report for April 2026. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to enter into Executive Session at 5:26 p.m. to discuss legal matters regarding a sewer class action lawsuit. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0). Executive Session ended at 5:43 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 May 18, 2026 meeting at 5:44 p.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary