

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR AUGUST 17, 2026

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled August 17, 2026, council meeting was called to order by President Beri at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Council Members Matthew McVicker and Kurt Wolford.

Visitors: Larry Koval (336 Orchard Street).

Public Comment:

Mr. Koval requested an update on the sewer project and suggested updates be posted to the borough website or included in the annual newsletter. Mr. Koval inquired about tree stumps on Orchard Street and noted that he showed Mr. Wolford after the July meeting. Mr. Koval stated that when council was discussing the new garbage contract at the end of last year, it was discussed that the garbage companies would no longer collect bags of yard waste and it was indicated that the borough crew would collect them, but he has since been told the borough is unable to do so and suggested that residents be made aware. Mr. Koval also mentioned the line painting that needs to be completed on Susan Drive and Southmont Blvd.

Correspondence

Mr. Beri acknowledged email correspondence received from John A. Klanchar dated 08/06/2026.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the July 20, 2026 council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Police Report

The July 2026 Police Chief's Report was received and is on file. Chief Newman reported that for the month of July the police have 588 total calls. Chief Newman stated the West Hills Heroes Community Event was a success in spite of the venue and location change and it was decided that they will be continuing the festival for the local residents to connect with emergency responders and share current information.

Fire Company Report

The July 2026 Fire Chief's Report was received and is on file. Mr. Dailey reported they responded to a gas explosion at a house on Hershberger Road. Mr. Dailey also reported that Representative Joyce met with members of the Fire Department and said his office will help direct the Fire Depart in how to receive help in funding for a new truck.

Engineer Report

Mr. Banks reported they are started work on the Diamond Blvd. Master Site Plans that the borough received grant funding for. Mr. Banks also reported that he is investigating a concern from the owner of 424 Southmont Blvd. who believes he has an issue with the building sinking due to the sewer project.

Zoning Report

The July Zoning Report was received and is on file. Solicitor Hochfeld reported that he has filed civil action against 888 Franklin Street noting the property was served last week and the owner is given a certain amount of time to respond before further action is taken.

Solicitor Report

Solicitor Hochfeld reported there has not been any action taken since the last meeting on the class action suit noting all Cambria County Judges have recused themselves, so an out-of-county judge will be assigned the case.

Street Commissioner Report

The July 2026 Street Commissioner's Report was received and is on file. Mr. McAdams noted the playground swing chains have been replaced.

Borough Manager's Report

The July 2026 Borough Manager's report was received and is on file. Mrs. Layton reported the Southmont Forward Fund is close to the goal noting we are at \$23,717.00 of the \$25,000.00 goal.

Mayor's Report

Mr. Drummy stated Congressman Joyce spent time with the fire company and borough staff and was impressed by the work Southmont Borough is doing for the residents.

Committees:

Administration: Mr. Beri reported there will be a meeting on September 1, 2026, to discuss sewer updates and code enforcement services.

Community Planning & Improvements: Mr. Burket reported the committee will be having a meeting tomorrow to discuss actionable projects that could be included in the multi-municipal comprehensive plan.

Emergency Management: Mr. Drummy reported he and members of the fire company met with Congressman Joyce to discuss funding for a new fire engine and also discussed potential funding through the federally funded Community Project Fund. Mayor Drummey stated Congressman Joyce felt positive that he could help get funding and offered assistance through one of his grant writers in Washington DC for 2028 applications and suggested getting local grants to supplement the federal grant.

Finance: Mrs. Speicher stated there will be a budget meeting on September 8, 2026, to begin discussing the 2027 budget. Mrs. Speicher reported there are 3 tax appeals that are scheduled in front of the appeal board this year.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Mr. Kupchella reported that the new board member has been officially appointed and he will be attending his first meeting next week.

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Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report

Property Maintenance, Street and Sidewalks: Mr. McVicker absent.

Shade Trees: Mr. Burkert stated there will be a training event at the municipal building on Saturday, September 26, 2026 for Tree Tenders Training from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Burkert stated one person has submitted an application for the Shade Tree Commission so far and they are hoping to recruit more at the training event.

New Items

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the attendance at the Cambria County Borough Association 2026 Fall Dinner. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to table action on the request for consent for right of entry from DEP regarding property along Franklin Street until the next meeting for Solicitor Hochfeld to review further. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the trap removal for 149 State Street. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve final payment for the building renovation project. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Business Items

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from July 21, 2026 through August 17, 2026 in the amount of \$13,377.40. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford absent. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from July 21, 2026 through August 17, 2026 in the amount of \$258,585.57. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Morgan, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford absent. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from July 21, 2026 through August 17, 2026 in the amount of \$49,590.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve the July 2026 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to accept the July 2026 tax collector's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford were absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for adjournment of the August 17, 2026 meeting at 5:41 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker and Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary