

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
148 WONDER STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2025

---

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled November 17, 2025 Council meeting was called to order by President Doug Beri at 4:00 p.m.

---

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

**Visitors:** John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street), James and Deb Dailey (26 Harding Street), Ralph Zoerner (Waste Management), Mike Bellvia (Pro Disposal), Russ O’Reilly (Tribune Democrat)

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Dailey explained they are having parking issues with a neighbor who was recently granted two handicapped parking spaces in the rear of her property along Shady Lane noting the neighbor is now parking in the front and back of her property and is being very verbal about not want others to park nearby.

Mrs. Dailey expressed concern with the request from Julie Facciani to have a handicapped parking space added to the front of her property along Harding Street. Mrs. Dailey explained that existing parking is already tight and adding more handicapped spots would result in hardships for the other neighbors. Mrs. Dailey noted two handicapped spaces were already provided and adding a handicapped parking spot on Harding Street could also be a safety issue since that area is narrow.

Mr. Klanchar congratulated the candidates that ran for office and stated that he had received calls from residents concerned about parking issues and it is not councils place to get in the middle of neighbor disputes.

**Bids**

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve opening garbage bids. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried. (7-0).

The first bid was from Waste Management for the following:

Carted Residential Waste Collection Including Annual Spring Cleanup:

	95-gallon cart	35-gallon cart	Additional cart	Recycling
2026	\$16.35/unit/month	\$14.72/unit/month	\$8.03/unit/month	\$4.80/unit/month
2027	\$16.92/unit/month	\$15.23/unit/month	\$8.59/unit/month	\$4.97/unit/month
2028	\$17.51/unit/month	\$15.76/unit/month	\$9.19/unit/month	\$5.14/unit/month

**November 17, 2025 Minutes – Page 2 of 5**

Carted Residential Waste Collection Including 1 Monthly Bulk Item Collection:

	95-gallon cart	35-gallon cart	Additional cart	Recycling
2026	\$16.35/unit/month	\$14.72/unit/month	\$8.03/unit/month	\$4.80/unit/month
2027	\$16.92/unit/month	\$15.23/unit/month	\$8.59/unit/month	\$4.97/unit/month
2028	\$17.51/unit/month	\$15.76/unit/month	\$9.19/unit/month	\$5.14/unit/month

The second bid was from Pro Disposal for the following:

Carted Residential Waste Collection Including Annual Spring Cleanup:

	95-gallon cart	35-gallon cart	Additional cart	Recycling
2026	\$16.68/unit/month	\$15.68/unit/month	\$8.00/unit/month	\$2,225/month
2027	\$16.97/unit/month	\$15.97/unit/month	\$8.00/unit/month	\$3,125/month
2028	\$17.83/unit/month	\$16.23/unit/month	\$8.00/unit/month	\$3,575/month

Carted Residential Waste Collection Including 1 Monthly Bulk Item Collection:

	95-gallon cart	35-gallon cart	Additional cart	Recycling
2026	\$16.07/unit/month	\$15.07/unit/month	\$8.00/unit/month	\$2,225/month
2027	\$16.68/unit/month	\$15.68/unit/month	\$8.00/unit/month	\$3,125/month
2028	\$16.97/unit/month	\$15.97/unit/month	\$8.00/unit/month	\$3,575/month

A motion was made by Mr. Ewald to approve the bid including one monthly bulk item collection and recycling from Pro Disposal. Motion died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to table decision on garbage bids until the December meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Correspondence**

Council acknowledged a formal complaint notice received from Frank Primel, Jr. dated 10/28/2025 and a request to move one of two handicapped parking spaces recently approved from Shady Lane to Harding Street from Julie Facciani dated 11/14/2025. Council decided to review the area of Harding Street that Ms. Facciani requested the handicapped parking space be moved to and add the matter to the December agenda.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the October 20, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Police Chief's Report**

The October 2025 Police Chief's Report was received. Chief Newman reported the take back drugs program was a success and 26 ½ pounds of unused drugs were collected.

**Fire Company Report**

The October 2025 Fire Chief's Report was received. Mr. Dailey reported the fire company is looking into getting smoke alarms to distribute to the borough residents free of charge.

**Engineer’s Report**

Mr. Banks reported that they have prepared plans for a proposed curb and inlet at the intersection of Gardner Street and Diamond Blvd. in response to the stormwater runoff issues that were discussed with Elizabeth Mayer and Michael Kane at a previous meeting. Mr. Banks stated the estimated cost should be low enough that the project will not need to be bid and the plans can be sent out to request estimates from contractors.

Mr. Banks informed council that during the asbestos abatement portion of the roof replacement and interior renovation project asbestos was found behind the paneling noting the finding resulted in a change order being submitted, which is on the agenda for approval under new business.

**Zoning Officer’s Report**

The October report was received.

Mrs. Speicher inquired about the property owned by Dollar World on Franklin Street and whether there was any progress on it noting the condition is getting worse and looks like a junk yard now. Solicitor Hochfeld stated that he will look into filing charges instead of Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency and report back at the December meeting.

**Solicitor’s Report**

Nothing further to report

**Street Commissioner’s Report**

Mr. McAdams reported that over 475 cubic yards of leaves have been collected so far and all the equipment has been prepped for the winter season.

**Borough Manager’s Report**

The October 2025 Borough Manager’s report was received and is on file.

**Mayor’s Report**

Nothing to report.

**Committees:**

**Administration/Borough Services:** Nothing to report.

**Community Planning & Improvements:**

Mr. Burkert reported that the comprehensive plan steering committee meeting will be Thursday November 20, 2025, at Brownstown Borough Office from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and Council is invited to attend noting the comprehensive plan is projected to take up to 18 months to be completed.

**Emergency Management:** Nothing to report.

**Finance:** Nothing to report.

**GJWA:** Nothing to report.

## **November 17, 2025 Minutes – Page 4 of 5**

**MS4/Stormwater:** A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve advertising the December meeting as a public MS4 meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**Personnel:** Nothing to report.

**Police:** Nothing to report.

**Property Maintenance, Streets & Sidewalks:** Mr. Kupchella suggested that more information and photos be added to the website to inform residents of the proper way to put leaves at the curb for collection to help alleviate issues with leaves clogging storm drains.

**Shade Trees:** Mr. Burkert reported a committee meeting will be scheduled to review the draft shade tree ordinance updates to attempt to have it ready to be advertised at the December meeting.

### **New Business**

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve the 2026 tentative budget including a 2 mill tax increase. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve advertising the 2026 tentative budget. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve advertising Ordinance No. 554, setting the tax millage for 2026 including a 2 mill tax increase. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to table advertising Ordinance No. 555, setting garbage fees until the December meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Solicitor Hochfeld stated he reviewed the change order submitted for the additional asbestos removal and spoke with the architect from Stiffler McGraw noting the work was not covered in the scope of work and was only discovered during the abatement process and could not have been foreseen. Mr. Beri stated the original cost of the change order was \$12,204.50, but Mid-State Construction provided a credit since the work was done by the abatement company instead of them making the final cost \$8,851.53. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$8,851.53. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

### **Business Items**

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll October 21, 2025 through November 17, 2025 in the amount of \$14,201.42. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll Call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0)

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from October 21, 2025 through November 17, 2025 in the amount of \$217,362.86. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from October 21, 2025 through November 17, 2025 in the amount of \$207,381.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

**November 17, 2025 Minutes – Page 5 of 5**

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve the October 2025 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the tax collectors' report for October 2025. Motion Seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion by Mrs. Speicher at 5:14 p.m. to adjourn into executive session to discuss the agreement with Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency noting no further action was expected after the executive session. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0). Council resumed its regularly scheduled meeting at 5:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to adjourn the November 17, 2025 meeting at 5:35 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek  
Assistant Executive Secretary