

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled September 15, 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, Matthew McVicker, Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Solicitor Eric Hochfeld, Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Police Chief William (B.J.) Newman; Deputy Chief James Dailey; Engineer Todd Banks; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

Absent: Mayor Anthony Keiper

Visitors: John Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street), Bob Walker (312 State Street), Larry Koval (336 Orchard Street)

Public Comment:

Mr. Klanchar stated he has been coming to the council meetings since 2022 and feels he is not receiving any assistance from the borough with the issues he presents.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the August 18, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Chief's Report

The August 2025 Police Chief's Report was received.

Fire Chief's Report

The August 2025 Fire Chief's Report was received.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks stated that the annual MS4 report is due at the end of September and they are on track to have it submitted on time.

Zoning Report

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

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Hochfeld reported that the borough has a cable franchise agreement with Breezeline that will expire in 2030 noting there are no provisions in the contract for lack of service or outages in the borough.

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Solicitor Hochfeld reported that council will need to consider passing an ordinance to remove the appeal process that is provided under the International Property Maintenance Code and he will provide the new language for councils review.

Street Commissioner Report

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

Borough Manager's Report

The August 2025 Borough Manager's report was received and is on file.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Keiper absent. Nothing to report.

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvements: Mr. Burkert reported that the comprehensive plan steering committee has met and will be meeting in the near future to tour the 5 municipalities to look at the opportunities available to include in the plan.

Emergency Management: Mayor Keiper absent. Nothing to report

Finance: Mrs. Speicher reported that the first budget workshop is scheduled for Tuesday September 16, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Mr. Kupchella reported that the authority is looking into the financing of \$5,000,000.00 for the Norh Fork and Dalton Dams noting the North Fork Dam is a high hazard dam that needs to be repaired.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report

Police: Nothing to report

Property Maintenance, Streets, & Sidewalks:

Mr. McVicker reported that there will be a committee meeting on September 30th.

Shade Trees:

Mr. Burkert reported that the committee will meet on September 30th and will be reviewing a new shade tree ordinance draft.

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New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve attendance at the Cambria County Borough's Association 2025 Fall Dinner Meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation for Pension Plan with PA Municipal Retirement System. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve Trick-or-Treat for October 31, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Beri to approve the Grant Agreement with Southern Alleghenies Planning & Development Commission for the Diamond Blvd. Playground Master Site Plan Development pending review from Solicitor Hochfeld. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Ewald opposed. Motion carried (6-1).

Solicitor Hochfeld stated that the borough has been applied for a \$100,000.00 loan through DCED with 2% interest for the building renovation project. Solicitor Hochfeld stated Mid State Construction agreed to a 60-day extension on a bid decision to allow the borough to work on financing and suggested council table the approval of the bid until the deadline of October 3, 2025 to get more information from DCED. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve tabling the decision on Building Renovation Project Bid from Mid-State Construction. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Business Items:

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from August 19, 2025 through September 15, 2025 in the amount of \$13,265.30. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Morgan, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from August 19, 2025 through September 15, 2025 in the amount of \$119,202.20. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mrs. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from August 19, 2025 through September 15, 2025 in the amount of \$83,910.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mrs. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Morgan and Mrs. Speicher in favor. (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the August 2025 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to accept the August 2025 Tax Collector's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

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There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for adjournment of the September 15, 2025 meeting at 4:45 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary