

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR MARCH 16, 2026

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled March 16, 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, Eugene Kupchella, Matthew McVicker, Bob Morgan, Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Solicitor Eric Hochfeld; Police Chief William (B.J.) Newman; Mayor Mark Drummey; SVFC James Daily; Street Commissioner Sam Adams; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

Absent: Engineer Todd Banks, Council Member Kurt Wolford

Visitors: Lary Koval (336 Orchard Street); John Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street)

Public Comment:

Mr. Koval addressed the council about a pothole at the corner of Olive Street and State Street that needs filled or patched and that he had noticed there are leaves in some areas in the borough that need cleaned up.

Mr. Klanchar stated that there are unauthorized signs throughout the borough that need to be removed and that there is a Police Officer currently under investigation for an issue that happened in Southmont Borough.

Correspondence

Mr. Beri acknowledged correspondence received from PennDOT regarding an upcoming rockfall mesh replacement project on Menoher Blvd. and an email from John Klanchar regarding garbage collection.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the February 17, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Kurt Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Police Chief's Report

The February 2026 Police Chief's report was received and is on file. Chief Newman reported 374 calls were received for the month of February with 44 for Southmont Borough noting 31 traffic citations, 21 warnings and 1 vehicle accident.

Fire Company Report

The February 2026 Fire Chief's report was received and is on file. Mr. Dailey reported there were a total of 9 calls for the month of February with 7 for Southmont Borough. Mr. Dailey noted the local schools will be holding a fundraiser in April for local fire departments and will be raffling off a chance to win a ride to school in a fire truck.

Engineer's Report

The Engineer's report was received and is on file. Mr. Banks absent.

Zoning Officer's Report

Mrs. Speicher stated that there are items from 2023 on the property maintenance report. Mrs. Layton stated several of the properties are vacant and she will contact Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency to find out what the next step is to move forward.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Hochfeld deferred his report to other parts of the agenda.

Street Commissioner's Report

The February Street Commissioner's report was received and is on file. Mr. McAdams stated they have a list of potholes that need filled and are just waiting for the temperature to rise to 50 degrees or higher. Mr. Beri stated there is a street committee meeting tomorrow and they can discuss patching plans in more detail.

Borough Manager Report

Borough Manager's report has been received and is on file. Mrs. Speicher inquired about the school crossing on Menoher Blvd. Mrs. Layton stated the borough requested tech assist from PA Local Technical Assistance Program to review the crosswalk noting a meeting was held with representatives from the borough, LTAP, the school district and police department to possible measures that could be taken to enhance safety of students and other pedestrians.

Mayor's Report

Mr. Drummey stated an Emergency Management Committee meeting was held to discuss updating the Emergency Operations Plan and he plans to compile a draft of a new plan to be presented it at the next meeting.

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvement

Mr. Burkert reported the comprehensive plan is in the public comment phase and a survey has been provided and is available on the borough's website and Facebook page.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Finance: Nothing to report.

GJWA: Nothing to report.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance, Streets and Sidewalks:

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve applying for the County Municipal Infrastructure Assistance Program for paving funds. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor motion carried (6-0).

Shade Tree:

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to table Ordinance No. 557 for further research to be done. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Wolford was absent. All in favor motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the contract with Thomas H. Architects for the Shade Tree Inventory Project. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Wolford was absent. All in favor motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve planting a tree at the borough building during the 2026 Jubilee for the U.S. 250th Anniversary. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Wolford was absent. All in favor motion carried (6-0).

New/Old Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve attendance at the Cambria County Borough's Association Spring Dinner on April 21, 2026. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the amendment to Change Order #2 for the building renovation project in the amount of \$510.76, which was missed during the previous approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to deny Change Order #3 for the building renovation project for additional lighting at the transaction windows for \$585.02. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve Mid-State Constructions Pay Request #4 in the amount of \$68,251.50. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the West Hills Regional Police agreement. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve the Penelec LED light replacement agreement to replace street lighting to LED lights. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the execution of local documents with DCED for the \$100,000 loan for the building renovation project. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Business Items

A motion was made by Mr. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from February 18, 2026 through March 16, 2026 in the amount of \$13,899.75. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Morgan. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor. Motion carried (6 -0).

A motion was made by Mr. McVicker to approve payment of bills from February 18, 2026 through March 16, 2026 in the amount of \$113,446.39. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Morgan. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from February 18, 2026 through March 16, 2026 in the amount of \$243,814.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Morgan, Mr. McVicker. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the February 2026 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Wolford was absent. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Morgan, Mr. McVicker. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for adjournment of the March 16, 2026 meeting at 5:49 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Wolford absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary