

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR APRIL 20, 2026

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled April 20, 2026 Council meeting was called to order by President Doug Beri at 5:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Engineer Todd Banks

Visitors: Robert Walker (312 State St.); John Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street)

Public Comment:

Mr. Klanchar inquired about the sewer class action lawsuit against Southmont Borough and requested a copy of written orders and receipts for the work done on his property. Mr. Klanchar believes he is being overcharged by Southmont Borough and the Greater Johnstown Water Authority.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the March 16, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the April 6, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Chief's Report

The March 2026 Police Chief's report was received and is on file.

Fire Company Report

The March 2026 Fire Chief's report was received and is on file.

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve allowing signs to be put up in the borough for the 2026 Fireman's Jubilee. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve paying one-half of the cost for police protection for the 2026 Fireman's Jubilee. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks absent. Nothing to report.

Zoning Officer's Report

Mrs. Speicher inquired about the Grimaldi Garage property located on Southmont Blvd. stating it is unsightly and council needs to see what options are available to have the property cleaned up in the front and the back. Mrs. Speicher is also concerned about the Dollar World LLC property on Franklin Street and what action can be taken to have the property cleaned up. Solicitor Hochfeld stated the charges have been filed regarding the Dollar World LLC property at 888 Franklin Street and the Sheriff's Office will be serving the owners. Mrs. Speicher believes a committee may need to be formed to look into the problems of blight in the borough. Mrs. Speicher stated she would like Solicitor Hochfeld to investigate Grimaldi's Garage noting the property was grandfathered in under an agreement in the 1980's in exchange for an easement.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Hochfeld reported that Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency was unable to move forward with filing charges against the owner of 100 Milton Street/723 Diamond Blvd. because the LLC was based out of Ohio and they were having issues finding identifiers.

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to authorize Solicitor Hochfeld to file a complaint with the Court of Common Pleas for property maintenance violations at 100 Milton Street/723 Diamond Blvd. and file a petition in the Court of Common Pleas. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried. (7-0).

Street Commissioner's Report

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

Borough Manager Report

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

Mayor's Report

Mr. Drummey stated he spoke with Matt Murphy at Bartlett Tree Service regarding planting a tree at the borough building during the Jubilee in celebration of the United States 250th year anniversary and Mr. Murphy suggested a white oak noting they will look at the potential planting site next week and take a soil sample. Mr. Morgan stated he spoke with Gary Lichtenfels about donating a white oak and he is waiting to hear back from him. Mr. Drummey stated he will contact the Tribune Democrat and possibly invite residents to attend to participate in the planting.

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvements: Mr. Burkert stated that the Steering Committee will be meeting on April 23rd from 5pm-7pm at the Lower Yoder Township Municipal Building.

Emergency Management: Mr. Drummey reported the committee met last week and discussed possibly applying for a grant for a new rescue truck for the fire department noting he spoke with Senator Langerholc to talk about grant applications that are available for fire equipment. Mr. Drummey stated he is also working on updating the borough's emergency operations plan.

Finance: Nothing to report.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Mr. Kupchella reported that the North Fork spillway renovation is underway and the water tanks are being evaluated. Mr. Kupchella stated the water line replacement project is underway in the Moxham area.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance: Mr. McVicker reported the committee recently met to discuss plans for 2026 paving and to discuss the LED street lighting replacement project through Penelec. Mr. McVicker noted the borough submitted an application with the Cambria County Municipal Infrastructure Assistance Program for funds to pave Shady Lane.

Shade Trees: Solicitor Hochfeld stated that there were revisions made to the draft shade tree ordinance regarding the responsibility of the maintenance of shade trees and regulations for permit applications. A discussion was held regarding the effective date of the ordinance and it was agreed that the effective date should be 120 days from the passing of the ordinance instead of it being effective immediately upon approval. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve advertising Ordinance No. 557, amending the Shade Tree Ordinance and creating a Shade Tree Commission, with the change of the effective date to be 120 days after approval of the ordinance. Motion seconded by Mr. Wolford. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mr. Burkert provided a proposal from Bartlett Tree Service for the inventory portion of the Shade Tree Inventory project noting an agreement was signed with Thomas Harley Architects for the training program portion of the project. Mr. Burkert requested council review the Bartlett Tree Service proposal to be decided upon at the May meeting.

New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve 2026 County Aid application. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

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

Business Items

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from March 17, 2026 through April 20, 2026 in the amount of \$20,969.89. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Wolford, Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7 - 0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from March 17, 2026 through April 20, 2026 in the amount of \$215,479.31. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert,

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Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Wolford, Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from March 17, 2026 through April 20, 2026 in the amount of \$178,636.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Wolford, Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the March 2026 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to accept the Tax Collector's Report for January 2026, February 2026, and March 2026. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion made by Mr. Kupchella to enter into Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. to discuss legal matters regarding a sewer class action lawsuit. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for adjournment of the April 20, 2026 meeting at 6:15 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary