

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JUNE 16, 2025

The pledge of allegiance was conducted and the scheduled June 16, 2025 Council meeting was called to order by President Doug Beri at 4:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Fire Chief Steve Costic

Visitors: John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street); John G. Klanchar (Ashville)

Public Comment

John G. Klanchar stated that he and his family are being harassed by the Borough Council and questioned why he was sent a citation for property maintenance violations on his property.

John A. Klanchar stated that he has filed numerous zoning complaints with the borough and believes that the council uses the justice system to get people they don't like to comply.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the May 19, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Chief's Report

The May Police Chief's Report was received. Police Chief Newman stated that there were 366 calls for the month of May with 83 calls for Southmont Borough and 17 traffic citations issued. Mr. Ewald asked if Chief Newman had received the May 2025 report from the speed radar sign that has been on Diamond Blvd. and what the next step would be. Chief Newman stated he did receive the report and police presence in the area can be increased if there is a spot for them to park to monitor traffic speeds.

Fire Company Report

The May 2025 Fire Chief's Report was received. Chief Costic absent.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks reported one bid was received for the municipal building upgrade and roof replacement project noting the bid price was higher than expected so his team is reviewing to see which parts of the project can be completed.

Zoning Report

The May zoning and property maintenance reports were received.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Hochfeld reported he reviewed the shade tree ordinance and noted the current ordinance does provide for an advisory board, but a new ordinance would be needed to create a commission. Solicitor Hochfeld stated if DCNR funding is received for a shade tree inventory the advisory board would need to be reinstated so he will be drafting a new shade tree ordinance. Council voiced concerns regarding enforcement of tree removals and trimming regarding recent work done by Penn Line without obtaining proper permits from the borough. Mr. Burkert stated that with the reactivation of the advisory board this should help with any problems that may arise in the future.

Street Commissioner's Report

The May 2025 Street Commissioner's Report was received and is on file. Mr. McAdams reported that the street sweeper is down and the part needed has been discontinued so he is working with Westmont Borough to repair the part and get the sweeper back up and running. Mr. Beri stated a new sweeper costs approximately \$300,000-\$400,000 and suggested that the street committee should meet and come to the council with suggestions of potential options if the LSA grant application that was submitted for a new sweeper is not approved.

Borough Manager Report

The May 2025 Borough Manager's Report was received and is on file.

Mayor's Report

Mr. Keiper stated that he visited reviewed the handicapped parking permit application submitted for 156 Violet Street. Mayor Keiper noted that he observed there is no feasible off-street parking for her and suggested that the council grant her request for a handicap parking space.

Committees:

Administrative/Borough Services: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvement: Mr. Burkert reported the Planning Commission has signed a contract with the Stuart Group and the comprehensive planning process will start in July.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Finance: Nothing to report.

GJWA: Mrs. Speicher reported Pennvest funding was received and the North Fork dam work will be starting this fall noting Dalton Run has been put on the back burner until North Fork is done. Mrs. Speicher reported the lead line replacements will be starting in Moxham and will spread out from there noting they are only going to the house and residents would be responsible for the interior lines. Mrs. Speicher stated the lead inhibitor in the lines was tested and seems to be working. Mr. Beri asked if the inhibitor will be discontinued after the replacement project and Mrs. Speicher stated she would check.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report

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Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance and Streets: Mr. McVicker asked Mr. McAdams about some of the inlets that need to be cleaned. Mr. McAdams stated he is compiling a list and will have JRA or Gap Vax come in to start jetting them probably in July.

Shade Trees: Nothing to report.

New Business

Mr. Beri stated that since the annual county aid funds were already dedicated to the 2025 paving project, the grant funding received through the county could not be used for that project also so another small paving project needed to be bid out in order to use the grant funding. A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve advertising the paving bid for Otis Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve the handclapped parking permit application for 152 Violet Street. 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 May 20, 2025 through June 16, 2025 in the amount of \$15,184.09. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. McVicker and Mr. Ewald in favor. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from May 20, 2025 through June 16, 2025 in the amount of \$133,427.56. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. McVicker, and Mr. Ewald in favor. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from May 20, 2025 through June 16, 2025 in the amount of \$347,284.84. A motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Morgan, Mr. McVicker and Mr. Ewald. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the May 2025 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for an Executive Session about Personnel Matters at 4:42 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried (7-0). Executive session ended at 5:08 p.m. and council resumed its regularly scheduled meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve adjournment of the June 16, 2025 meeting at 5:08 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Debra E. Riek
Assistant Secretary