

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JULY 21, 2025

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled July 21, 2025 Council meeting was called to order by President Doug Beri at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Anthony Keiper; Council Members Doug Beri, Sheree Speicher, Eugene Kupchella, Herb Ewald, Robert Morgan, Richard Burkert; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Solicitor Eric Hochfeld; Engineer Todd Banks; Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

Absent: Matthew McVicker; Police Chief William (B.J.) Newman, Fire Chief Steve Costic

Visitors: John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street), Russ O'Reilly (Tribune Democrat)

Public Comment: Mr. Klanchar questioned the process on zoning complaints noting that his understanding is that first a letter will be sent to the residents giving 10 days to correct the problem or it will be referred to Laurel Management Inspection Agency. Mr. Klanchar also stated he appreciates the council respecting his first amendment rights and allowing him to speak.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the June 16, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve the July 8, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Police Chief's Report

The June 2025 Police Chief's Report was received. Chief Newman absent.

Fire Company Report

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

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks stated he had nothing to report.

Zoning Officer's Report

The June report was received.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Hochfeld stated he had nothing to report.

Street Commissioner's Report

Mr. McAdams stated he had nothing further to report.

July 21, 2025 Minutes – Page 2 of 3

Borough Manager's Report

Mrs. Layton stated she had nothing further to report. Mr. Ewald asked if the street sweeper was working noting Dahlia Street needs swept. Mrs. Layton stated the street sweeper has been fixed and is working.

Mayor's Report

Nothing to report

Committees

Administration/Borough Services: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvements: Mr. Burkert reported the steering committee for the multi-municipal comprehensive planning will begin next week and that any one interested in being a member of the steering committee is invited to contact the County Planning Commission.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Finance: Nothing to report.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Mr. Kupchella reported bids were opened for work on North Fork Dam noting the bids were approximately \$5 million over what was anticipated. Mr. Kupchella stated the authority is discussing at the upcoming meeting on July 31st whether there are other options to proceed with the work noting they do have some reserves, but nothing close to cover the additional amount.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance, Streets and Sidewalks: Mr. McVicker absent. Nothing to report.

Shade Tree: Mr. Burkert stated the committee is looking forward to DCNR grant award announcements regarding the application for funding to complete a tree inventory.

New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve authorizing the Solicitor to contact Mid-State Construction to request a 30-day extension for the Municipal Building Roof Replacement and Interior Renovations Project. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Business Items:

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from June 17, 2025 through July 21, 2025 in the amount of \$12,869.62. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kupchella in favor. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from June 17, 2025 through July 21, 2025 in the amount of \$138,920.67. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan,

July 21, 2025 Minutes – Page 3 of 3

Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kupchella in favor. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from June 17, 2025 through July 21, 2025 in the amount of \$98,672.57. Motion seconded by Kupchella. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, Mr. Kupchella in favor. Mr. McVicker absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the June 2025 Treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Ewald, in favor. Mr. McVicker absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the May 2025 and June 2025 Tax Collectors' report. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. McVicker absent. Motion carried (6-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher for adjournment of the July 2025 meeting at 4:20 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. McVicker absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Executive Secretary