

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 8, 2025

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled December 8, 2025, council meeting was called to order by President Beri at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Doug Beri, Sheree Speicher, Robert Morgan, Richard Burkert, Eugene Kupchella, Herb Ewald, Matthew McVicker, Mayor Anthony Keiper, Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Sgt. William “B.J.” Newman, Engineer Todd Banks, Asst. Sec Debra Riek

Visitors: John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street), John Klanchar (Addison, PA), Bob Walker (210 State Street), Jim & Deb Dailey (26 Harding Street), Ralph Zoerner (Waste Management), Michael Bellvia (Pro Disposal), Michael Barzeski (156 Violet Street), Bri Palatovich (24 Harding Street), Larry Koval (336 Orchard Street).

Public Comments:

Mr. Dailey asked the Council not to grant the request to move one of two handicapped parking spaces from Shady Lane to Harding Street noting it is already difficult to park at this time, and it would be a hardship for all the neighbors.

Mrs. Dailey stated the area off Harding Street where the handicapped parking space is being requested to be moved is privately owned and their neighbor is currently either not using the current handicapped parking spaces or allows others to park there illegally. Mrs. Dailey stated they have been receiving backlash since the previous meeting.

Mr. John G. Klanchar stated that council will not do anything over parking issues noting he had parking issues at his home and the borough did nothing.

Mr. John A. Klanchar stated that the Council should award the garbage bid to Pro Disposal because they are a local company whereas Waste Management is a corporation noting in the past Pro Disposal is very responsive to issues and Waste Management will not be as responsive. Mr. Klanchar stated that neighbors tattling on neighbors should not be brought to council and they should contact the police directly for illegal parking issues noting the borough is not a home owner’s association.

Ms. Palatovich stated she was in attendance to support the Dailey’s noting there is a domino effect of street parking issues due to visitors taking up parking and blocking access of the surrounding property owners to their own property. Ms. Palatovich also stated there are people parking in the handicapped parking spaces without the proper tags.

Mr. Koval stated there are two tree stumps on Orchard Street that are unsightly and need to be removed asking the Shade Tree Committee to look at the stumps and take the necessary action.

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Mr. Zoerner from Waste Management stated the company has community specific websites for each municipality they serve that residents can access for items such as checking schedules and reporting can damage.

Mr. Drummey presented Mayor Anthony Keiper and Mr. Herb Ewald with historical pictures and a map of the Borough, thanking them for their service to the Borough.

Bid Approval

A motion was made by Mr. McVicker to approve the bid from Pro Disposal for trash cart service including recycling and monthly bulk item collection for the 3-year contract. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the council meeting minutes of November 17, 2025. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Police Report

Chief Newman reported that the police handled 378 calls in the month of November noting 62 of the calls were in Southmont Borough. Chief Newman stated with the merger of Upper Yoder Police Department the force will now have 15 full-time officers, 6 part-time officers, and 7 or 8 Vehicles.

Fire Company Report

The November 2025 Fire Chief's Report was received. Mr. Costic reported the fire company recently purchased a used 2015 utility truck to replace their 2001 utility truck noting mechanical issues with eh 2001 truck have been fixed and it will be listed for sale. Mr. Costic noted the fire company will be holding the Santa escort around the borough on December 20th.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks stated the interior portion of the municipal building renovation project is moving along noting most of the rough framing and electrical work is complete and the roof replacement portion of the project is waiting for good weather to proceed with the work. Mr. Banks reported the MS4 5-year permit renewal is upcoming in 2026 noting the new permits require the borough to report stormwater volume.

Zoning Officer's Report:

Solicitor Hochfeld reported he sent a letter to the owner of the property along Franklin Street regarding property maintenance and abandoned vehicles.

Solicitor's Report

Nothing to report.

Street Commissioner's Report

The Street Commissioner's report was received and is on file. Nothing further to report.

Borough Manager Report

The Borough Manager's report was received and is on file. Mrs. Layton's report stated the annual electronics event through JVS Environmental has been scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 2026 and a pre-paving meeting with PennDOT has been scheduled for March 24, 2026.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Keiper reported that an email from Julie Facciani of 27 Harding Street was received and provided to council noting the email contained personal information and he did not feel comfortable reading the email aloud for the record, but that council should review it before making a decision on her request to move one of the handicapped parking spaces from behind her house to the front of her house.

Committees:

Administration/Borough Services: Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvements: Mr. Burkert reported the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee had a November meeting that he and Mr. Kupchella attended noting the Steering Committee meetings will resume toward the beginning of 2026.

Emergency Management: Nothing to report.

Finance: Nothing to report.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Mr. Kupchella stated the lead line replacements are continuing noting areas of Westmont are complete and they will be moving to Moxham next to work in conjunction with the gas company.

MS4/Stormwater: A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve updates to Public Education and Outreach Program. Motion seconded by Mrs. Speicher. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance, Streets and Sidewalks: A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to deny the request from Julie Facciani to move one handicapped parking space from Shady Lane to Harding Street due to the determination that the area on Shady Lane was unsafe for a handicapped parking space. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Mrs. Layton suggested the decision on the Gardner Street and Diamond Blvd. intersection curbing and stormwater upgrades be tabled so the Finance Committee has a chance to determine where the funds would come from since they were not included in the 2026 budget. A motion was made to table the pricing proposal for upgrades to the Gardner Street and Diamond Blvd. intersection curb. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Shade Tree: Mr. Burkert reported that his committee met with Solicitor Hochfeld to review draft changes to the shade tree ordinance noting the draft is expected to be ready for advertisement toward the beginning of 2026.

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New Business:

Mr. Mike Barzeski introduced himself to the council as the new Tax Collector to take office in January noting he is working on getting his clearances and necessary training.

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the final budget for 2026. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to advertise the 2026 final budget. Motion seconded by Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve Ordinance No. 554 setting the tax millage for 2026. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. McVicker to approve advertising Ordinance No. 555 setting the garbage and recycling fee for 2026. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. All in favor, motion carried. (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve advertising Ordinance No. 556, providing recycling. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Council held a discussion regarding the requirement for all commercial and multi-family properties over four units to establish a recycling program on their own. Mrs. Speicher stated she would like to see that section either removed or delay the requirement timeframe to allow the property owners time to properly set up a recycling program. Mr. Kupchella made a motion to amend his previous motion to include the removal of the requirement for commercial and multi-family properties over four units to establish a recycling program and to advertise Ordinance No. 556 after the changes are made. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. All in favor, motion carried. (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve advertising Ordinance No. 557 increasing the indebtedness of the borough. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. All in favor, motion carried. (7-0)

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the 2026 meeting schedule. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried. (7-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment request #1 for the Re-roof & Interior Renovations Project in the amount of \$83,453.88. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried. (7-0).

Business Items:

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from November 18, 2025, to December 8, 2025 in the amount of \$6,622.20. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. McVicker in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve payment of bills from November 18, 2025 through December 8, 2025 in the amount of \$133,547.78. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, and Mr. Ewald in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

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A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from November 18, 2025 through December 8, 2025 in the amount of \$64,624.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Beri. Mr. Burkert, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Ewald and Mr. McVicker in favor. Motion carried (7-0).

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

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to adjourn the December 8, 2025 meeting at 5:04 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. All in favor, motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary