

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
148 WONDER STREET  
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2026

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The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled February 17, 2026 council meeting was called to order by Vice President Shree Speicher at 5:00 p.m.

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**Present:** Council Members Sheree Speicher, Richard Burkert, Eugene Kupchella, Matthew McVicker, Kurt Wolford; Mayor Mark Drummey; Solicitor Eric Hochfeld; Borough Manager Amanda Layton; Street Commissioner Sam McAdams; Detective Jared Arcuri; Southmont Volunteer Fire Company James Dailey; Asst. Sec. Debra Riek

**Absent:** Council Members Doug Beri and Robert Morgan; Engineer Todd Banks

**Visitors:** John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia St.), Robert Walker (312 State St.), Jennifer Drummey (139 Palliser St.), Election Judges Elizabeth Mayer, Mercedes Russ and Ed Elston

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Walker stated Mr. McAdams and the public works crew are doing a great job with snow removal and noted many sidewalks are not being cleared of snow in the borough, and he believes there may be an ordinance for sidewalks to be kept clear of snow within 48 hours.

Mr. Klanchar stated he is disappointed with the garbage service and feels it is “spotty” noting he is putting his garbage out by 5:00 a.m. on collection day and garbage service is not supposed to start in the borough until 6:00 a.m. Mr. Klanchar stated he is not in favor of the new cart service noting the older residents may have issues with the size of the carts. Mr. Klanchar also reinforced Mr. Walker’s statement regarding Sam and his crew doing a great job over the winter.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. McVicker to approve the January 20, 2026 regular council monthly meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Beri and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

**Police Chief’s Report**

The January 2026 Police Chief’s Report was received and is on file.

Detective Arcuri reported there were 417 calls for the month of January with 52 of the calls being for Southmont Borough.

**Fire Company Report**

The January 2026 Fire Chief’s report was received and is on file. Mr. Dailey reported there were a total of 13 calls for the month of January noting there were 8 calls to assist in the borough and 5 were assists out of the borough.

**Engineer's Report**

Mr. Banks was absent. Mrs. Layton stated the majority of the painting was done, transaction windows are in, and the roof work is waiting for warmer weather. Mrs. Layton stated she was made aware the garage roof is in worse condition than the contractors first expected noting they will be giving new estimates on the additional cost for the replacement of the roof.

**Zoning Officer's Report**

The January 2026 Zoning Officer's report was received and is on file.

**Street Commissioner's Report**

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

**Solicitor's Report**

Solicitor Hochfeld stated he will report in the Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

**Borough Manager Report**

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

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Drummey made a presentation of recognition to the Board of Elections of the work they do for Southmont Borough for their 20 years' service and presented Elizabeth Mayer, Mercedes Russ and Ed Elston with a certificate of appreciation and a photo of the borough. Mr. Drummey stated he would like council to consider the possibility of having a 250 year liberty tree planting around the Firemen's Jubilee time.

**Committees:**

**Administration:** Mr. Beri absent. Nothing to report.

**Community Planning & Improvements:** Mr. Burkert reported the comprehensive plan process is moving forward noting there will be a public survey that will be available to the public.

**Emergency Management:** Mr. Drummey stated there will be committee meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**GJWA:** Mr. Kupchella reported the Water Authority will now be meeting once per month instead of twice per month.

**MS4/Stormwater:** Nothing to report.

**Personnel:** Mr. Beri absent. Nothing to report.

**Police:** Mr. Morgan absent. Nothing to report.

**Property Maintenance & Streets:** Mr. McVicker stated he needs to schedule a committee meeting.

**Shade Trees:** Mr. Burkert stated there will be a meeting March 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 to review the draft shade tree ordinance. A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve the DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grant Contracts for the Shade Tree Inventory. Motion seconded by Mr. Wolford. Mr. Beri and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

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### New Business

A motion was made by Mr. McVicker to approve payment request #2 and #3 for Mid-State Construction-Building Renovation Project. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Beri and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

### Business Items

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve ratification of payroll from January 21, 2026 through February 17, 2026 in the amount of \$ 15,195.35. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Roll call: Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Wolford. Mr. Beri and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. McVicker to approve payment of bills from January 21, 2026 through February 17, 2026 in the amount of \$300,026.79. Motion seconded Kupchella. Roll call: Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Wolford. Mr. Beri and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. McVicker to approve transfers from January 21,2026 through February 21,2026 in the amount of \$163,411.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Burkert, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mr. Wolford. Mr. Beri, Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve the January 2026 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mc Vicker. Mr. Beri and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to enter into Executive Session at 5:26 p.m. to discuss legal matters regarding litigation. Executive session ended at 5:39 p.m. and council resumed its regularly scheduled meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. McVicker to proceed with filing a civil complaint against Dollar World LLC for property maintenance issues. Motion seconded by Mr. Wolford. Mr. Beri and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to ratify the retention of Siana Law Firm to represent the borough in the Frank C. Primel, Jr. vs. West Hills Regional Police and Southmont Borough lawsuit (Docket 3;25-CV-00377). Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Mr. Beri and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to adjourn the February 17, 2026 meeting at 5:40 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Mr. Beri and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor. Motion carried (5-0).

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra Riek  
Assistant Secretary