

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR MAY 19, 2025

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled May 19, 2025, council meeting was called to order by Vice President Speicher at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members 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

Absent: Council Member Doug Beri, Fire Chief Steve Costic

Visitors: John A. Klanchar (104 Dahlia Street), Bob Walker (210 State Street).

Public Comments: Mr. Walker questioned who enforces the ordinances for the borough noting there had been nothing done with sidewalks needing repaired or not being cleared of snow during winter. Mr. Walker stated that some people are not getting building permits and he has noticed a few sheds have been erected without permits and the borough needs to enforce the ordinances for zoning. Mr. Walker stated that Westmont Borough is having their street work crew reporting on blighted properties, and maybe Southmont Borough could do the same.

Mr. Klanchar told council that he will be running as a write-in this election. Mr. Klanchar stated that zoning and building permits seem to be selective and questioned what plans the borough has for the Southmont Diamond Blvd. playground and he would be in favor of improvements to the playground area. Mrs. Speicher stated the playground is on the agenda and would be discussed later in the meeting.

Bid Approval

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve the 2025 paving bid by Quaker Sales for \$150,550.52. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Beri absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Correspondence

Mrs. Speicher noted that correspondence was received from Mr. John Klanchar dated May 5, 2025.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the council meeting minutes of April 21, 2025. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Beri absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Police Report

Chief Newman reported that the police handled 423 calls in the month of April noting 94 of the calls were in Southmont Borough. Chief Newman stated that 12 traffic citations were issued in the month of April for the borough.

Fire Company Report

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

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks stated that the roof replacement project is out for bid and council should be able to take action on bids at the next meeting.

Zoning Officer's Report:

The Zoning Report and Property Maintenance Report were received.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Hochfeld reported he is still waiting for Judge Kiniry to issue a decision on the Hannevig appeal case and he will check with Laurel Municipal Inspection Agency on the status of several properties on their monthly report.

Street Commissioner's Report

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

Borough Manager Report

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

Mayor's Report:

Nothing to report.

Committees:

Administration/Borough Services: Mr. Beri absent. Nothing to report.

Community Planning & Improvements: Mr. Burkert reported the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee received three proposals and selected the Stuart Group from Indiana PA noting the County Planning Commission has requested each municipality appoint an alternate to the committee and invite any others with expertise to join the steering committee.

Emergency Management: A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve the Emergency Operation Plan Updates. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Beri absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Finance: Mrs. Speicher stated the 2024 audit was completed and reviewed by the committee noting everything went well and there were no issues this year.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Mr. Kupchella reported grant funding for work at North Fork Dam has been received. Mr. Kupchella stated the authority is working with Peoples Natural Gas to

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replace main water lines along with the gas company replacing gas lines to lessen the need to dig up streets more than once.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance, Streets and Sidewalks: Nothing to report.

Shade Tree: Mr. Burkert reported that the borough's grant application through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies was approved for \$1,200.00, which will be used as match funding toward a larger grant through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources requesting funding to complete a shade tree inventory.

New Business:

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve resolution 2025-05, authorizing the application of Greenways Trails and Recreation Program Grant for Diamond Blvd. Playground Design. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Mr. Beri absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Kupchella to approve Resolution 2025-06, authorizing application of Greenway and Open Space Network Grant for Diamond Blvd. Playground Designs. Motion seconded by Mr. McVicker. Mr. Beri absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Business Items:

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve ratification of payroll from April 18, 2025 to May 19, 2025 in the amount of \$15,182.95. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Burkert, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Ewald, and Mr. McVicker in favor. Mr. Beri absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve payment of bills from April 2, 2025 through May 19, 2025 in the amount of \$136,047.95. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Roll call: Mr. Burkert, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, and Mr. Ewald in favor. Mr. Beri absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve transfers from April 18, 2025 through May 19, 2025 in the amount of \$96,520.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Beri absent. Roll call: Mr. Burkert, Mr. Morgan, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. Ewald and Mr. McVicker in favor. Mr. Beri absent. Motion carried (6-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Burkert to approve the April 2025 Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Mr. Morgan. Mr. Beri absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

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A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to accept the tax collector's reports. Motion seconded by Mr. Burkert. Mr. Beri absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Morgan for adjournment of May 19 2025, meeting at 4:47 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Beri absent. All in favor, motion carried (6-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Riek
Assistant Secretary