

BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT
148 WONDER STREET
JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

MINUTES FOR JANUARY 20, 2026

The pledge of allegiance was conducted, and the scheduled January 20, 2026 council meeting was called to order by President Doug Beri at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council Members Dour Beri, Sheree Speicher, Eugene Kupchella, Matthew McVicker, Kurt Wolford, Borough Manager Amanda Layton, Solicitor Eric Hochfeld, Mayor Mark Drummey, Police Sargent John Todaro

Absent: Council Members Richard Burkert and Bob Morgan; Engineer Todd Banks

Public Comments:

Mr. Klanchar stated he wanted to address the appointment of the Police Commissioner noting Mr. McVicker is doing a fine job with the council and he believes Mr. Kupchella would be a good choice for the second member. Mr. Klanchar stated he believes Mr. Wolford would have a conflict of interest because of his job as Prison Warden with Cambria County.

Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the December 8, 2025 council meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Burkert and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the December 19, 2025 special meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Burkert and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve the January 5, 2026 reorganization meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Burkert and Mr. Morgan absent. Motion carried (5-0).

Police Chief's Report

The December 2025 Police Chief's report was received and is on file. Sargent Todaro reported there were 386 calls in the month of December noting 68 were for Southmont Borough and 909 calls for the year.

Fire Company Report

The December 2025 Fire Chief's report was received and is on file. Mr. Dailey reported there were a total of 11 calls for the month of December.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Banks absent.

Zoning Report

The December report was received and is on file.

Street Commissioner's Report

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

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Hochfeld reported Judge Kiniry ruled on the appeal for the fence at 206 Leila Street and decided

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the fence did not violate the setbacks along the side yard, but would need to be moved to the back corner of the house instead of in the middle noting the Judge gave a deadline of late 2026 to comply. Solicitor Hochfeld stated Mr. Hanevig has appealed Judge Kiniry's decision to the Commonwealth Court.

Manager's Report

The January Manager's report was received and is on file. Mrs. Layton reported the Garbage contract for the borough is going well and there have been very few complaints or problems with the change. Mrs. Layton stated two complaints were received regarding residents having issues moving the garbage cart to and from the curb. Mrs. Layton stated a committee may want to look into the issue and see if there are any solutions.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Drummy reported he plans to invite the Election Judges to the next monthly meeting to recognize their work and dedication. Mayor Drummy stated he met with Representatives Wayne Langerholc and Frank Burns to discuss potential grants that Southmont Borough may be eligible to apply for.

Committees:

Administration: Nothing to report.

Community Planning: Mr. Burkert absent. Nothing to report

Emergency Management: Nothing to report

Finance: Mrs. Speicher reported that the fire company's audit was completed and the committee will meet to review the borough's 2025 audit when it is prepared.

Greater Johnstown Water Authority: Mr. Kupchella reported that they have begun construction on the North Fork Dam spillway and the work is expected to take a few years to complete.

MS4/Stormwater: Nothing to report.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

Police: Mr. Morgan absent. Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance: Mr. McVicker reported he will be setting up a committee meeting to discuss the sidewalk ordinance and to review the garbage complaints previously mentioned.

Shade Trees: A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to accept DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program Grant in the amount of \$50,000.00. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Burkert and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve appointing Matt McVicker and Bob Morgan to the West Hills Regional Police Commission with Mark Drummey as an alternate. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Burkert and Mr. Morgan absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

Business Items

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve ratification of payroll from December 9, 2025 through January 20, 2026 in the amount of \$22,174.54. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Wolford in favor. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Burkert absent. Motion carried (5-0).

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A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve payment of bills from December 9, 2025 through January 20, 2026 in the amount of \$144,552.35. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, Mrs. Speicher, Mr. Wolford in favor. Mr. Burkert and Mr. Morgan absent. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to approve transfers from December 9, 2025 through January 20, 2026 in the amount of \$393,101.84. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Roll call: Mr. Beri, Mr. Kupchella, Mr. McVicker, and Mrs. Speicher in favor. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Burkert absent. Motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Morgan to approve the December 2025 treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to accept the Tax Collector's report December 2025. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor, motion carried (5-0).

A motion was made by Mr. Speicher to enter into Executive Session at :27 p.m. to discuss legal matters and Dollar World LLC on Franklin Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor motion carried (5-0). Executive session ended at 6:12 p.m. and council resumed its regularly scheduled meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Speicher to adjourn the January 20, 2026 meeting at 6:12 p.m. Motion seconded by Mr. Kupchella. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Burkert absent. All in favor motion carried (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra Riek
Assistant Executive Secretary