

August 4, 2025

The regular scheduled meeting of the Borough Council was called to order on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jim O'Connor with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer. Members who attended were Pat Haley, Robert Moyer, Jim O'Connor, Tricia Springer, Matt Urban, and Sam Wengert. Rafael Jimenez Gomez and Mayor Larry Minnich. Also attending were Solicitor Colleen Gallo and Borough Manager, Jonathan Johnson.

Minutes from July 7, 2025, meeting was emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. **Mr. Haley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wengert, to approve July 7, 2025, minutes. Motion Carried.**

The Treasurer's report for June 2025 was read. **A motion was made by Ms. Springer, seconded by Mr. Wengert, to approve the Treasurer's report for July 2025. Motion carried.**

FIRE COMPANY REPORT, Dustin Sider

Fire Company's report was submitted and are attached to these minutes. Mr. Sider said the furnishings for the fire company meeting room are halfway completed and that the fire company is assessing options for use, including a potential emergency operations center. He also discussed making the room Wi-Fi accessible and the necessary security measures.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Farneski (absent)

The police report is attached.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Larry Minnich

Mayor Minnich said that the no parking on North Center Street seems to be effective. He also said that he has taken pictures on non-code compliant properties with the Borough and has shared them with the manager.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Sandra Stormfeltz, 22 North Center Street, said that she was unhappy with the no-parking ordinance on North Center Street from East Liberty Alley to East Maple Street. Ms. Stormfeltz said that her tenants are having problems finding a place to park their vehicles, and one of the tenants has moved out of the Borough because of a lack of parking. Mayor Minnich countered that the area was unsafe for westbound vehicles on East Maple Street turning onto north or south Center Street. There was also a discussion about large trucks using North Center Street and the hazard they cause.

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PRESIDENT' S REPORT/COMMENTS – Jim O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor discussed relocating the IT closet.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Rafael Jimenez Gomez

Mr. Jimenez said that there was an IPMC meeting last month and that progress was being made with non-compliant properties. He also noted that the agreement with the Code Enforcement Officer may need to be modified. He said that these changes will be discussed at the next IPMC meeting. Mr. Jimenez concluded by saying that the Celebrate Cleona 250 committee is meeting this month.

PROPERTY DEPARTMENT – Bob Moyer

Mr. Moyer said the pipes in the basement and the leak in the fire company's meeting room have been repaired. He also said that the camera project will begin once the Fire Department decides whether they want additional cameras in the engine bay.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - Sam Wengert

Mr. Wengert said he met with Borough Engineer, Steve Sherk, and discussed paving two alleys, Union and/or Liberty from Garfield Street to Christina Street. The estimated cost was about \$60,000.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT – Pat Haley

Mr. Haley reported that the summer program ended on August 1st. The park director, Rebecca Myers said she is willing to return next summer and as did a potential assistant park director, Alexi Emerich. Mr. Haley said that they had approximately 10 children each day. Mr. Haley concluded by saying that Friday, August 15th is the second movie night, and they are showing Moana 2.

FIRE SAFETY/POLICE DEPARTMENT – Tricia Springer

Ms. Springer said her report concerning the police contracted services will be discussed in an executive session.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Matt Urban

Mr. Urban said he met with the Borough Manager and discussed the 2026 budget. He also said the Borough's revenues and expenditures are on track.

BOROUGH MANAGER-BOROUGH AUTHORITY – Jonathan Johnson

- Crosswalk Painting: Mr. Johnson said he is waiting for Union Township to provide a crosswalk painting quote.
- Bill Payment Procedure: Mr. Johnson discussed a new method for informing Council of upcoming bills. He said that a list of bills to be paid will be sent to Council members last Friday and the second Friday of each month, Council members would have until 9:00 am the following Monday to let office staff know if they have any questions about specific bills. Mr. Johnson said that he is working on a method to provide a better description of each bill.
- Police Expenditures: Mr. Johnson explained to Council the deficit spending by the Police Department. He said the new vehicle was originally supposed to be purchased using 2024 funds. In April, the check was blocked by the auditor, and the Borough voided the check. However, the money was not backfilled into the 2025 budget. The vehicle was purchased in May using budget reserved funds. As a result, it appears that the police are running a deficit.
- Budget discussion
 - 2026 General Fund Expenditures: Based on the Council member's worksheet, the total expenditure in 2026 is projected to be \$1,319,238, or 3 percent higher than in 2025.
 - Budget Workshop: It was agreed that the August 25th budget workshop was not necessary, and the meeting was cancelled.
 - MDJ Rent: Council members discussed the rent for the MDJ office. It was agreed that the manager should put together a draft agreement with language that would allow the Borough to increase variable costs. The manager was instructed to have the draft agreement reviewed by the Borough solicitor before submitting it to the County Commissioners.
 - Real Estate Tax Millages: Mr. Johnson presented a data table with municipal real estate millage by police service.
 - Proposal to finance road paving projects: Council members discussed the proposed tax increase to pave streets. Council asked for a cost estimate for paving by condition of the street. Mr. Wengert said he obtained the information from the Borough engineer.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Colleen Gallo

The Solicitor's report was submitted and are attached to these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Local Share Account Reimbursement Agreement: The Fire Company presented an agreement to the Borough where the Fire Company would purchase fire-related equipment and then submit the receipts and other documents to the Borough. The Borough would then submit these documents to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for reimbursement from the Local Share Account grant. Once the money is received, the Borough would then pay the Fire

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Company. After a discussion, **Ms. Springer made a motion to approve the agreement, Mr. Urban second, the motion was approved.**

Electric Service to the New IT Closet: The Borough received a quote for \$2,000 to install electric service to the new IT closet in the Council Chamber. After a discussion, **Mr. Moyer made a motion approve the quote for \$2,000, Mr. Haley second, the motion was approved.**

2025 Auditor: Mr. Johnson told Council that the current auditor is retiring. The Borough received a quote for 2025 from Garcia, Garman and Shea for \$9,400 and \$9,725 for the 2026 financial audits. After a discussion, **Mr. Urban made a motion accept the 2025 audit quote only, pending review by the Borough solicitor, Mr. Wengert second, the motion was approved.**

General Insurance Quotes: Mr. Johnson discussed the 2025-2026 insurance bids the Borough received from EMC for \$50,09 and Trident/Encova for \$44,275. After discussing the quotes, **Ms. Springer made a motion to accept EMC quote, Mr. Haley second, the motion was approved.**

Advertising Bids to Pave Sections of Union and/or Liberty Alleys: Mr. Wengert discussed paving Union and/or Liberty Alleys from Garfield Street to Christian Street. He said that the Borough engineer will manage the bidding process. After a discussion, **Mr. Moyer made a motion to advertise the bids to pave Union and/or Liberty Alley from Garfield Street to Christian Street, Mr. Urban second the motion, the was approved.**

Resolution #2025-03: Mr. Johnson discussed that Resolution #2025-03: Price Adjustment of Bituminous Materials for Small Quantities would prevent alley paving bidders from inflating their bids due to uncertainty with the asphalt price index. After a discussion, **Mr. Wengert made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-03, Ms. Springer second the motion, the was approved.**

2025-2029 Snowplow Bids: Council members opened and reviewed four snowplow bids. Needing more information, Council decided to postpone the vote on the bids until the September 8 meeting.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance Review – zoning and map ordinance:

No Discussion

Municipal Trash:

No Discussion

145 Dairy Road Driveway Issues

Discussed during executive session.

Tree Removal Costs at 58 and 55 Willow Avenue

No Discussion

Pay July 2025 Bills

Motion by Mr Moyer., second by Mr. Haley to pay the bills for July 2025. The motion was approved.

The council adjourned at 9:10 pm. Then went into executive session to discuss three issues:

- Legal litigation
- Police personnel Issues
- Police services contracts

Respectively Submitted

Jonathan Johnson