

December 1, 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 Bob Moyer, Pat Haley, Jim O'Connor, Tricia Springer, Matt Urban, Rafael Jimenez Gomez, Sam Wengert, and Mayor Larry Minnich. Also attending were Solicitor Colleen Gallo and Borough Clerk Melody Vanderveer and Borough Manager, Mike Peiffer.

Minutes from November 3 & 17 (Special Mtg) 2025, meetings were emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. There was an email problem resulting in some not receiving the minutes. As such, approval has been tabled until the January meeting.

The Treasurer's report for November 2025 was read. **A motion was made by Mr. Urban, seconded by Mr. Haley, to approve the Treasurer's report for November, 2025. Motion carried.**

Bryon Fredenburg from GAI Consultants spoke to the council concerning the substation expansion Met-Ed is seeking. The substation is in Annville Township, but the parent parcel is in Cleona, so they are asking the council to defer or not defer and request a review. Mr. Fredenburg was light on substantive answers to the council's questions regarding the overall purpose of the proposed 2-acre expansion. He wasn't sure about environmental or safety issues that might affect Cleona Borough. Since the council wants a basic understanding of the projects scope and possible impacts on Cleona, Bob Moyer made a motion, seconded by Trisha Springer to "not defer".

Sean Ryan, from the Planning Commission, spoke to the council about PENDOT's Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE) transportation enhancements grant program. Eligible projects for Cleona include:

- Vulnerable Road User Improvements e.g. pedestrian safety improvements at unsignalized intersections or mid-block crossings.
- Traffic Signal Improvements e.g. installation of new automated red light enforcement systems or automated speed enforcement systems.

The Boro will explore the feasibility of the grant.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT- Dustin Sider

Mr. Sider said there is not much to report. They have a new reporting system with which they are familiarizing themselves. The number of calls in November was about average. They are winterizing their apparatus in preparation for chimney fires and other cold weather incidents. He also noted that the Fire Company's elections will be held this week.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Jeff Farneski

Chief Farneski warned of a Christmas scam that is circulating this year. He offered some best practices to avoid being scammed. Jim O'Connor added to the chief's advice, encouraging people to lock down their credit in each of the 3 credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, & TransUnion) to mitigate identity theft. He also discussed a 401-K scam that is making the rounds. Cleona ran a DUI checkpoint on November 26, 28 & 29. The chief and a police vehicle were involved in an accident. The vehicle was totaled and the chief reported that he is still sore. Insurance is in the works for both the chief and the vehicle.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Larry Minnich

Mayor Minnich stated that IMPC has nothing to discuss this month and so there will be no meeting. Ongoing chicken complaints have accelerated the need to update zoning ordinances. Next steps- zoning ordinance go to County Planning and Planning Commission, simultaneously, for their review. After that, they come back to the council and then a public meeting for citizen input.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT/COMMENTS – Jim O’Connor

Mr. O’Connor called for a vote to add IntegraOne’s quote to the agenda with subsequent discussion and approval. However, Solicitor Gallo advised against that, advising instead to move forward with the work. She said that since the work was necessary and well below the bidding threshold, council should move to approve the work and ratify it at the January meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Rafael Jimenez Gomez

Mr. Jimenez stated that there was no IMPC meeting in November. He also presented the council with a resolution from the PA legislature and the Governor commemorating the 250 anniversary of the United States. This is simply an endorsement, and no action is required. It should be noted that this was Mr. Jimenez’s last meeting as his term ended and he opted not to run again.

PROPERTY DEPARTMENT – Bob Moyer

Mr. Moyer had nothing to report this month. Construction on the building is complete, although we will get a quote to add heat to the fire company’s restroom.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - Sam Wengert

The alley paving is complete, and a correction was made on the tonnage, so the bill should come in a little lower. The Boro truck needs to be inspected this month and needs 4 new tires. Mr. Wengert reported that they are ready for tomorrow’s snowstorm.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT – Pat Haley

Mr. Haley reported that the December Rec Board meeting will be located in the Boro council room on December 9 at 6 pm. “Santa Meet-and-Greet” is scheduled for December 21st from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Borough Hall. Santa’s annual ride on the fire truck will be on December 22 starting at 6 pm.

FIRE SAFETY/POLICE DEPARTMENT – Tricia Springer

Ms. Springer reported that they are still working on the police contract. They are making good progress.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Matt Urban

Mr. Urban reported that revenues have increased and that expenditures are where they should be. YTD revenue of \$1.34 MM is slightly ahead of the \$1.32 MM budget. Expenses are ~ \$7k under budget at 1.18 MM.

BOROUGH MANAGER-BOROUGH AUTHORITY – Mike Peiffer/Melody Vanderveer

Dairy Rd, S Christian St., & S. Center St. Storm Water Improvements- Ms. Vanderveer updated the council on the 3 properties on South Christian Street. We still do not have a start date for the stormwater improvement/replacing the inlets.

Quittapahilla Floodplain Restoration Project- A meetings was held on Tuesday, Nov. 18 (at Cleona Borough Hall) to review the preliminary design dimensioning the distance from top of stream bank to the limit of proposed grading was provided to each property owner to provide an overview of the impact to their property. The general takeaway was no one was thrilled about the project impact to yards but were open to continuing discussions due to the State’s mandate to complete projects.

Miscellaneous- She also noted that December 12 will be the last day for leaf clean-up.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Colleen Gallo

The Solicitor's report was submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Gale Kerkeslager, 555 West Chestnut Street, is appreciative that the Boro is making progress on the ordinance for code enforcement. However, she still wanted to express concerns about her ongoing chicken issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Final reading & approval of the 2026 Budget: Mr. Peiffer presented projected revenues and expenditures for 2026 for the General Fund, Highway Fund, and Capital Fund. The Capital Fund included a real estate tax increase of 0.4 mill, which will support paving projects. **Mr. Urban made a motion to approve the 2026 budget; Mr. Wengert seconded, and the motion was approved.**

Ordinance 335: This is the ordinance for the approved tax increase. **Mr. Moyer made a motion to approve Ordinance 335; Mr. Haley seconded, and the motion was approved.**

2026 Borough Council meeting dates were approved. **Ms. Springer made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting dates; Mr. Haley seconded, and the motion was approved.**

Resolution 2025-07 (2026-2028) 5th addendum to Police Services Intermunicipal Agreement with North Annville Township was approved. **Ms. Springer made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-07; Mr. Moyer seconded, and the motion was approved.**

Chief Farneski's 2026 contract was approved. **Ms. Springer made a motion to approve the chief's 2026 contract; Mr. Haley seconded, and the motion was approved.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Subdivision Review: The Boro office will call County Planning and Annville Township to get details on the Met-Ed subdivision review.

Municipal Trash: council will review for the next meeting with intent to schedule a public meeting to solicit community feedback.

Municipal District Court Lease Agreement: The County Commissioners continue to balk at the proposed utility cost adjustment in the event that any given utility increases the cost beyond what Cleona Borough could absorb. The council debated the unreasonable risks this would impose on the Boro. A work-around was proposed to change the lease agreement term from 4 to 1 year. That way, the Boro could mitigate cost increases in the short term and make appropriate adjustments for the following year. **Mr. Urban**

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made a motion to decrease the term of the lease agreement from 4 yrs to 1 yr.; Ms. Springer seconded, and the motion was approved.

Mr. Urban made a motion to pay the November bills; Mr. Haley seconded, the motion was approved.

Council adjourned at 8:10 pm