

January 5, 2026

The regular scheduled meeting of the Borough Council was called to order on the above date. The reorganization part of the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Matthew Zechman with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer. Members who attended were Bob Moyer, Jim O'Connor, Tricia Springer, Matt Urban, Sam Wengert, and new councilman Larry Minnich. Also attending were Solicitor Nichole Eisenhart and Borough Manager Michael Peiffer.

Mayor Zechman opened the floor for nominations for Council President. **Ms. Springer made a motion to nominate Mr. O'Connor, no second was required. Motion Carried.**

Mayor Zechman turned the meeting over to the new Council President who opened the floor for nominations for Council Vice President. **Mr Urban made a motion to nominate Mr. Haley, no second was required. Motion Carried**

Council President O'Connor opened the floor for nominations for Council President Pro Tempore. **Ms. Springer made a motion to nominate Mr. Urban, no second was required. Motion Carried**

In the appointment of Council Departments, President O'Connor recommended retaining the current appointments. Having no push-back from other members, the appointments remain the same as 2025.

Matt Urban- Finance	Trisha Springer- Fire Safety/Police	Bob Moyer- Property
Sam Wengert- Highway	Pat Haley- Recreation	TBA- Code Enforcement

Council President O'Connor called the Regular Meeting to order and opened the floor for nominations to the vacant council seat. Only one-person, former Mayor Larry Minnich, formally expressed interest in the seat. **Mr. Urban made a motion to nominate Mr. Minnich, seconded by Ms. Springer. Motion Carried** Mayor Zechman swore in Mr. Minnich, who also completed his affidavit of residency. Mr. Minnich will oversee code enforcement.

Minutes from November 3 17 (Special Mtg), & December 1, 2025, meetings were emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. **Mr. Moyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Urban to approve the November & December meeting minutes. Motion Carried.**

The Treasurer's report for December 2025 was read. **Mr. Moyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Urban to approve the Treasurer's report for December, 2025. Motion carried.**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

FIRE COMPANY REPORT- Dustin Sider

Mr. Sider had to leave the meeting to respond to a fire call. In his absence, Ms. Springer reported that the Fire Co had elections and that the president is now Ryan Flynn, and Phil Snavely was re-elected as chief. Mr. Moyer reported three new assistant chiefs- Aaron Hanley, Slim Hoffman, and Shawn Zellers.

Highlights from chief Snavely report:

Services Rendered

Total Calls for the Month = 67

Total Man Hours for Responses = 374.87

Total Man Hours for Training = 28

Highlighted Incidents

ACFD Firefighters Assist at 4 Alarm Fire - On Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 9:43 p.m., the Annville Cleona Fire Department was dispatched to the 800 block of Cumberland Street to assist the Lebanon City Fire Department with a working building fire.

Member Excellence

Mikael Borrell –was Santa for all four of our Christmas community events. Great Job and thanks Mike!

Operational Activities

New Duty Vehicle Purchased – The Annville Cleona Fire Department has purchased a new Ford F150 to use by duty officers to respond to calls. The fire department used the COSTAR process to receive over \$5,000 off the selling price of the vehicle. The new vehicle will be placed in service after it is upfitted with the necessary equipment.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Jeff Farneski

Chief Farneski reported the 2025 year end stats. 4,201 incidents were handled by the Cleona Borough Police Department. 1,494 incidents occurred in Cleona Borough.

The Cleona Police Dept. donated 3 bikes to the Christian Youth Ministry.

The chief also reported that last year the Cleona Borough Police Department total budgeted expenses were \$670,724.73 The police department's total revenue was \$516,288.73 The total cost for the residence of Cleona was \$144,436.00.

The chief stated that we will be closing out the police fund and include it as a line item in the budget.

The chief gave kudos to Jon Johnson and Sergeant Rager for securing the grant from the Pennsylvania Gaming Act LSA fund for a new police cruiser. The grant is up to \$50,651. The police department is looking at a 2026 For Police Interceptor Utility (K*A) AWD. The cost is \$46,236 and they hope to use the remaining \$4,415 to pay for the upfitting i.e. siren, light package, cage, etc.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Matthew Zechman

Mayor Zechman attended a Comprehensive Planning Meeting for the A-C School District. They reported 86% of children entering kindergarten are not ready to meet the challenges of the prescribed curriculum.

The mayor also discussed the need for an ordinance for data centers. Solicitor Eisenhart said that we could mirror Jackson Township's ordinance. The mayor also discussed America's 250th anniversary.

There are various groups being assembled to discuss/plan celebrations. Matt will take the lead on bringing the various groups together to operate in a more cohesive unit.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS – Jim O'Connor

Mr. O'Connor updated the council on the Borough's IT upgrades. The firewall upgrade is complete, which was the most pressing. Other upgrades are coming as we migrate most of the infrastructure from the closet outside the DJ's office to the one in the council chambers.

CODE ENFORCEMENT – Larry Minnich

Mr. Minnich spoke to Gary Verna from DES regarding Cleona's floodplain. Mr. Minnich stated that Mr. Verna never filed anything for Cleona so we must do it. Mr. Minnich made mention of the impact MS4 will have on this but it's likely not for the next year or two. He also addressed the need to get re-engaged in the plan for a master trash hauler. Finally, Mr. Minnich reported that the Mamozic property is finally resolved.

PROPERTY DEPARTMENT – Bob Moyer

Mr. Moyer reported on work that is needed to be done in the fire company part of the building. 1) Install dampers in Fire hall training room supply ducts- estimate \$350. **Mr. Moyer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Springer to approve the estimate. Motion Carried.** 2) Electric heater for fire company unisex restroom. Newair 17,000 BTU 240V ceiling/ wall mount heater with 6 thermostat settings- estimate \$2,014.

Mr. Moyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Urban to approve the estimate. Motion Carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - Sam Wengert

Mr. Wengert reviewed the snow/ice events we had in December. Fred Siebecker is plowing the South side of Cleona and Dustin Elder, a new vendor, is plowing the North side. We experienced very minimal problems. We are still waiting on the manhole risers for Liberty & Union allies.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT – Pat Haley

Mr. Haley was not able to attend the meeting but sent his summary notes. The Santa meet and greet held at Borough Hall on the 21st of December had 28 attendees. We will continue to host the event here. The playground was awarded \$29,895 from the LSA casino grant money. This will be used for improvements to the park's kitchen in the pavilion. The next Parks and Rec meeting will be held on January 13th, 6 pm at Borough Hall.

FIRE SAFETY/POLICE DEPARTMENT – Tricia Springer

Ms. Springer thanked the chief for taking care of the alarm at Big Lots. She mentioned North Cornwall Township is doing a good job of keeping the process collaborative and moving it forward. In Ms. Springer's absence, Mr. Moyer attended a presentation on a regional fire study and reported that all surrounding municipalities are interested in continuing to meet and discuss options for eventual regionalization with the exception of West Cornwall.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Matt Urban

Mr. Urban reported that there was less than a 1% variance between the 2025 budget and actuals.

BOROUGH MANAGER-BOROUGH AUTHORITY – Mr. Peiffer discuss the 250 Anniversary of the United States. There seem to be several groups that sprung up of people that are interested in doing something for the anniversary. Mayor. Zechman agreed to take the point on combining the groups and to come back to council next month with some ideas and direction. This will include meeting with the Lebanon group who is interested in having a parade. The council discussed the feasibility of a parade and think it to be a bit unwieldy and time constrained but will reserve final judgement until Mr. Zechman reports back next month.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Colleen Gallo

The Solicitor's report was submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Kim Kerkeslager, 555 West Chestnut Street, asked for an update on the ordinance regarding the chickens. Mr. Minnich explained that the council approved it and it's been sent to County Planning. She also noted her dissatisfaction with the lack of salting on Union Alley during the recent ice storm. Mr. Wengert explained that Annville does our salting and so they come to Cleona after Annville is taken care of. Mr. Wengert further explained that when you put the salt down relative to the storm, before, during, or after can make a significant difference. He stated that they are working on a plan to improve the process. Dale Ebersole 3752 Hill Church Rd, inquired about the solar farm that was to be put in behind Giant Foods. Ms. Springer explained that the company basically had an option to develop. Mr. Minnich jumped it and stated that the company was more like a marketing company that wanted to get the lease and market it to someone else, but it ultimately just fell apart.

NEW BUSINESS:

President O'Connor suggested combining the appointments of all the Borough Boards, Commissions and Authorities into one motion. Since there were no objects, President O'Connor read the list. **Mr.**

Moyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Urban to approve all of the following to their respective board, commission or authority. Motion Carried.

- Les Powell, 106 S. Harris St., IPMC
- Gregory Weaber, 313 E. Walnut St., Planning Commission
- Rafael Jimenez-Gomez, 128 West Penn Ave., Planning Commission
- Patrick Brewer, 202 N. Cyrus St., IPMC
- Michael Peiffer, 401 E. Maple St, Open Records Officer
- Tricia Springer, 130 South Harris St., Open Records Officer- Alternate
- Change Boro Secretary designation from Melody Vanderveer to Michael Peiffer

President O'Connor also combined the Borough's Depositories & Professionals into one motion.

After reading the list, **Ms. Springer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Urban to approve all of the following to their respective Depositories & Professionals. Motion Carried.**

- Jonestown Bank & Trust
- Solicitor- Colleen Gallo, Barley Snyder
- Engineer- Stephen Sherk, Steckbeck Engineering & Surveying, Inc.

President O'Connor asked for a motion to ratify the IntegraONE quote/invoice (FortiGate- 70F hardware & Fortiswitch) for \$4,367.86. Manager Peiffer explained that all of the hardware has been received. We still have a balance of \$450; \$225 for the firewall installation, which was completed and we should receive the invoice anytime. The remaining \$225 is for the installation of the Fortiswitch, which has not yet been completed. **Mr. Wengert made a motion, seconded by Mr. Urban to approve payment of the invoice. Motion Carried.**

President O'Connor asked for a motion to approve the application & certificate for payment #1 for JVI Group- paving of Liberty & Union allies- \$73,513.85. Manager Peiffer noted that \$3,869.15 was held back for the manhole risers so we will owe this amount once completed. **Mr. Wengert made a motion, seconded by Ms. Springer to approve payment of the invoice. Motion Carried.**

President O'Connor asked for a motion to approve the resolution from the PA legislature and the Governor commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. This is simply an endorsement of the state's mission to educate, preserve, innovate, and celebrate every Pennsylvanian in every county. **Ms. Springer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Urban to approve the resolution. Motion Carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Met-Ed Subdivision: President O'Connor asked for a motion to approve the subdivision for Met-Ed's planned substation improvement. **Mr. Moyer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Urban to approve the subdivision. Motion Carried.**

Municipal Trash: Mr. Minnich addressed this earlier in the meeting.

Municipal District Court Lease Agreement: The council approved the agreement last month with a work-around to the County Commissioners sticking point by changing the lease agreement term from 4 to 1 year. The County Commissioners accepted the change.

Mr. Urban made a motion to pay the December bills; Ms. Springer seconded, and the motion was approved.

Council adjourned at 8:13 pm