

## November 3, 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, Jim O'Connor, Tricia Springer, Matt Urban, Rafael Jimenez Gomez and Mayor Larry Minnich. Absent was Sam Wengert. Also attending were Solicitor Colleen Gallo and Borough Clerk Melody Vanderveer and former Borough Manager, Jonathan Johnson.

Minutes from October 6, 2025, meeting was emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. **Mr. Moyer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Spinger to approve October 6, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion Carried.**

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

### **FIRE COMPANY REPORT, Dustin Sider**

Mr. Sider said the number of calls in October was about average. He also noted that the Fire Company attended numerous fire prevention events and handed out candy during trick-or-treat. Mayor Minnich asked for clarification on whether the Annville-Cleona Fire Company was participating in the Palmyra Fire Company regional study. Mr. Side said the Annville-Cleona Fire Company voted not to participate in the Palmyra regional study.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Jeff Farneski**

Chief Farneski said that throughout the five municipalities, there were 396 service calls in October. One hundred thirty-five of these calls were in Cleona. He also noted that the police investigated Amazon package delivery fraud, email scam where a resident lost \$200,000, and stolen guns. The Chief concluded by saying that police had received numerous complaints about chickens in the Borough. He said that it was not the police responsibility to enforce zoning or property codes.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Larry Minnich**

Mayor Minnich discussed the chicken issues in more detail. He said that the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance would clarify the chicken prohibition. The Mayor went on to discuss the shortcomings of County Planning Department's zoning enforcement and the Borough's code enforcement. He called on Council members to work with him to make the necessary changes.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS – Jim O'Connor**

No Report

### **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. Mr. Jimenez, said that Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority reviewed the draft municipal trash ordinance and found no problems. He will circulate the draft ordinance for Council's vote at the December meeting.

**PROPERTY DEPARTMENT – Bob Moyer**

Mr. Moyer said the camera project has been completed and the sink in the Police Department has been installed.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - Sam Wengert**

Absent

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT – Pat Haley**

Mr. Haley reported “Santa Meet-and-Greet” is scheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Borough Hall.

**FIRE SAFETY/POLICE DEPARTMENT – Tricia Springer**

Ms. Springer summarized the meeting she attended on fire company regionalization. She noted the following:

- The state funded study included the townships of: Annville, South Annville, North Cornwall, West Cornwall, West Lebanon, and the boroughs of Cornwall and Cleona.
- The study recommended that there should be two fire company regions: north and south. In both regions the company can either be consolidated or be administratively combined under an operational commission.
- The study recommended that Annville-Cleona Fire Company be joined with Neversink and Speedwell fire companies.
- For Annville-Cleona Fire Company the study recommended that the current building be expanded to house college students who would be fire fighters. It also suggested that the company may want to find better location for fire fighters to get to the station without being stuck in traffic.

Asked if the regionalization would save the Borough money. The study’s authors said no, it would not save money, but it would prepare the municipalities within the region for the possibility of paid firefighters in the future. According to the authors, within ten years the region would need paid firefighters to respond to calls.

Ms. Springer said that the Annville-Cleona Fire Chief will not be asking for more funding this year but will next year. She said that the staffing situation is a crisis and Borough needs to begin planning. As part of this planning, Ms. Springer recommended that the Borough continue having regional fire company discussion. Council agreed to continue participating in the discussions.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Matt Urban**

Mr. Urban noted that revenues have increased and that expenditures are where they should be.

**BOROUGH MANAGER-BOROUGH AUTHORITY – Jonathan Johnson**

Mr. Johnson reviewed streetlighting expenditures. Council members discussed the need for more rigorous repair of streetlights. Mr. Johnson explained that Med-Ed has not been aggressive in repairing streetlights. He suggested a meeting with Med-Ed to address this problem.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Colleen Gallo**

The Solicitor’s report was submitted.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

Gale Kerkeslager, 555 West Chestnut Street, complained that the Borough's code enforcement was not being enforced equally. Specifically, she said that her property received a code violation notice while her neighbor was breaking the law by having chickens. She also expressed concerns about her dogs attacking the chickens. Ms. Kerkeslager asked who she should contact about code and zoning enforcement. Council members said that she should contact the Borough Office or County Planning Department. Council members then discussed the legal process for code and zoning enforcement. Ms. Kerkeslager concluded by thanking Mayor Minnich for visiting her home and discussing the chicken issue.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Second Reading of the 2026 Budget: Mr. Johnson 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. Mr. Jimenez asked Council to consider an additional 0.2 mill increase to fund pedestrian crossings and to upgrade streetlights. After a discussion, **Ms. Springer made a motion to accept the second reading of the budget; Mr. Haley seconded, and the motion was approved. Mr. Urban made a motion to advertise the real estate millage at 3.39 (0.4 mill increase); Mr. Jimenez seconded, and the motion was approved.**

Resolution 2025-05: This resolution would establish a three-year police service agreement with Jonestown Borough and set the hourly rates for each year. **Ms. Springer made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-05; Mr. Haley seconded, and the motion was approved.**

Resolution 2025-06: This resolution would establish a three-year police service agreement with Swatara Township and set the hourly rates for each year. **Ms. Springer made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-06; Mr. Moyer seconded, and the motion was approved.**

Appointment of Ashlea Good to the Cleona Borough Authority: **Mr. Haley made a motion to appoint Ashlea Good (223 S. Wilson St.) to the Cleona Borough Authority for a 5-year term; Mr. Urban seconded, and the motion was approved.**

Appointment of Sean Ryan to the Cleona Planning Commission: **Mr. Urban made a motion to appoint Mr. Sean Ryan (429 W. Chestnut St.) to the Cleona Borough Planning Commission for a 4-year term; Mr. Jimenez seconded, and the motion was approved.**

Appointment of Melody Vanderveer as Interim Borough Secretary: **Mr. Haley made a motion to appoint Ms. Melody Vanderveer as interim Borough Secretary; Mr. Moyer seconded, and the motion was approved.**

Review proposed subdivision on North Mill Street in Annville Township: Mr. Johnson presented information about a planned subdivision in Annville Township on North Mill Street near the Borough line. The two-acre subdivision was requested by Med-Ed to build a power substation. After a discussion,

Council members agreed that they did not have enough information to make an informed decision. The issue was tabled until more information became available.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Ordinance Review – zoning and map ordinance: Mr. O’Connor asked Council members to review the draft for the next meeting.

Municipal Trash: Mr. Jimenez will circulate a draft ordinance for members to discuss at the next meeting.

Municipal District Court Lease Agreement: Ms. Gallo said she will contact the solicitor for Lebanon County to get an update on the lease agreement status.

**Executive Session**

Council ended the meeting at 8:14 pm to discuss:

- Police Chief’s 2026 Contract
- Borough Manager negotiations.

Council Reconvened the Meeting at 9:20 pm

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

Council adjourned at 9:21 pm