

# October 6, 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, Rafael Jimenez Gomez, Sam Wengert, and Mayor Larry Minnich. Absent were Robert Moyer, Tricia Springer, and Matt Urban. Also attending were Solicitor Colleen Gallo and Borough Manager Jonathan Johnson.

The minutes from the September 8, 2025 meeting were emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. **Mr. Haley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wengert, to approve the September 8, 2025, minutes. Motion carried.**

The treasurer's report for September 2025 was read. Mr. Johnson noted that there was a recording error in the August treasurer's report. For the payroll account, the balance on August 31, 2025, should be \$7,538.84, not \$12,997.70. Mr. Johnson said that he did not include the outstanding checks in the payroll account. **A motion was made by Mr. Wengert, seconded by Mr. Haley, to approve the treasurer's report for September 2025. Motion carried.**

## **FIRE COMPANY REPORT - Dustin Sider**

Mr. Sider said the September fire company report is delayed due to the implementation of a new reporting system. He also said that September was a busy month for the fire company, with several large fires and an electric vehicle fire that was difficult to extinguish. Mr. Sider said that the week of October 6 is fire prevention week. The fire company plans to visit area schools and daycare centers to discuss fire safety. Mr. Minnich asked if Annville Cleona Fire Company was part of the Palmyra regional study. Mr. Sider said no, the fire company was not part of that study.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Jeffery Farneski**

Chief Farneski discussed several public safety incidents in the borough and elsewhere.

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

Mayor Minnich discussed the following issues:

- Vehicle fatality at 3635 Tunnel Hill Road.
- Resident assault at the 300 block of East Penn Ave.
- Discussion of MS4 stormwater issues he had with the chairman of the Borough Authority
- Results of a meeting with the owner of 27 West Pine Street and the Borough Codes Officer and Solicitor. The property owner has 60 days to bring the property into compliance.

## **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

None

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

Mr. O’Connor said that a search ad-hoc committee has been formed to identify candidates for the Borough Manager position. The committee is hoping to have a recommendation ready by the November 3rd Council meeting.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT – Rafael Jimenez Gomez**

Mr. Jimenez said that there was no IPMC meeting last month; however, most of the properties in the borough are in compliance. Ms. Gallow said there was some work being done on the condemned property at 13 Walnut Mills.

### **PROPERTY DEPARTMENT – Bob Moyer (Absent)**

Mr. O’Connor read Mr. Moyer’s report:

- Police sink has been installed.
- The borough received two bids for HVAC preventive maintenance. Mr. Moyer recommends that Council accept the bid from Precision.
- The quote from Hi-Tech Security was misinterpreted. The total cost for the cameras was \$9,700, not \$8,110 as approved in July. Mr. Moyer asked to modify his original motion and approve the cost increase.

### **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - Sam Wengert**

Mr. Wengert discussed paving Union and Liberty Alleys between Garfield Street and Christian Street. Mr. Wengert said the paving project went well and there have not been any complaints. The last part of the project is installing manhole risers. He said that the risers on Union and Liberty Alleys are obsolete and it has been difficult to find replacements.

### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT – Pat Haley**

Mr. Haley reported the Cleona Fall Festival is scheduled for October 18th from noon to 3:00 pm. He was concerned about the lack of volunteers and discussed the possibility of canceling the event.

### **FIRE SAFETY/POLICE DEPARTMENT – Tricia Springer (Absent)**

Mr. Johnson said that Ms. Springer would attend the October 15th meeting to discuss the fire company regionalization study.

### **FINANCE DEPARTMENT – Matt Urban**

Mr. O’Connor read Mr. Urban’s report:

- The Borough received \$1.15 million from January to September 2025. During the same period last year, the borough received \$1.14 million.
- Year-to-date expenditures for 2025 are \$966,000, which is ahead of the budget projection of \$961,000.
- Tax revenues continue to decrease, only \$28,000 was collected in September.
- The existing \$200,000 surplus should leave the Borough with a perfectly flat budget at the end of 2025.

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

- Leaf Collection: Mr. Johnson reviewed the leaf collection schedule and costs.
- Tailgate Repairs: Mr. Johnson discussed repairs needed to repair the tailgate of the Borough truck. He also said that a resident at 136 East Chestnut may be able to get a discount truck tailgate.
- Cleona Authority Stormwater Project: Mr. Johnson said the Borough Authority's South Christian Street project will begin in late October or early November.
- Sewer Billing: Mr. Johnson reported that the third quarter sewer/stormwater bills will be mailed out by October 10th. He also asked for article suggestions for the newsletter.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Colleen Gallo**

The solicitor's report was submitted. Ms. Gallo said that the rental agreement for the District Justice office is being reviewed by the county.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

First Reading of the 2026 Budget: Mr. Johnson reviewed the 2026 projected revenues and expenditures for the General Fund, Highway Fund, and Capital Fund. With the Capital Fund, Mr. Johnson noted that there is a proposed real estate tax increase of 0.4 mills. He said this money would be dedicated to street paving projects. After a discussion, **Mr. Wengert made a motion to accept the first reading of the 2026 budget; Mr. Haley seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.**

Photocopier Agreement: Mr. Johnson said the photocopier agreement with the Police Department is about to expire. The current vendor, Marco, gave a quote to combine the Police Department and Borough into a single contract. The Police Department would get a new copier, and the Borough and Police Department will increase monthly allotments. After a discussion, **Mr. Jimenez made a motion to approve the quote for \$470.86 per month; Mr. Haley seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

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Building Camera: According to Mr. Moyer's report, there was a misinterpretation of the original camera quote from High-Tech Security. The total cost of the cameras and installation was \$1,590 higher than the amount approved in July. After a discussion, **Mr. Haley made a motion to approve the cost of \$9,700 to install security cameras in the Borough and fire department, and Mr. Wengert seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

HVAC Preventive Maintenance: According to Mr. Moyer's report, there were two bids received for HVAC preventive maintenance. The first was from G.F. Bowman for \$682 and included only one site visit. The second was from Precision for \$747 and included two site visits. Mr. Moyer recommended going with Precision. After a discussion, **Mr. Haley made a motion to accept Precision's quote for \$747.00, and Mr. Wengert seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

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Park and Recreation Board Appointment: Mr. Johnson said that Ms. Constance Renninger (134 East Penn Avenue) submitted a letter to join the Cleona Borough Park and Recreation Board. After a discussion, **Mr. Haley made a motion to approve Ms. Renninger's appointment to the Park and Recreation Board; Mr. Jimenez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.**

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Shorty's Garden Sign: Mr. Johnson said they received a bid for signage for Richard Fields's (Shorty's) garden. The bronze sign would cost \$585, and the custom-shaped PVC would cost \$335. After a discussion, **Mr. Haley made a motion to purchase the bronze sign for \$585; Mr. Jimenez seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

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Resignation of Borough Manager: Mr. Johnson submitted his resignation, effective October 31, 2025. After a discussion, **Mr. Wengert made a motion to accept Mr. Johnson's resignation; Mr. Jimenez seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Ordinance Review – zoning and map ordinance: Mr. Johnson said that the tax identification number has been merged into the file, and he will send it to Ms. Gallo soon.

Municipal Trash: Mr. Jimenez said the draft ordinance for a single trash hauler in the borough has been completed. He plans to circulate it to Council members soon.

Review of Cyrus Street Parking Ordinance: Mr. Wengert discussed the line-of-sight issue with the Borough Engineer, Steve Sherk, and concluded that 91 feet may not be the correct distance. Mr. Wengert said that he met with the homeowner at 243 East Penn Ave. and discussed the appropriate no parking area and line-of-sight distance. Ms. Gallo pointed out that under the current Ordinance (#333) there was no parking on the west side of North Cyrus from Liberty Alley to Penn Ave. It was agreed that Ordinance #333 was too onerous and needed to be changed. It was also agreed that other intersections in the borough should be examined. It was understood that adoption of Ordinance #334 could be the step in this progress. **Mr. Jimenez made a motion to approve Ordinance #334; Mr. Haley seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.**

**Pay September 2025 Bills: Motion by Mr. Haley, seconded by Mr. Wengert, to pay the bills for September 2025. The motion was approved.**

The council adjourned at 8:10 pm. Then went into executive session to discuss police personnel issues.

Respectfully Submitted, Jonathan Johnson