

# September 8, 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, Sam Wengert, Rafael Jimenez Gomez and Mayor Larry Minnich. Absent was Robert Moyer. Also attending were Solicitor Colleen Gallo and Borough Manager, Jonathan Johnson.

Minutes from August 4, 2025, meeting was emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. **Mr. Jimenez made a motion, seconded by Ms. Springer, to approve the August 4, 2025, minutes. Motion Carried.**

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

## **FIRE COMPANY REPORT, Dustin Sider (Absent)**

The fire company report is attached.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief Farneski**

The police report is attached.

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

Mayor Minnich discussed the following issues:

- Swearing in a new part-time officer, Kameron Freeman.
- Met with the new director of Crisis Intervention at Wellspan Hospital and discuss program changes.
- Electric car fire at Weber Brothers, 795 N. Mill Street.

## **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:**

Marty Brandt, Annville Free Library: Discussed library programs and activities. He also introduced the new librarian, Ronice Nolt. Among the items Mr. Brandt noted were:

- 2025 library visitation is equivalent to 2019 (pre-COVID) levels.
- In 2024, there were 650 programs for 8,200 people.
- The Creativity Center in the library is up and running, and they just installed a 3-D printer.
- There are two new community rooms.

Mr. Brandt concluded by asking for the borough's financial support in 2026. Mr. Haley said he would contact Mr. Brandt and discuss the details.

Gale Kerkeslager, 555 West Chestnut Street, asked why the online Borough Council minutes did not have the attached files. She also asked why no one has responded to her email questions she submitted through the website. Mr. Johnson said he would investigate. Ms. Kerkeslager also complained about chickens in the alley behind her house. Ms. Gallo said the issue was referred to her, but she hopes to look into the matter soon.

## Cleona Borough Council Minutes

September 8, 2025

Page 2 of 5

Randy Weaver, 530 East Maple Street, expressed safety concerns with e-bikes and what can be done to stop reckless riders. Ms. Gallo said that rules for e-bikes are a state government issue. Mr. Johnson said he would check with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Mr. Weaver asked about youth going door-to-door selling football cards. He was concerned that they had no identification or permit. Mr. Johnson said the football team did get a permit. The council discussed the possibility of requiring each team member to carry a copy of the permit. Mr. Weaver thanked the council for the no parking ordinance on the east side of North Center Street.

Adam Moyer, 136 East Chestnut Street, asked about weeds growing on the street and whether the weeds were going to be sprayed.

Paul Brown, 553 East Pine Street, was concerned that his neighbor was having large fires in their fire pit as well as burning trash. He said the smoke from the fires was going into his house. He was also concerned with fire getting out of control and burning down other homes. Mr. Brown suggested the borough's fire pit ordinance be revised to specify the types of wood that can be burned. Ms. Gallo suggested Mr. Johnson contact GLRA and ask about enforcement.

### **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. Asked if the Code Enforcement Officer was using the specialized software, Mr. Johnson answered that he is using it but has problems logging on. He is working to resolve these issues.

### **PROPERTY DEPARTMENT – Bob Moyer**

Absent

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

Mr. Wengert discussed the pros and cons of the four snowplow bids. He then concluded by making a **motion for Siebecker Property Management to plow the south side of the Borough and Landscapes by Dustin, LLC to plow the north side. Mr. Haley seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

Mr. Wengert then discussed paving Union and Liberty Alleys between Garfield Street and Christian Street. Mr. Wengert said, **“Based on the borough engineer’s recommendation, I make a motion to award the contract for Cleona Borough’s 2025 Alley Paving Project to JVI Group Inc., including the Bid Alternate 1 for a total contract amount of \$81,560.00 contingent upon receipt of the performance and payment bonds and certificate of liability insurance.” Ms. Springer seconded the motion; the motion was approved.** Mr. Johnson recommended that the project be paid

## **Cleona Borough Council Minutes**

**September 8, 2025**

Page 3 of 5

out of the Liquid Fuels Fund. Mr. Wengert said the alley paving project will be done this fall.

Mr. Wengert distributed a borough map that highlighted the streets most in need of repair and repaving. He also discussed the need to find a way to pay for the repairs.

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

Mr. Haley reported that Saturday, September 20th, is the last movie night. At dusk, the park is showing “A Minecraft Movie”. He also discussed the challenges of getting reimbursed for the cost to repair the miniature golf course and the difficulties with the bids for the amphitheater. Mr. Haley then discussed the Fall Festival scheduled for October 18th. Because of a lack of volunteers, their entire festival will be scaled back, and there will be no haunted walk.

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

Ms. Springer said police contract negotiations are making progress.

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

Mr. Urban said the borough is close to receiving all its 2025 tax revenue. He also said the revenue projections are close to where they should be.

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

- Lebanon County Municipal Officials Convention: Mr. Johnson invited Council members to attend the County Municipal Official Convention on October 7th at the Lebanon Expo Center.
- Time Off: Mr. Johnson said he was taking time off from September 10 to 12.
- Cleona Authority Stormwater Project: Mr. Johnson said the Borough Authority approved three stormwater projects: South Christian Street, North Center Street, and Dairy Road. The total project cost was less than \$500,000, and the South Christian Street Project will begin this fall. The other projects will start next year.
- Budget discussion
  - 2026 General Fund Expenditures: Review of the 2026 General Fund revenues and expenditures. Council members agreed to cancel the September 22nd budget workshop and to vote on the budget’s first reading at the October 6th meeting.
  - Need for Street Repair Funding: Mr. Johnson asked Council to consider a dedicated funding stream for Borough Streets with a small tax increase. After a discussion, it was agreed to bring the issue to a vote at the October 5th meeting.

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

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

## Cleona Borough Council Minutes

September 8, 2025

Page 4 of 5

### NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #2025-04: This resolution would authorize the Cleona Police Department to destroy old records in accordance with state law. After a discussion, **Mr. Haley made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-04; Mr. Urban seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.**

Installation of a Sink in Police Department: The Borough received a quote from KB Heating, Cooling and Plumbing, LLC for \$1,765.00 to install a sink in the Police Department. After a discussion, **Ms. Springer made a motion to approve the quote for \$1,765.00 and approval spending up to \$400.00 for a sink and faucet; Mr. Jimenez seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

- Handicap Parking Spot: Mr. Johnson told Council that an elderly resident of 21 North Washington Street requested a handicap parking space. Mr. Johnson said that the applicant had submitted the necessary documents. After a discussion, **Ms. Springer made a motion to approve the handicap parking spot request, and Mr. Haley seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

Streambank Restoration Project Land Survey Study: Mr. Johnson said that Steckbeck Engineering and LandStudies requested doing a land survey along the Quittie Stream at Cleona Park. This study is part of the next phase of the Lebanon County Stormwater Consortium to reduce stormwater runoff. After a discussion, **Mr. Haley made a motion to allow the study, and Mr. Urban seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

- Amend the Agenda: Mr. Johnson inveterately forgot to include a Hill UCC Church sign request on the agenda. He asked Council to amend the meeting agenda to include the sign. **Ms. Springer made a motion to amend the agenda, and Mr. Jimenez seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

- Oktoberfest Sign Request: Mr. Johnson said that Hill UCC Church requested installing two-yard signs; one at Mill Street and one at Center Street from September 28th to October 4th to advertise Oktoberfest. After a discussion, **Mr. Haley made a motion to allow the signs; Mr. Urban seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

- Close Out APRA Bank Account: Mr. Johnson asked Council to approve closing the APRA bank account at Jonestown Bank and Trust and to transfer the remaining funds to the Capital Fund to pay for any remaining building project costs. He said the account currently has \$47.67. After a discussion, **Mr. Urban made a motion to close the bank account; Mr. Wengert seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

Copier Agreement Lease: Mr. Johnson asked Council to discuss this agreement at the October meeting when more information will be available. Council agreed.

Non-Uniform Employee's MMO: Mr. Johnson asked Council to approve the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for non-uniform employees. For 2026, the estimated

**Cleona Borough Council Minutes**

**September 8, 2025**

Page 5 of 5

obligation is \$40.00 After a discussion, **Ms. Springer made a motion to approve the non-uniform employee's MMO; Mr. Haley seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

Uniform Employee's MMO: Mr. Johnson asked Council to approve the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for uniform employees. For 2026, the estimated obligation is \$32,405.00 After a discussion, **Ms. Springer made a motion to approve the uniform employee's MMO; Mr. Haley seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

Proposed Rent Agreement with Lebanon County: Council discussed a proposed agreement with Lebanon County Commissions for 2026 to 2029 office rent to District Justice #52-3-04. After a discussion, **Mr. Urban made a motion to send the proposed agreement to Lebanon County Commissioners. Ms. Springer seconded the motion; the motion was approved.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Ordinance Review – zoning and map ordinance: No Discussion

Municipal Trash: No Discussion

Review of Cyrus Street Parking Ordinance: Council members discuss the error in Ordinance No 333 concerning the no parking area on North Cyrus Street. After a discussion, **Mr. Haley made a motion to amend Ordinance # 333 to correct the no parking areas along North Cyrus Street to 91 feet with Ordinance #334; Mr. Jimenez seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.**

Liberty and/or Union Alley Bids: Discussed above

Snowplow Bids: Discussed above

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

The council adjourned at 8:47 pm. Then went into executive session to discuss three issues:

- Legal litigation fees for tree removal
- Police personnel issues
- Police services contracts

Respectfully Submitted, Jonathan Johnson