

March 18, 2025

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by President Donald Stansak. Roll call for attendance, Mr. Caden Coppetti, Mr. Andy Pinskey, Mr. Matt Chronowski, Mr. Mickey Siwula, Mr. Donald Stansak, Mr. Gary Falatovich, Mrs. Mary Robson and Mayor Chuck King were all in attendance. Mrs. Charity Colebank, Mr. Steve Eby and Mrs. Mary Yeager were absent. We have a quorum.

Corrections or Additions to the Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to accept the minutes. Mr. Mickey Siwula seconded the motion, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment Period:

The Honorable Scott Mears, a judge in Westmoreland County, introduced himself to the Council and audience.

Dorean Petonic spoke on the state of the WellSprings Building and other blight properties in the Borough.

Approval of Payrolls: A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to approve Payroll. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Approval of Bills and Late Bills: A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to approve the bills and late bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caden Coppetti, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Action Items: Old Business Mr. Pinskey stated that he had made a motion to safeguard the perimeter of the Wellspring's Building and was asking what progress has been done in regards to the fencing. Mr. Gary Falatovich stated that the Engineer is waiting for Council to approve the dollar amount. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

General Government: Audit The General Government committee recommends that the Borough uses Singer Accounting. A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to hire Singer Accounting for auditing purposes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried. Mr. Andy Pinskey asked what date range the audit would include. Mrs. Stacey Coffman replied it covers all of 2024-2025. A roll call vote was taken. Mrs. Mary Robson- Yes, Mr. Andy Pinskey-Yes, Mr. Donald Stansak-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes, Mr. Caden Coppetti-Yes. Six yes votes, motion carried.

Cintas First Aid: The Borough is spending approximately \$200 monthly on this service. The General Government Committee is recommending that Council ends the partnership with Cintas. The Borough, with the help from Mutual Aid will supply the first aid items ourselves. A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to stop using Cintas. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Salary for office staff: The General Government Committee has recommended that the office staff receive a 3% raise. Mr. Andy Pinskey questioned the budget line items amount already approved for the office staff raises. Mr. Gary Falatovich stated that just because the budgeted amount was approved earlier, Council can still vote to approve the expenditure. The motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to increase the manager's salary to \$56,650.00. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson. Mr. Robert Close asked if the salary increases will be retroactive. Mr. Mickey Siwula answered yes and added this to the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Caden Coppetti-Yes, Mr. Andy Pinskey-No, Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes, Mr. Mickey

Siwula-Yes, Mr. Donald Stansak-Yes, Mrs. Mary Robson-Yes. Five “Yes” votes, one “No” vote, motion carried.

The motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to increase the Secretary/Treasurer’s salary to \$20.60 an hour retroactive from the beginning of the year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson. Roll call vote:

Mr. Donald Stansak-Yes, Mr. Caden Coppetti-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mrs. Mary Robson-Yes, Mr. Andy Pinskey-No, Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes. Five “Yes” votes, one “No” vote, motion carried.

The motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to increase the Clerk’s salary to \$14.78 retroactive from the beginning of the year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson. Mr. Angelo Pallone asked if the raises were given in January and would now have to reconfigure the raise amount on already paid salaries. Mr. Donald Stansak stated that the raises have been held since the 1st of the year pending approval. Roll call vote: Mr. Andy Pinskey-No, Mr. Caden Coppetti-Yes, Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mr. Donald Stansak-Yes, Mrs. Mary Robson-Yes. Five “Yes” votes and one “no” vote, motion carried.

SCCIA Lease: The lease was sent to Ms. Rebecca Blahovec and taken to the SCCIA Board. Mr. Gary Falatovich is waiting for their response.

Ordinance/Amendment for Skilled Games: Mrs. Mary Yeager is working on it. This will be tabled until the next meeting.

Employee Handbook: Wrong copy was accidentally sent to Council and will be addressed at the next meeting.

Manager’s Agreement: General Government Committee has amended the Managers Agreement. It will be sent to Mr. Gary Falatovich and Council for review.

4th Ward Furnace: The 4th Ward Fire station needs a new furnace, as it has not worked for several years. With the nice weather coming we have some time

to discuss this matter further. Mrs. Stacey Coffman is going to look for some grants to help cover the cost.

CD- Due to not having a Council meeting on 3/10/25 a roll call vote by phone was taken to determine what to do with a CD that has reached maturity. After looking into current CD rates banks, Somerset Trust has the highest interest rate at 4.25% for a 3-month CD. Roll call vote: Mr. Andy Pinskey-Yes, Mr. Matthew Chronowski-Yes, Mr. Caden Coppetti-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mr. Donald Stansak-Yes, Mrs. Mary Yeager-Yes, Mrs. Mary Robson-Yes, Mrs. Charity Colebank-No response. 7 yes votes, 1 no response, the motion carried.

Vacancy Chair There was only one response for the vacancy chair position. Breanne DeStefano expressed interest in the position. Breanne spoke to the council briefly about herself and why she is interested in the position. A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to appoint Breanne DeStefano. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caden Coppetti, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Resolution for Borough Manager- Mr. Andy Pinskey stated that the Borough Building recently had some infrastructure issues, such as the plumbing and the furnace, that have required immediate action to repair. He is putting forth a resolution to Council that will allow the Borough Manager to allocate up to a \$5000.00 threshold in case of emergency repairs, without Council approval. These expenses will come out of the Capital Line item on the budget. Anything above that amount would require approval from the Council. The motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey, seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson, all in favor, no one opposed. The motion carried.

Plumbing Issue Over the past several weeks the Borough Building has been experiencing issues with the plumbing backing up. The 1st estimate was \$500.00 just to open up the line but to fix it correctly it will cost approximately \$3500.00. Mr. Mickey Siwula will table this until next month.

Public Services: Salt Contract Mrs. Charity Colebank is not in attendance this evening and Mr. Donald Stansak covered her portion of the agenda. The salt contract will remain the same as last year.

Pole Update: The pole in front of Abundant Blessings will be fixed. The pole was hit, and the insurance company has paid to fix it. The second pole that needs to be fixed is at 12 South Broadway Street. This pole was hit by a PennDot truck, and the Borough may not have to pay to have it fixed. However, PennDot isn't known for taking liability, so we may need to look into fixing it ourselves.

Protection: Executive Session-Assistant Chief The Executive session was entered into at 7:23 pm and ended at 7:40 pm. Mr. Matt Chronowski stated that by looking at the previous written test scores they chose the next name on the list to be the new Assistant Police Chief, which is Mr. Frank Doner. Mr. Matt Chronowski made a motion to name Officer Frank Doner as the Assistant Chief. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caden Coppetti. Mrs. Stephanie Schropp asked if that was the recommendation that Chief Whipkey gave. Mr. Matt Chronowski stated it was not. A roll call vote was taken Mr. Andy Pinskey-No, Mrs. Mary Robson-No, Mr. Mickey Siwula- Yes, Mr. Donald Stansak-Yes, Mr. Caden Coppetti-Yes, Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes. 4 yes votes, 2 no votes, motion carried.

Civil Service- The Civil Service Committee members have all resigned. A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to accept Mrs. Nicole Seese's resignation from the Civil Service Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickey Siwula, all in favor, motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to accept Mr. Mickey Thomas's resignation from the Civil Service Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickey Siwula, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried. A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to accept Mr. Timothy Hillen's resignation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickey Siwula, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried. Mr. Andy Pinskey stated that we accept these resignations with regret. A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to move forward with advertising in

the newspaper for new Civil Service members, pricing not to exceed \$500.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickey Siwula, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carries. Mr. Steve Matsey asked what the Police test scores were to which Mr. Gary Falatovich replied that the scores are not shared information.

Blight Update- Wellsprings Building: The fencing was discussed and with Mr. Steve Eby not in attendance, this will be discussed at the next meeting.

Several residents in the community expressed their outrage with the fence being put off until the next meeting. Mr. Andy Pinskey asked what the balance of the Capital Funds account is, trying to see where we can attain the funds for the fence. "There is \$47,998" Mrs. Stacey Coffman replied. The fence will cost around \$20,000. The protection committee recommended that 3 sides of the building be surrounded by the fence. A motion was made by Mr. Caden Coppetti to approve the fencing, up to \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickey Siwula. Mr. Andy Pinskey stated that the money comes from the Capital Fund account and does not exceed \$20,000. Council will vote on the quotes at the next meeting. A roll call vote was taken, Mr. Andy Pinskey-Yes, Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mr. Caden Coppetti-Yes, Mrs. Mary Robson-Yes, Mr. Donald Stansak-Yes. The votes were unanimous for yes, motion carried.

102 Mt. Pleasant Rd: There was a court hearing regarding 102 Mt. Pleasant Road. The owner failed to show, nor did she complete the required tasks at this property. She is being held in contempt and a warrant has been issued.

Sheetz: Mr. Andy Pinskey is working with our Congressman and will have a report at the next meeting.

Feed Mill: Mr. Andy Pinskey was able to tour the Feed Mill with the interested party. They are trying to contact the bankruptcy attorney for this property but has had no luck so far. This party may also be interested in the Fink Building.

Mr. Gary Falatovich also stated that he has information on 104 Newman that will be discussed in the executive session

National Night Out: Mr. Matt Chronowski made a motion to hold National Night out on August 5th and to close Spring Street from Pittsburgh to Mulberry street from 5-8. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caden Coppetti, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carries.

Meter Fund Allocation: Mr. Matt Chronowski met with Chief Whipkey and discussed with the new hires and outdated equipment the Police are in need of new body cams and guns. Mr. Matt Chronowski has them currently patrolling the meters and issuing tickets and is asking Council to allocate the Meter Fund account to cover these items. A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to change the name of the Meter fund allocation and to allocate those funds for the Police after a vote from Council to approve the expenditures. Mr. Mickey Siwula seconded the motion. Mr. Andy Pinskey stated he wanted the Police to abide by the meter times and laws, not just write tickets for the sake of money. Roll call Vote: Mr. Caden Coppetti- Yes, Mr. Andy Pinskey-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes, Mrs. Mary Robson- Yes, Mr. Donald Stansak-Yes. The vote is unanimous, motion carries.

Parks and Recreation: Pavilion Rental & Pavilion Rental -Ordinance and/or Resolution- Andy Pinskey The agreements that Mrs. Charity Colebank presented to Council at the last meeting need to be tweaked by Mr. Gary Falatovich. He will advertise this and will have it ready for the next meeting, if anything needs amended. A motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey to accept Mr. Gary Falatovich's final Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mickey Siwula, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Ballfield requests: A motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey to accept the ballfield requests. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Summer Recreation Program: A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to approve the Summer Recreation Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caden Coppetti, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carries.

Scottdale Gazebo Updates: Mrs. Mary Yeager has proposed some improvements to the Gazebo at no cost. Tabled until the next meeting when Mrs. Mary Yeager is in attendance.

Loucks Park CDBG Project: Tabled until the next meeting

CDBG Resolution Loucks Park : The Resolution, 2025-02 has been amended to reallocate the funds to a different project at Loucks Park instead of the tennis courts. A motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey to accept Resolution 2025-02. The motion was seconded by Mr. Caden Coppetti, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried. Mr. Andy stated that the Parks budget has already been approved so several of the items coming before Council for vote are being redundant and not necessary.

Jacobs Creek Watershed Association: Nothing to report

Jacobs Creek Flood Control Project: Nothing to report

Westmoreland-Fayette Municipal Sewage Authority: Resolution 2025-03 was made for the dissolution of WFMSA. A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to accept this resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Community Development: Nothing to report

New Business: Mr. Matt Chronowski wanted to inform the Council that the CD we have with Somerset Trust is accessible in case of an emergency. He also added that the interest earned year to date is \$ 15,382.76 at MidPenn Bank. If we had moved it to Somerset Trust, the interest earned year to date would have been \$17,780.33.

Mr. Andy Pinskey stated that he has been contacted by our State Legislator, and they have secured a grant for our Volunteer Fire Department in the amount of \$38,000. This will be used for new equipment. Mr. Andy Pinskey thanked State Representative Davanzo for helping to secure this grant.

Junior Council Report : Junior Councilman Isaac House was not in attendance- Nothing reported

Correspondence: Scottdale Church of Christ is asking Council for permission to use Loucks Park to hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt. The event will be from 12:00 pm – 3 pm on April 13th weather permitting and will host approximately 30 children. A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula to allow the church to use the park. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carries.

Scottdale Area Chamber of Commerce: They are asking Council for permission to use the Gazebo for the annual Community Egg Hunt. The event will take place on April 19th at 1 pm. A motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey to allow the Chamber to use the Gazebo. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carries.

Fall Festival: The Fall festival committee is asking that the days and times for specific road closures during the festival to be approved. A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula, seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carries.

Liquid Fuels: Mrs. Stacey Coffman turned in all the necessary reports and has been informed that the Borough has received \$145, 843.22 from Liquid Fuels. The Public Service committee will discuss the allocation of these funds.

Car Show Letter: The Parks Commission will hold their annual Car show on June 14th from 4pm-8pm, rain date July 12th, 2025.

MAWC: An informational letter from MAWC will be posted on the Borough's website and Facebook page.

Memorial Day Parade: The Memorial Day Parade Committee will hold its annual parade on Monday May 26th at 9am with the closure of Pittsburgh Street and Route 819/ Broadway Street to the Scottdale Cemetery.

Westmoreland County Boroughs Association: Meeting notice- The Borough Association has sent meeting notices for two meetings. The first meeting is March 27, 2025 and the second meeting will be held April 25th, 2025. The notices will be posted on our website as well.

Late Correspondence: June 7th is National Trail Day. Being a representative of the Coal and Coke Trail, Mr. Andy Pinskey along with the Mount Pleasant Coal and Coke trail representative are looking into having vendors and food trucks at the start of the trails.

Seminars: Classroom Training- There are a few seminars coming up, the first is April 9th-10th with a cost of \$75. A motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey to approve the Borough Manager to attend this seminar. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Andy Pinskey also stated there is a seminar on April 27th and will cost \$75. Mr. Andy Pinskey made the motion to allow himself to attend the seminar. The motion was made by Mrs. Mary Robson, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Mrs. Stacey is also asking to attend an online course in May at the cost of \$80. This class is for grant writing. A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski, seconded by Mr. Mickey Siwula. All in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Engineer's Report: Mr. Steve Eby is not in attendance but sent a pay app to be approved for the current invoice from Nevaeh for work done on the ADA crosswalks. A motion was made by Mr. Mickey Siwula, and seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski. All in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Chuck King reported that the Annual Johnson Event will be held at the Library on Wednesday, March 19th at the Scottdale Public Library.

Public Comment Period No. Two: Breanne DeStefano spoke about the crosswalk signs being knocked down, broken and how unsafe the crosswalks have become. She is asking the Council to please consider fixing the broken signs.

Mr. Robert Close, Mrs. Stephanie Schropp and Mr. Angelo Pallone voiced their concerns over the hiring process and test scores that led the Protection

Committee to the decision to make Officer Frank Doner the Assistant Chief. They are questioning the rankings according to the test scores.

Executive Session: After a short break the Executive session was entered into at 9:32 pm and ended at 9:50pm.

Adjourn: At 9:55pm Mr. Mickey Siwula made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

