

Borough Council Meeting

October 13, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice President Mickey Siwula. After the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent meditation, roll call was taken. Mr. Andy Pinskey, Mr. Matt Chronowski, Mr. Steve Eby, Mr. Mickey Siwula, Mrs. Stacey Coffman, Mayor Chuck King, Mrs. Mary Robson and Mrs. Mary Yeager were all in attendance. Mr. Caden Coppetti, Mrs. Charity Colebank, Mr. Donald Stansak, and Mrs. Amy Baker were absent from the meeting. Mr. Gary Falatovich joined the meeting by phone. We have a quorum.

Corrections or Additions to Minutes

Mrs. Mary Yeager asked that we add the full name of the CDBG MBE/WBE to the minutes for those that do not understand the abbreviations. A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to accept the September 2025 meeting minutes, with said changes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Yeager, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Public Comment Period (3 Minutes Limit Per Person)

a. Christine Williams - Mrs. Christine Williams spoke about the continuous issues that plague her building, Westmore Insurance, due to blight from the building connected to her business. The Fink Building has had bricks fall off and onto her building and sidewalk. The Borough put up temporary barricades that were moved within a week. There is now the issue of broken glass falling from the windows onto the sidewalk and very dangerous shards ready to fall at any time. Most recently, a piece of siding from the third-floor porch flew off and into their parking lot. She asked if the building has ever been inspected and why this building has never been cited. Mr. Gary Falatovich stated he is unaware if property in bankruptcy can be cited. Mr. Mickey Siwula and Mrs. Stacey Coffman were in touch with someone in regard to boarding up the windows and will follow up with that. The residents have been moving the barricades that the Borough has put up. Attorney Zebley stated the building was now out of bankruptcy and in the hands of the owner again. Mr. Gary Falatovich will follow up with this. Mrs. Christine Williams asked Mr. Gary Falatovich to show her in writing where it states that the building cannot be cited.

b. Lincoln Jamison - Last month Mr. Jamison asked for Code Enforcement to enforce Code # 27 613-615. He is again asking why nothing has been done with the gravel parking lot that has been an ongoing issue for Mr. Jamison's property. Mr. Steve Eby stated

he was not the Code Enforcement Officer at the time this gravel lot was put in. He has been in touch with Dr. Gretz and is working on a solution. Mr. Steve Eby has resigned as the Borough's Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Jamison asked Mr. Steve Eby what the time frame was for him as the Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Steve Eby was asked if he cited Dr. Gretz, to which he answered, "No I did not, it will get done a lot faster this way".

c. James Williams - Mr. Williams asked by show of hands, who on Council is ok with the Blight Mitigation Policy that is in effect in the Borough. When no Council member answered, he stated that the Borough doesn't have one in place. Mr. Williams brought up that Council Woman Yeager wanted to form a Blight Committee and no one supported that idea. He then asked Mr. Steve Eby why things are being billed to the Borough without reports to justify them. He gave the example of an invoice charging for the traffic study done at the Wellspring's building, yet no study is available to review. After submitting a right to know asking for the invoices from Widmer and any reports to support those charges, he stated there is no documentation supporting the charges. He will speak again at the end of the meeting.

d. Sara McLain - She stated she has never spoken at a Borough meeting, and this is her first time living in a Borough, as she is from Bell Vernon. She has complained about water that sits on the other side of the street from her, and it is infested with mosquitos. A week after she complained at a committee meeting, she was cited for a dead tree in her yard. She has been actively working on having several estimates done to remove the tree, with the least amount being \$1,500.00. It is just not in her budget. She then had a sewer backup and asked Council questions about what she needed to do, permitting, etc. The citation stated she had 14 days to have the tree removed, if not she could be fined \$600.00, the Borough could remove it and charge her, and she could be jailed. The notice and photos were written out in May but not sent to her until September. Why was she cited when other residents are not held to the same standards. She is asking that Council treats everyone the same. Mr. Andy Pinskey spoke about his idea to have a ticketing system through the Borough in regard to Code Enforcement issues. He stated that he and Council need to take care of these problems with Code Enforcement and improve this problem, the residents deserve better. This is a program called the **Quality of Life** and would give the residents a chance to fix the issue before it is sent to a Magistrate.

Approval of Payrolls

After a long discussion over whether Council needs to vote at each meeting to accept the approval of payroll at, considering the budget with the payroll amounts was approved months ago. Council came to the agreement that any overtime payroll information needs to be voted on by Council. The motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to accept the

payroll. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson, 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 any late bills. Mr. Andy Pinsky seconded that motion. A discussion ensued about "Late Bills" being on the agenda for approval and how there are never any actual late bills. Mr. Andy Pinsky and Mr. Matt Chronowski rescinded their original motion and added an amended motion to pay the recurring monthly bills and not bring those to Council monthly. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried. A motion was made by Mrs. Mary Yeager to pay the non-recurring bills for this month. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Action Items

1. Old Business

a. Auditor's Report – Mrs. Stacey Coffman stated that the Auditor's report is still not complete. Also a letter was received by the IRS sent inquiring about the 2019-2024 years.

b. Westmoreland County Act 167 - This was informational only. The Westmoreland Conservation District is forming a Watershed Planning Advisory Committee to help bring much needed updates to Westmoreland County's Act 167 Stormwater Plan. The Council passed on the opportunity for this year but will receive another letter next year.

2. General Government

a. Dog Catcher Contract - Drew's Crew put in a bid for Borough Dog Catcher. Mrs. Mary Robson made a motion to accept their bid at \$150.00 per month and award them the contract. The contract is for dogs only. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried. Mrs. Mary Yeager suggested we also get a price for cats considering the ongoing issue the town is having with them.

b. Furnace Fourth Ward - The furnace at the Fourth Ward Fire Station needs replaced, and an estimate of \$3,652.00 was given from Lashinsky's Contracting. The motion was made by Mrs. Mary Yeager to get the furnace fixed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried. Roll call vote: Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mrs. Mary Yeager-Yes, Mr. Andy Pinsky-No, Mrs. Mary Robson-Yes. The vote is 4 yes and 1 No vote, motion carried. Mr. Andy Pinsky wanted the record to reflect that he voted no.

c. Police Sick Time Account - Mrs. Stacey Coffman suggested that the Police Sick Time and the Police Comp Time Account be closed, and the remaining funds be moved into the Payroll Account. Mrs. Mary Yeager asked if all the accounts can stay the same until the audit is complete.

d. Police Comp Time Account - Will revisit combining this account and the Police Sick Time Account, after the audit is complete.

e. Employee Handbook - Resolution 2025-07 - A motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey to accept the Employee Handbook as is. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried. Roll call vote: Mrs. Mary Yeager-Yes, Mr. Andy Pinskey -Yes, Mrs. Mary Robson-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes. The vote is unanimous in favor, motion carried.

3. Public Services

a. Garbage Contract – Only one bid was received, it was from Noble Environmental. Motion was made to put out the Garbage Contract for re-bid with using new language in the contract and advertise by Mrs. Mary Robson. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Yeager, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

4. Protection

a. Civil Service Commission

i. Mickey Thomas - Mr. Mickey Thomas sent in his letter of resignation from the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Matt Chronowski made the motion to accept his resignation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Pinskey, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

ii. Shakyra Riley - Mrs. Shakyra Riley submitted a letter of interest for the Civil Service Commission. Mr. Matt Chronowski made a motion to accept her onto the Civil Service Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Pinskey, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

iii. Andy Pinskey - Council member Mr. Andy Pinskey submitted a letter of interest for the Civil Service Commission. According to Mr. Gary Falatovich, Borough Solicitor, there is no conflict of interest and Mr., Pinskey can vote. Only three votes would be needed to accept Mr. Pinskey's nomination. The motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to accept him onto the Civil Service Commission. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Robson, all in favor, no one opposed.

iv. Oaths of Office - Mayor Chuck King swore in Mrs. Shakyra Riley Mr. Andy Pinskey, and Mr. Jim Williams to the Civil Service Commission.

b. Westmoreland County Hazard Mitigation - Resolution 2025-08 – A motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey to adopt the Westmoreland County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Mary Yeager-Yes, Mr. Andy Pinskey-Yes, Mrs. Mary Robson-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes. The vote is unanimous in favor, motion carried.

c. LSA grant for Fire Department new Radios, \$100.00 application fee – A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to pay the \$100.00 application fee out of the Fire Department Capital Funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Pinskey, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

d. Vests – The Police Department is in desperate need of new vests. A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to pay for the \$7,223.00 for five vests out of the \$71,357.02 remaining Meter Fund Balance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Pinskey, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

e. E-Bikes - The Borough is having issues with kids riding E bikes through the Gazebo. Mr. Matt Chronowski is looking into adding E-Bikes to the Skateboard Ordinance. Nothing to vote on at this time.

f. Police Presence – Executive Session

g. Blight Update

i. Wellspring Church – Mr. Gary Falatovich had a meeting with the Westmoreland County Land Bank. There will be a walk through for an environmental assessment. Diamond Towers will be removing the towers from the building as soon as the new location is finished.

ii. 102 Mount Pleasant Road – A court order is being served to the owner of this property and file a Municipal Claim. The property will eventually be up for Sheriff's Sale.

iii. Sheetz – Mr. Andy Pinskey stated even though there is an agreement between North folk Southern and Carson's Tavern the property itself still needs addressed.

iv. Feed Mill – Is no longer in bankruptcy. There are interested buyers. Discussed further in Executive Session.

v. Fink Building – Will be further discussed in Executive Session.

5. Parks and Recreation

a. Ballfield Request - Mr. Floyd Shroyer, with Steel City Athletics, is requesting the use of the Loucks Park Ballfield for fall ball from October 1 - November 12, 2025. A motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinsky to accept this request. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Yeager, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

b. LSA Grant Application - The motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinsky to allow Mrs. Charity Colebank to apply for the LSA Grant. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

6. Jacobs Creel Watershed Association - Nothing to report.

7. Jacobs Creek Flood Control

a. Advertise for Bid - The motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinsky. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

8. MS4 Report – Nothing to report.

9. Community Development

a. MBE/WBE - Resolution 2025-09 - The motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinsky to accept this resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed. Roll call vote: Mrs. Mary Robson-Yes, Mr. Andy Pinsky-Yes, Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mrs. Mary Yeager-No.

b. Fair Housing - Resolution 2025-10 - The motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinsky to accept this Resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed. Roll call vote: Mr. Andy Pinsky-Yes, Mr. Matt Chronowski-yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mrs. Mary Robson-Yes. The vote is unanimous for yes, the motion carried.

c. Application Submission - Resolution 2025-11 - The motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinsky to accept this resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed. Roll call vote: Mr. Matt Chronowski-Yes, Mr. Mickey Siwula-Yes, Mrs. Mary Yeager-Yes, Mrs. Mary Robson, Mr. Andy Pinsky-Yes. The vote is unanimous for yes, motion carried.

10. New Business

a. Motions – In accordance with Borough Code, the Council President can make a motion during a meeting. The President would pass the gavel to the Vice-President during the motion that was made.

11. Correspondence

a. **Trinity United Methodist** - The Church is asking Councils permission to close the alley between the church and their parking lot for their Annual Pre-School Trunk or Treat on October 30 & 31 from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. The motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey to allow the alley closure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

b. **Chamber of Commerce** - Scottdale's Chamber of Commerce is asking Council's permission to hold their Annual Winter Lights Celebration on December 6 from 5-7 p.m. The motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey to allow this event. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

c. **Department of Transportation** - The motion was made to pay the difference of \$474.74 for the 2024-2025 Annual Fee by Mrs. Mary Robson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Andy Pinskey, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

12. Seminars

a. **Redevelopment Workshop** - There is a Redevelopment Workshop on October 17 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. that Mrs. Stacey Coffman is asking Council's permission to attend. Mr. Andy Pinskey stated he will be attending as well. A motion was made by Mr. Andy Pinskey to allow Mrs. Stacey Coffman to attend. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

J. Engineer's Report

a. **Pickle Ball Court Bid** - The motion was to put out for bid the Pickle Ball Court at Barclay Park made by Mr. Andy Pinskey. The motion was seconded by Mr. Matt Chronowski, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

b. **Utility Room Loucks Park** - The motion was to put out for bid the Utility Room at Loucks Park made by Mr. Andy Pinskey. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Yeager, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

K. Solicitor's Report – Mid Penn Bank agreement about the encroachment of Veteran's Memorial Park onto Mid Penn Bank's property. To Mr. Gary Falatovich it appears that the Veteran's Memorial Park There was no survey. Mr. Gary Falatovich doesn't know how to advise without a deed or survey. He will reach back out to Mid Penn Bank. Nothing that he has found to sign off on an agreement.

L. Mayor's Report - Nothing to report.

M. Public Comment Period No. Two (3 Minute Limit Per Person)

Jim Williams – Wanted to know if there were any reports for a Traffic Study for Wellspring Church. Blight, wants Westmoreland County Redevelopment Authority to come and see what they can offer. Latrobe has a map that uses data from various means such as: Police Department and Fire Department to work on areas that need improvement. Mr. Andy Pinsky discussed that the Borough could be its own landbank.

Lincoln Jamison – Discussion about the parking lot issue and code enforcement officers that were there at the time. Is there a citation at the courts for this issue or not? Mr. Steve Eby advised Mr. Lincoln Jamison to contact him by phone not email and not by texting.

Michael Remington – Discussed numerous questions concerning: Public Speaking at Borough Council Meetings. Three way stop sign by Everson Bridge, Garbage Contract, Fall Festival Committee, and Parade.

Sara McLain – She is still having a water problem. Asking for someone to please come and look at it. Understands may not be taken care of it until the Spring.

Stephanie Schropp - With the resignation of the Code Enforcement Officer, what will the Borough do? Mr. Steve Eby suggested to call Merle Musick.

Mr. Andy Pinsky on behalf of a resident – Discussed something needs to be done about signs being posted on the telephone poles.

N. Executive Session

After a ten-minute break, the Executive Session was entered into at 10:10 p.m. and ended at 11:03 p.m.

Meeting Resumed at 11:05 p.m.

O. Fink Building

Motion to board up the Fink Building, not to exceed \$1,000.00 and pending approval of attorneys and getting a code enforcement officer, made by Mary Robson. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Yeager, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

P. Temporary Code Enforcement Officer

Motion was made to use BIU for a Temporary Code Enforcement Officer for the Fink Building by Mrs. Mary Robson. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Yeager, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried.

Q. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Matt Chronowski to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Mary Yeager, all in favor, no one opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:11 p.m.