

BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 11, 2026 6:00 P.M.

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A meeting of the Punxsutawney Borough Council was convened on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. in Borough Council Chambers, Civic Center, 301 East Mahoning Street, Punxsutawney, PA, with Council President Jessica Smith presiding.

The following council members were in attendance: Jen Blose, David Burkett, Joe Ferrara, Josh McAfoos, Sharon Murray, Jessica Smith, and Eric Story.

Others present included Borough Manager Dr. William Spencer, Police Chief Matt Conrad, Fire Chief Chris Smith, Borough Treasurer Andy Markle, Recording Secretary Jessica Yoder, Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito, Mayor William Clement, and media representatives Larry McGuire of The Punxsutawney Spirit.

INVOCATION:

Mayor William Clement gave the invocation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Borough Council President Smith stated there was an executive session prior to tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES—REGULAR MEETING JULY 14, 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Ferrara and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the Borough Council minutes for the July 14, 2026 regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT—JULY 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the Borough Treasurer report for July 2026.

PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

Aspen Nursing and Rehab Center

Borough Council President Smith read a letter from Aspen Nursing and Rehab Center asking for approval to close Mulberry Alley in front of their building on September 13, 2026 for their annual "Classic Car Cruise In" from 1pm-4pm.

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the Aspen Nursing and Rehab Center to close Mulberry Alley in front of their building on September 13, 2026 for their annual "Classic Car Cruise In" from 1pm-4pm. They are to contact Borough Police Chief Conrad for assistance on closing the alley.

SPLASH

Denise Geist, 342 Anita Oliveburg Rd, 814-952-6302 representing SPLASH.

Denise Giest came before council with a few fundraising updates. We have less than a week remaining in the pool season. The season continued and built on some of the events we had last year. We continued our movie nights. The weather started out beautiful in the season. These movie nights where we were averaging around 80 swimmers. Unfortunately, the weather hasn't been ideal and it's kind of dropped. We did have 31 last night, even though it was cloudy. We continued with our \$2 Tuesdays, which again have been successful, as well as our themed fun days. Our season will conclude on Sunday, August 16th, which will be our annual dog swim to close off the season. On Saturday, August 15th, we're planning a free day to celebrate and say goodbye to the

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PETITIONS AND COMMENTS CONTINUED:

old pool before the renovation begins. As for fundraising, on behalf of SPLASH, we'd like to present the borough with a \$25,000 check to aid in the costs associated with the 2026 season. And for those who don't know, SPLASH fundraises all year round to help keep the pools open year after year. Our next fundraiser is our annual golf tournament on Saturday, August 22nd. We're still accepting more teams, so if you're a golfer, we'd love to see you on course. Finally, we'd like to thank the community for not only the generosity when it comes to fundraising, but also continuing to show up year after year, showing the importance of having a community pool. Thank you.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Katie Laska, 405 N Main St, 814-590-6868 representing the Chamber of Commerce.

Katie came before council requesting dates for the 2027 Festival in the Park which will be from setting up starting June 29th through July 10, 2027; 2026 Blues, Brews, and BBQ on September 25-26, 2026; and Groundhog Days in the Park Friday, January 29 through February 2, 2027.

Also, we would like to have the open container law relaxed for all three of the events.

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the 2027 Festival in the Park dates from June 29th through July 10, 2027.

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the 2026 Blues, Brews, and BBQ on September 25-26, 2026.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved Groundhog Days in the Park Friday, January 29 through February 2, 2027.

Katie also asked if the PPP grant was still in affect or if it was stopped due to business' coming into the chamber asking about it. Councilman Burkett stated it was paused for now.

ENGINEER REPORT

No Report

LEGAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF GENERAL & SEWER SYSTEM FUND EXPENDITURES—JUNE 2026

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos, and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the payment of bills (including payroll) from the General Fund for the month of June 2026 in the amount of \$322,077.73 and the payment of bills from the Sewer System Fund for the month of June 2026 in the amount of \$172,548.96.

APPROVAL OF GENERAL & SEWER SYSTEM FUND EXPENDITURES—JULY 2026

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos, and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the payment of bills (including payroll) from the General Fund for the month of July 2026 in the amount of \$272,942.47 and the payment of bills from the Sewer System Fund for the month of July 2026 in the amount of \$113,411.87.

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LEGAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CONTINUED:

APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT – JULY 2026

GENERAL FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$147,467.44</u>
SEWER SYSTEM FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$69,339.22</u>
(Includes Stipend for Borough Treasurer)	
RECREATION FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$17,023.89</u>
GROUNDHOG LANES FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$3,764.45</u>
SOLAR BOND FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$50.00</u>
ECONOMIC LOAN FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$50.00</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL FOR JULY 2026	<u>\$237,695.00</u>

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the transfer of funds to the Payroll Account Fund for July 2026.

At this time Fire Chief Chris Smith left for a fire call.

PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT—JULY 2026

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Story, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Chief of Police for July 2026.

APPROVAL OF HONORABLE DISCHARGE

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Burkett, Borough Council unanimously approved Honorable Discharge for Badge #29.

APPROVAL OF THE MAGISTRATE’S REPORT—JULY 2026

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Burkett, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Magistrate for July 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT—JULY 2026

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilman Story, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Fire Chief for July 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S REPORT—JULY 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Code Enforcement Officer for July 2026.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE:

APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT—JULY 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Public Works Department for July 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT REPORT—JULY 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved to report of the Sewer Department for JULY 2026.

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PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE CONTINUED:

APPROVAL OF THE SEWER VACTOR CREW REPORT—JULY 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Ferrara and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Sewer Vactor Crew July 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE SEWER VACTOR CREW REPORT—JUNE 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Sewer Vactor Crew June 2026.

POLICE PENSION REPORT—JUNE 2026

There was no report for July 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE LIBRARY REPORT—JULY 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the library report for July 2026.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Nick Ginaivto stated that he had a request to vacate an alley between 100 and 200 Virginia Avenue. I need a motion to draft an ordinance and place an ad in the newspaper.

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the request to vacate an alley between 100 and 200 Virginia Avenue.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Borough Council President Smith stated that she just wanted to say a huge congratulations to the police for all they did.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Clement stated he was asked by the Loins Club to hold their White Cane fundraiser on September 12, 2026 in downtown Punxsutawney. The motorcycle ride did not go really well. It was hampered by the weather. But we will try again next year. On Thursday, August 6, 2026 I gave a proclamation to Senator Joe Pittman naming August 6th as Senator Joe Pittman Day.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

No Report due to being on fire call

OLD BUSINESS

No Report

NEW BUSINESS

Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated he and Borough Treasurer Andy Markle had completed their 76 hours of training to become PSAB Certified Borough Officials. We are the first two from Punxsutawney Borough to ever complete this program.

We have Concluded the Four Town Hall meetings for Codification. We can push back the date if council needs more time. I can get Indiana and Brookville Borough's code books since they both just went through the codification if that would help.

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NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Starting October 1st, we have a pretty substantial delinquency of back sewer bills. We are going to give people this reminder that if you get your sewer bills paid off, if you're three months or longer delinquent, after October 1st, we're going to start the process of working with the water company to shut the systems off. If you've got anything, put that out there. It's on your bill. You should see it. If you know you're delinquent, please reach out to the sewer office to make arrangements to get your bills caught up there.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

Upon motion by Councilman Ferrara and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved to remove employee 19412 from probation to full-time.

Upon motion by Councilman Stroy and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved to extend probation for 30-days for employees 19413 and 19414 so they have additional time to complete their CDL training. If not, they will be terminated afterwards.

Upon motion by Councilman Murray and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved to advertise for the sewer vacor position.

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved to accept the paving bid of \$228,539.15 from Quaker Sales Corp. Councilman Ferrara asked if there were any other bids and if they could be read aloud. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated one was for \$425,214.40 and the other was for \$349,950.00

CDBG grant award for the Community Center Roof Project was rescoped and we got one bid back for \$104,000 so, what we'll have to do is carry some FY26 money over to cover the difference.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the contract with EADs for DCED MTF grant of streetscape project with the agreement with up to a maximum of \$58,000 for oversight.

ADJOURNMENT

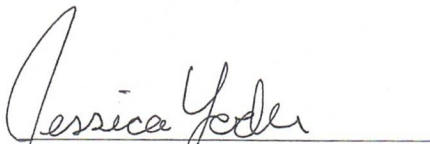
There being no further business to come before Borough Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. upon motion by Councilman McAfoos, seconded by Councilwoman Blose.



Dr. William Spencer
Borough Manager



Jessica Smith
Council President



Jessica Yoder
Recording Secretary