

BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 26, 2026 6:00 P.M.

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A meeting of the Punxsutawney Borough Council was convened on Tuesday, MAY 26, 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, Eric Story.

Others present included Borough Manager Dr. William Spencer, Police Chief Matt Conrad, Fire Chief Chris Smith, Recording Secretary Jessica Yoder, Solicitor Nicholas Gianvito, and media representatives Larry McGuire of The Punxsutawney Spirit and Brianne Flemming from the Courier Express. Mayor William Clement was absent.

INVOCATION:

Former Mayor Richard Alexander gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES—REGULAR MEETING APRIL 28, 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council unanimously approved the Borough Council minutes for the April 28, 2026, regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT—APRIL 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Ferrara and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the Borough Treasurer report for APRIL 2026.

PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

None

ENGINEER REPORT

DINSMORE AVE. PROJECT

Zac Sansom from EADs gave an update on the Dinsmore Ave. project stating that all of the sanitary sewer lines are completed. Peoples Gas had decided to replace some of their gas lines on Dinsmore Ave. as well. Curbing along both sides of Dinsmore Ave. should be completed this week.

Terra Works' submitted the pay application number 2 in the amount of \$293,823.90.

Upon motion by Councilman Story, and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the Terra Works' Pay Application Number 2 in the amount of \$293,823.90.

DCED MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT

Zac also stated that DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant is now open and Dr. Spencer has been working on that grant application. The application is for streetscape from Gilpin St. to Front St. along West and East Mahoning Streets.

RACP GRANT

Update on the RACP Grant for Harmon Field and the community swimming pool; still waiting approval from the state which could be another 6-8 weeks per Chad Horner.

ENGINEER REPORT CONTINUED:

EAST END PLAYGROUND TENNIS COURTS

Pave Works submitted two quotes for the repairs of the East End Playground Tennis Courts. Council President Smith stated that they would discuss this later in the meeting.

INDIANA STREET RESTAURANT SEWER LINE

The Borough, the owner of the restaurant, and EADs agreed on an option which would reroute the sewer line from Alder St. to the manhole currently located in the garage by the levee all.

LEGAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF GENERAL & SEWER SYSTEM FUND EXPENDITURES—APRIL 2026

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos, and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the payment of bills (including payroll) from the General Fund for the month of April 2026 in the amount of \$183,442.13 and the payment of bills from the Sewer System Fund for the month of April 2026 in the amount of \$200,424.55.

APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT – APRIL 2026

GENERAL FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$93,103.44</u>
SEWER SYSTEM FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$45,932.03</u>
(Includes Stipend for Borough Treasurer)	
GROUNDHOG LANES FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$4,623.58</u>
SOLAR BOND FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$50.00</u>
ECONOMIC LOAN FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$50.00</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL FOR APRIL 2026	<u>\$143,759.05</u>

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

PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT—APRIL 2026

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

APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH CIVIL SERVICE LIST

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved to establish a new civil service list due to one of the candidates that was voted on at the last meeting declining employment with the borough.

LIONS CLUB

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the Lions Club to close Torrance St. between N. Jefferson St. and N. Penn St. on Sunday, June 28, 2026 for the annual car show.

APPROVAL OF THE MAGISTRATE'S REPORT—APRIL 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Magistrate for April 2026.

PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE CONTINUED:

APPROVAL OF THE MAGISTRATE'S REPORT—APRIL 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Magistrate for April 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT—APRIL 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Fire Chief for APRIL 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT—APRIL 2026

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

CALL LOG

Upon motion by Councilman Ferrara and seconded by Councilman Burkett, Borough Council unanimously approved for the Code Enforcement Officer to start a call log for complaints for code violations.

APPROVAL OF THE WORKPLACE SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING—APRIL 2026

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Workplace Safety Committee report for APRIL 2026.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE:

APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT—APRIL 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Public Works Department.

APPROVAL OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT REPORT—APRIL 20226

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

APPROVAL OF THE SEWER VACTOR CREW REPORT—APRIL 2026

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

POLICE PENSION REPORT—APRIL 2026

There was no report for APRIL 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE LIBRARY REPORT—APRIL 2026

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Burkett, Borough Council unanimously approved the library report for APRIL 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE LIBRARY REPORT—ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the library annual report for 2025.

LIBRARY REPORT CONTINUED:

ELECTRICAL UPGRADES

Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated that the library was going to having electrical upgrades done to install light switches.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the memorandum of agreement between the Borough of Punxsutawney and SPLASH.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

APPROVAL FOR A PPP GRANT

Borough Council President asked for a roll call vote for the approval of the PPP Grant for Violet Mist Perfumery.

Upon motion by Councilman Ferrara and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council approved the PPP Grant for Violet Mist Perfumery. Councilman Burkett voted no.

Motion passed as presented 6-1 with Councilman Burkett voting against it.

APPROVAL TO PAUSE THE PPG GRANT

Upon motion by Councilman Burkett and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council approved to pause the PPP Grant program until a new program can be written with stipulations for repayment.

MAYOR'S REPORT—APRIL 2026

No Report

FIRE CHIEF REPORT—APRIL 2026

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Story asked if Young and Bell Townships had the sewer meters in place yet like they were supposed to? Solicitor Gianvito stated they have not and stated he would check with Kyle from EADs to see what is going on. Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated Young and Bell Townships have been paying the sewer rates that they were given.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Ferrara stated with summer coming, what would Council think of pausing the second meeting of the month with travel plans, ballgames, family activities until we get back into school and more normal activity, more normal schedule? I mean, for years...

Council President Smith stated I'm not fanatic, but I think we have too many things going on, and it's 30 days in between, and we're tabling, and it's like months and months and months, and ...

Councilman Ferrara stated well, for years, you know, this Borough had one meeting a month.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

Council President Smith stated right, and we found that that was not working for us. So, we changed it. We have to change this time.

Councilman McAfoos stated I kind of agree with Joe, but then again, I agree with Jess too. But I know we spent a lot of money on TVs and digital stuff.

Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated that Councilman Burkett gave him a list of equipment that we will need for the streaming and recording services.

Councilman Burkett stated but they'll at least be able to see the live stream and interact. And we can see them on here.

Councilman Ferrara asked how would that alleviate the need for a second meeting, though?

Borough President Smith asked All right why did you run for council if you can't commit to time?

Councilman Ferrara stated well, when I ran for council, there wasn't two meetings.

Council President Smith stated so now you don't have the time to be a council member?

Councilman Ferrara stated well, I mean, other people have lives, too. I mean, you know, you travel. You've got kids' activities, you know.

Council President Smith stated I don't think summer is a reason to pause it, but hey.

Councilman McAfoos stated it's a commitment you make when you sign up to do this. It's a commitment you make. I get kind of what Joe's saying as far as, like, two meetings and stuff. It wasn't like that when he signed up. I get that. But these are the requirements that, as a board, we set to hold a standard for this community, and you've got to do it. It's just the way it is. I think if we can get this – if David and Spence can work on this Zoom thing and we can utilize the equipment we have, I think that's the route we take. I mean, it's not a big issue for a couple of you to miss a meeting here and there. As long as you've got the meeting minutes, you know, you call Jess, you call Spence, and say, hey, you know what, I have an issue with this topic right here, and I know Joe had some issues as far as calling in. I don't know if there's a quick fix as far as us enhancing that. So, if he is at the beach or something, you know, he says, you know what, in the mayor's report, you know, we really need to address this. And, you know, he's able to call in and he can actually understand. Is there something we can do there to enhance? Maybe just some kind of speaker in here.

Councilman Ferrara stated that the only thing I'll say is more government is not necessarily the better government.

Council President Smith stated that my last word is unfortunate that you run for council. I can't commit two hours a month to meeting time.

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BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

APPROVAL TO REMOVE FROM PROBATION

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved to remove Mark Koromaus from probation.

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council unanimously approved to remove Andy Markle from probation.

POOL EMPLOYEES

Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved to hire the potential new pool employees pending passing lifeguard certification and obtaining clearances.

CARPET IN THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

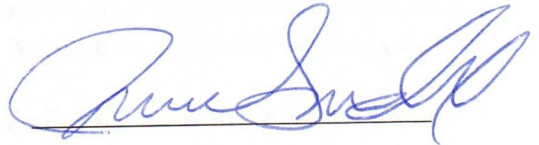
Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilwoman McAfoos, Borough Council unanimously approved to replace the carpet in the administration office for an amount of \$8112.46

ADJOURNMENT

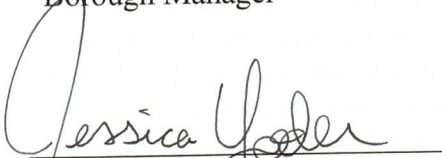
There being no further business to come before Borough Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. upon motion by Councilman McAfoos, seconded by Councilwoman Blose.



Dr. William Spencer
Borough Manager



Jessica Smith
Council President



Jessica Yoder
Recording Secretary