

BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 9, 2026 6:00 P.M.

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A meeting of the Punxsutawney Borough Council was convened on Tuesday, June 9, 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, Joe Ferrara, Sharon Murray, Jessica Smith. David Burkett, Josh McAfoos, and Eric Story were absent.

Others present included Borough Manager Dr. William Spencer, Police Chief Matt Conrad, Fire Chief Chris Smith, 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.

APPROVAL OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES—REGULAR MEETING MAY 26, 2026
Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the Borough Council minutes for the May 26, 2026, regular meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT—MAY 2026

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

PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

PUNXSUTAWNEY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Council President Smith read a letter from the Punxsutawney Airport Authority recommending Kevin Hughes to serve a three-year term replacing Joe Helman, who recently resigned.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray, and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved Kevin Hughes to serve a three-year term replacing Joe Helman, who recently resigned.

KATIE LASKA

Katie Laska, 405 N. Main St., 814-590-6868. Stated she passed out a packet of pictures, I have received notices, but I did not obtain a permit for re-roofing at my business, and then was reported to PennSafe, where I received a letter stating I would be fined about \$1,000 if a permit was not obtained and their inspection was not made, in which I would pay another fee. I know the borough opted in to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code on July 8, 2004, and PennSafe is contracted as the building inspecting service. However, it is my understanding, after my research, that statewide UCC and re-roofing exemptions under 34 PA Code 403.62 UCC does not require a permit for ordinary repairs, which includes non-structural re-roofing, provided it doesn't involve load-bearing changes. Residential re-roofing is considered maintenance and doesn't require a permit, as long as no structural work is done. If structural components are replaced or altered, a permit is necessary. Even though Punxsutawney Borough opted in to UCC, UCC does not require it for simply replacing the roofing shingles. Re-roofing is maintenance. I have been to many council meetings when Councilman Eric Story has asked, why are we harassing people who are maintaining their properties, and the answer was never given. You have in front of you pictures I handed out of deplorable properties for years of non-maintenance, and there are hundreds more

PETITIONS AND COMMENTS CONTINUED:

properties just like it down the borough streets. We have had 50 years of enforcing codes and ordinances to homeowners and business owners who are maintaining their properties in a pristine manner. We have had codes and ordinances not permitting businesses to expand or new businesses to open. But what we have not have is codes and ordinances enforced to property owners and landlords who allow their properties to deteriorate to the position of the pictures you have in front of you. This is a disgrace to our community to drive down the streets and see properties like this. I am asking this council to take control of the Code Enforcement Office and force these landlords and property owners to clean up this mess. We can write all the new codes we want, but if we only enforce and harass the property owners and business owners who maintain their properties, nothing will change. Thank you.

Solicitor Nick Genavito asked Katie, what was that P&A code section 34? Katie answered 34, P&A code 403.62.

Kevin Slater

Kevin Slater 326 Horatio St., 814-249-3340 came before borough council with complaints about not getting a permit for a shed that was prebuilt on skids. He has gotten two letters about not getting a permit. He stated he spoke with councilman Eric Story about it and was informed to come to a borough meeting and bring it up to council about getting the letters for a prebuilt shed that is on skids and needing a permit to have it placed.

ENGINEER REPORTDINSMORE 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. It should take about 8 weeks and should be completed around August 1, 2026. We will probably just have to potentially issue a change in order extend TerraWorks contact time.

DCED MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT

Zac also stated that the borough received an MTF grant in the amount of \$823,178.00 for a streetscape project on Mahoning Street. Borough manager Dr. Spencer stated that he received a letter from PennDOT about doing some surveying in the borough from Gilpin Street to Findley Street between Union Street and W. Mahoning Street for the IUP building project.

RACP GRANT

There is no update on the RACP Grant.

MISCELLANEOUS

A revised parking lot design for the civic center was provided on June 4, 2026. Also, there was a site meeting with the Grahams to discuss the repairs and upgrades to East End Playground tennis courts.

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LEGAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF GENERAL & SEWER SYSTEM FUND EXPENDITURES—MAY 2026

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose, and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved the payment of bills (including payroll) from the General Fund for the month of May 2026 in the amount of \$233,094.41 and the payment of bills from the Sewer System Fund for the month of May 2026 in the amount of \$131,607.57.

APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT – MAY 2026

GENERAL FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$98,458.83</u>
SEWER SYSTEM FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$45,777.27</u>
<u>(Includes Stipend for Borough Treasurer)</u>	
GROUNDHOG LANES FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$2,829.93</u>
SOLAR BOND FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$50.00</u>
ECONOMIC LOAN FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	<u>\$50.00</u>
TOTAL PAYROLL FOR MAY 2026	<u>\$147,166.03</u>

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

PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT—MAY 2026

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Chief of Police for May 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE MAGISTRATE'S REPORT—MAY 2026

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Magistrate for May 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT—MAY 2026

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

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

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

WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE:

APPROVAL OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT REPORT—MAY 20226

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

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POLICE PENSION REPORT—MAY 2026

There was no report for MAY 2026.

APPROVAL OF THE LIBRARY REPORT—MAY 2026

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

Council President Smith stated the library will be closed on July 13, 14, and 15th due to employee training on the new ILS system.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT—MAY 2026

No Report

FIRE CHIEF REPORT—MAY 2026

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Ferrara stated once again he thinks the second meeting should be canceled for the summer and tonight is a perfect example of it. I make a motion for the second meeting to be canceled. There was not a second vote so the meeting will still be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Borough Manager stated that he received the call log from the Code office and there were only two complaints on it and both were different address'.

NEW BUSINESS

NOTICE of INTENT to NEGOTIATE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Upon motion by Councilman Ferrara and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved to accept the notice of intent to negotiate the collective bargaining agreement.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

PARKING METERS

Upon motion by Councilman Ferrara and seconded by Councilwoman Murrau, Borough Council unanimously approved to advertise a bid to sale the old parking meters for a starting bid of \$5,000.00 for all of the parking meters.

Police Chief Conrad stated that he would like to make Lot 1 a permit parking lot only for the businesses in that area. The businesses would rent the parking spots for their customers to park in. Solicitor Gianvito stated he will have to review the ordinance and see if he would need to make a resolution to update it at the next meeting.

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BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT CONTINUED:

FORD TAURUS

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose and seconded by Councilman Ferrara, Borough Council unanimously approved to selling the Ford Taurus to Big Run Borough for \$750.00 and if they chose not to buy it then the Punxsutawney Borough will scrap it.

E360 CODE UPDATE/TIMELINE

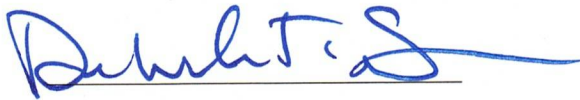
Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated that he had a meeting with E360 and all of council will get an email on how to log-in to review the codes. I would like council members to take sections and review it and make notations on what you would like changed which you can do in the comment section of the code program. Then we will have a townhall meeting to review with the public for their input on what they would like changed with the codes. This all has to be completed by September 23, 2026.

COMMUNITY CENTER

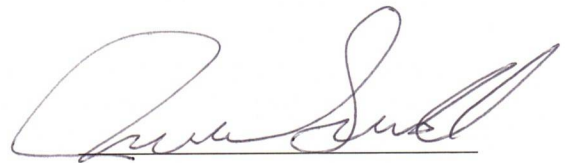
Borough Manager Dr. Spencer stated that last week one day the Community Center had a water line that broke on the third floor towards the back to the building; near the far side of the gym which may have damaged the basketball floor. A claim was filed through PennPrime. ServePro is there now working on getting the water restoration started.

ADJOURNMENT

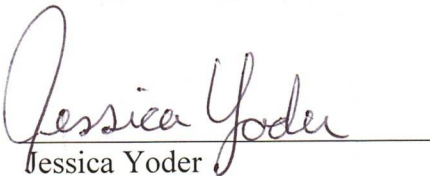
There being no further business to come before Borough Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m. upon motion by Councilman Ferrara, seconded by Councilwoman Blose.



Dr. William Spencer
Borough Manager



Jessica Smith
Council President



Jessica Yoder
Recording Secretary