A meeting of the Punxsutawney Borough Council was convened on Tuesday, October 13, 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, Josh McAfoos, Sharon Murray, Jessica Smith, and Eric Story. David Burkett and Joe Ferrara were absent.

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

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Borough Council President Smith stated there has not been an executive session since last meeting

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APPROVAL OF BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES—REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the Borough Council minutes for the September 22, 2026 regular meeting.

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APPROVAL OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

Punxsutawney Fire Department

Council President Smith read a letter from the Punxsutawney Fire Department requesting permission from council to utilize Union Street in the borough as well as Barley Square for the annual Halloween Parade and Trick-or-Treat event on October 31, 2026, from approximately 18:00 to 22:00 hours. Police Chief Conrad stated everything is approved by him for the parade and extra patrol officers are assigned to work that evening.

Upon motion by Councilman Story, and seconded by Councilman McAfoos, Borough Council unanimously approved the Halloween Parade and Trick-or-Treat event on October 31, 2026 from 16:00 to 22:00 hours.

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Katie Laska-405 N Main St-814-590-6868, came before borough council asking if an ordinance could be approved on banning the sale of KRATON in the borough. Solicitor Gianvito stated he will look into what can be done. Also, were their letters sent to the property owners about creaked windows that was discussed at the code meeting? Council President Smith stated she does not have an answer to whether or not they were sent.

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ENGINEER REPORT

No Report

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LEGAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF GENERAL & SEWER SYSTEM FUND EXPENDITURES—SEPTEMBER 2026

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose, and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the payment of bills (including payroll) from the General Fund for the month of September 2026 in the amount of $415,840.29 and the payment of bills from the Sewer System Fund for the month of September 2026 in the amount of $145,281.93.

APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT – SEPTEMBER 2026

GENERAL FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	$94,269.50
SEWER SYSTEM FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT (Includes Stipend for Borough Treasurer)	$45,048.44
RECREATION FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT (Includes one pay for Groundhog Lanes Payroll)	$1,280.80
GROUNDHOG LANES FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	$1,166.18
SOLAR BOND FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	$50.00
ECONOMIC LOAN FUND TO PAYROLL ACCOUNT	$50.00
TOTAL PAYROLL FOR AUGUST 2026	$141,864.92

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

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PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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APPROVAL OF MOU'S

Police Chief Conrad stated that he needed approval of the teamsters MOU addresses it as a lieutenant-Wittenburg and detective for Sergeant Miller, where they would each bump up a classification in my absence. That would be $2.50 per hour. And we discussed that in a prior executive session. The differential of the pay shall retroactively day one of the absence. Once the extended threshold is met, it shall cease immediately upon return to chief of police. And you have to wait on for more than 20 days.

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilman Story, Borough Council unanimously approved the MOU for Teamsters.

Police Chief Conrad stated that he needed approval for Chief Clerk Bosak as she will be taking on additional responsibilities in my absence and that would be $1.00 per hour increase.

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the MOU for AFSCME.

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PUBLIC SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE CONTINUED:

APPROVAL OF THE MAGISTRATE'S REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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APPROVAL OF THE FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2026

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

Upon motion by Councilman Stroy and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved the addition to Lindsey Fire Departments active list of Brandon Pickerel, Conner Graham, and Joseph Smay.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Blose and seconded by Councilman Story, Borough Council unanimously approved the addition to Elk Run Fire Departments active list of Tim Black, Peyton McAninch, Mike Sonner, Amy LaMorte.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Murray and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved Elk Run Fire Department inactive list to include Arnie Fairbanks.

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

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council approved the report of the Code Enforcement Officer for September 2026. Councilman Story opposed due to report not being more detailed on where code violations and what permits are for.

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APPROVAL OF THE WORKPLACE SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES-AUGUST 2026

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

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE:

APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2026

Upon motion by Councilman Stroy and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the report of the Public Works Department for September 2026.

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APPROVAL OF THE SEWER DEPARTMENT REPORT—SEPTEMBER 20226

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

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APPROVAL OF THE SEWER VACTOR CREW REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2026

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

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POLICE PENSION REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2026

There was no report for September 2026.

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APPROVAL OF THE LIBRARY REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2026

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

Council President also mentioned that the library will be closed on October 22, 2026 for state-mandated Power Library training.

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SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Report

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Clement stated he swore in two of Lindsey Fire Departments new members.

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FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Fire Chief Smith stated that since the work started in the sally port, they have been having a breaker trip in the fire hall. I did have the borough electrician come in and look at it and he feels that it's the line coming into the firehall. I am not saying anything happened when the digging started but that's when the issues come to rise. I would like this fixed before the new concrete is poured.

Fire Chief Smith stated that he would need a check for $400,000 for the new engine and will stop in and see the borough treasurer within the next month.

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OLD BUSINESS

No Report

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NEW BUSINESS

Borough Council President Smith congratulated Jessica Yoder on obtaining her Certified Borough Official certification.

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BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

Upon motion by Councilman McAfoos and seconded by Councilwoman Blose, Borough Council unanimously approved the CDBG FY 2026 resolution .

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Upon motion by Councilman Story and seconded by Councilwoman Murray, Borough Council unanimously approved for Solicitor Gianvito to draft a lease agreement with Elk Run Fire Department to lease ground from the Borough on Carter Ave. to build a training facility using storage containers.

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Councilman McAfoos stated So ,as most of you guys know in the room, this will be the last meeting with Police Chief Conrad for a while. So, I just want to say thank you, because you have no idea what Matt puts into this place. I can tell you all I've been sitting here for about seven years now, and I don't know how we're going to manage without him. So, Godspeed, Matt. Good luck.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Dr. William Spencer
Borough Manager

Jessica Smith
Council President

Jessica Yoder
Recording Secretary