

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
April 22, 2026
7 P.M.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were Ms. Johnson, Ms. Ireland Mr. Noble, Mr. Trotter, Mr. McCandless, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel and Mayor Johnson. Also in attendance was Borough Manager Amy Burkhart, Mrs. Alysia Romulus, in acknowledgment of Police Chief Ed Bachert attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – President McCandless called the meeting to order and asked everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

MINUTES –

Council reviewed the minutes of the April 6, 2026 meeting. Mr. Blatt noted an error in the date for the Police Drug Give Back Program, which should be corrected from Saturday, April 26, 2026 to Saturday, April 25, 2026. It was further noted that Mr. Trotter was not recorded as present and should be reflected accordingly. There were no further changes. There was a motion to approve the amended Minutes of April 06, 2026 – The motion was passed.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Joanna Ireland		X	X			
Jamie Johnson			X			
Mark Noble			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel	X		X			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED – Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS –

- **1401 Broadway Request for Feedback** - Borough Manager Burkhart introduced new business regarding the property at 1401 Broadway, noting that the former Via Building had previously appeared before the Zoning Hearing Board prior to the current meeting. She explained that the owners are in the process of renovations, including the addition of three apartments to the upper floor, increasing the total number of units from three to six. The owners have since indicated a desire to revise their plans by converting the first floor from commercial use to residential use. Borough Manager Burkhart advised that such a change would require variances from the Zoning Hearing Board. She further stated that the owners are proposing to designate the building as an age-restricted apartment complex for tenants aged 62 and older. While the owners are seeking feedback from Council prior to proceeding to the Zoning Hearing Board, Borough Manager Burkhart emphasized that the Zoning Hearing Board operates as an independent entity with final authority on such matters, and that Council should remain mindful of maintaining a

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unified approach. Borough Manager Burkhart also noted that there is currently insufficient information for Council to make an informed decision or provide substantive input. She recommended that the Borough Engineer and Zoning Office conduct a thorough review and present a report for Council's consideration at the next meeting, following coordination with Zoning Officer Hogan. Mr. Blatt inquired about the number of parking spaces required for compliance under the proposed plans. Borough Manager Burkhart responded that this information would be addressed in the forthcoming review. Mr. Blatt further questioned the number of units, noting three apartments on the upper level and inquiring about the lower level. Ms. Johnson clarified that approval exists for six total units, with three currently on the upper level. Councilmember Johnson and President McCandless discussed the proposed conversion of the lower level to residential use. Mr. Blatt asked how many units were being proposed for the lower level, to which Councilmember Johnson indicated her understanding that approximately ten units were being considered. President McCandless, in agreement with Borough Manager Burkhart, stated that the proposal raises several questions and that Council should await the Engineer and Zoning Office report before further discussion. Borough Manager Burkhart reiterated her recommendation that Council acknowledge receipt of the proposal and defer detailed consideration until the review is completed, at which time the property owners may be invited to present at a future meeting. Prior to moving on, Mr. Trabel sought clarification regarding the plans, initially interpreting them as eliminating the first floor. Council members clarified that the proposal involves converting the first floor from commercial to residential use, not eliminating it.

- **Summer Payrates Guide** – Borough Manager Burkhart proceeded to the next item under new business regarding the hiring process for summer staff. She presented the current pay rate structure as follows:

Position	First Year Payrate	Second Year Payrate	Third Year Payrate
Lifeguard	\$18.00	\$18.25	\$18.50
Recreation Assistant	\$15.00	\$15.25	\$15.50
Cashier	\$12.00	\$12.25	\$12.50

She noted that first-year pay rates have remained consistent over the past three years and that returning employees historically receive an increase of \$0.25 per year. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that a motion was requested to approve the pay rates for the 2026 summer staff.

- **Summer Staff** - Borough Manager Burkhart continued discussion on summer staff, noting several related items for Council's consideration. She advised that general staff hiring is underway and that this matter will appear frequently over the next two months as the Borough proceeds through the first round of hiring. Borough Manager Burkhart further noted that there may be instances of positions or pay rates outside the standard structure, which would be addressed through separate motions. She cited examples such

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as Assistant Manager and Head Lifeguard positions, which are not included in the standard listing and would require individual approval. Borough Manager Burkhart referenced a separate motion on the agenda to hire returning third-year employee Ethan Ferris as Assistant Manager at a rate of \$22.50 per hour. She also explained that the motion presented would allow for consideration of staff members who are qualified to perform multiple roles, with compensation corresponding to the position worked. For example, a cashier earning \$12.00 per hour may work as a Recreation Assistant at \$15.00 per hour if qualified. A list of proposed Lifeguards, Recreation Assistants, and Cashiers was presented with the motion. There were no questions from Council on this matter. Borough Manager Burkhart reported that the Recreation Committee conducted a meeting and interview prior to the Council meeting for the Recreation Manager position. The candidate interviewed was Ms. Karleen Hemerley Fluck. Borough Manager Burkhart noted that a separate motion is included on the agenda to hire Ms. Fluck as Recreation Manager, contingent upon completion of background checks, drug screening, and all required documentation. There were no further questions on this matter.

- **Use of Park by Joy Center** – Borough Manager Burkhart presented an application submitted by the Joy Center for use of the park on Stanley Avenue. The request is for September 13, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with a rain date of September 20, 2026. The event is proposed as a church service and anniversary celebration, including the use of a bounce house and a tent secured to the ground. Borough Manager Burkhart noted that driving on the grass will not be permitted. She also reviewed the standard requirement that the Joy Center provide a certificate of insurance to the Borough. A motion was made to approve the request. There were no questions on this matter.
- **AmChar Wholesale Inc.** – Borough Manager Burkhart reported that the Police Department recently purchased new firearms and subsequently arranged to sell their older firearms to AmChar Wholesale, Inc., based in New York, Georgia. An initial agreement was reached for the sale amount of \$11,000. However, after the firearms were shipped, the vendor revised the offer to \$6,000. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that direction is needed from Council for the Solicitor on how to proceed. She noted that a memorandum was included in Council's packets, along with recommendations from the Police Committee. The following options were presented:
 - **Option 1:** Take legal action to demand the full amount
 - **Option 2:** Issues a formal demand – highly recommended by police committee
 - **Option 3:** Negotiate the price
 - **Option 4:** Ship the firearms back

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The Police Committee recommended proceeding with the Solicitor's guidance to issue a formal demand letter to AmChar Wholesale, Inc. for the originally agreed-upon amount of \$11,000. Borough Manager Burkhart noted that, depending on the vendor's response, further discussion and potential negotiation may follow. Ms. Ireland inquired whether there was a written agreement reflecting the \$11,000 sale price. Borough Manager Burkhart responded that while there is no formal contract, there are email communications documenting the agreed-upon amount. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that a motion is presented to approve proceeding with Option 2, issuing a formal demand letter. There were no further questions on this matter.

- **Axon Camera Purchase** – Borough Manager Burkhart concluded new business regarding the purchase of police department camera systems, including in-car and body-worn cameras, as recommended by the Police Committee. She noted that approximately \$68,765 is budgeted for in-car cameras; however, an opportunity exists to procure both in-car and body cameras at a higher cost while remaining within overall budget considerations. Two proposals were presented for Council review. The first, approximately \$89,000, includes body cameras with a single refresh cycle and an annual subscription cost of \$4,800, with body camera replacement every 2.5 years and in-car camera replacement every 5 years. The second proposal, totaling approximately \$103,000, includes 13 body cameras and 6 in-car cameras with scheduled refresh cycles every 2.5 and 5 years respectively, at an annual cost of \$8,900. Borough Manager Burkhart noted an initial upfront cost of approximately \$70,000, with ongoing subscription costs covering technology updates. The Police Committee recommended approval of the second proposal at \$103,000 to ensure the most current technology is utilized. Councilmember Johnson expressed support for the recommendation. There is a motion to approve this quote. There were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS – nothing on the agenda

MAYOR'S REPORT –

The Mayor began his report by thanking the community and volunteers for their support of the Little League Opening Day ceremony.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT – Nothing to report

RESOLUTIONS – None

ORDINANCES –

Ordinance No. 890 – Sewer Lateral Updates was noted as scheduled for adoption on May 4, 2025. President McCandless stated that the ordinance will be discussed at the May 4th meeting at 7:00 p.m. for general awareness.

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MOTIONS -

- A) Request Council fire Ethan Feris as an Assistant Manager at the Fountain Hill Poll at a rate of \$22.50/hour. The motion passed.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Joanna Ireland			X			
Jamie Johnson		X	X			
Mark Noble			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel	X		X			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

- B) Request Council approve the use of Stanley Avenue Park by the Joy Center of Fountain Hill on September 13th 8 A.M. to 3P.M. (Rain Date – September 20th same time). The motion passed.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Joanna Ireland			X			
Jamie Johnson	X		X			
Mark Noble			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel		X	X			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

- C) On recommendation of the Police Committee request Council direct the Borough Solicitor to initiate recommended proceedings against Am Chat Wholesale Inc. The motion passed.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Joanna Ireland	X		X			
Jamie Johnson			X			
Mark Noble			X			
Doug Trotter		X	X			
Philip Trabel			X			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

- D) On recommendation of the Police Committee request Council approve the purchase of Cameras from Axon Enterprise, Inc in the amount of \$102,889.60. The motion passed.

Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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Joanna Ireland		X			
Jamie Johnson		X			
Mark Noble	X	X			
Doug Trotter		X			
Philip Trabel		X			
Stew McCandless		X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.	X	X			
Mayor Johnson					

- E) Request Council approve the following payrates for 2026 Summer Employees as follows.
The motion passes:

Position	First Year Payrate	Second Year Payrate	Third Year Payrate
Lifeguard	\$18.00	\$18.25	\$18.50
Recreation Assistant	\$15.00	\$15.25	\$15.50
Cashier	\$12.00	\$12.25	\$12.50

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Joanna Ireland			X			
Jamie Johnson	X		X			
Mark Noble			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel		X	X			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

- F) Request Council approve the hiring of the following people for the summer of 2026 contingent on the satisfactory completion of required background checks, employment documentation, and drug screening. Council noted that there are still open Lifeguard positions. Councilmember Johnson stated that the Borough aims to operate the pool seven days per week but is currently able to staff six days. The motion passed.
- a. Aiden Walter – Lifeguard
 - b. Bethany Welliever – Lifeguard
 - c. Brady King – Lifeguard
 - d. Bryce King – Lifeguard
 - e. Gavin Monahan - Lifeguard
 - f. Ryan Monahan – Lifeguard
 - g. Garrett Longbons – Lifeguard
 - h. Issac Greaves – Lifeguard

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- i. Yareli Ramos – Lifeguard
- j. Merci Collich – Lifeguard
- k. Benjamin Brandt – Lifeguard/Recreation Assistant
- l. Kyle Brandt – Lifeguard/Recreation Assistant
- m. Lucia Dredge – Cashier
- n. Auriana Bobo – Cashier
- o. Emelina Rodriguez – Cashier
- p. Naeema Ali – Cashier
- q. Aliciana Rosa – Cashier/Recreation Assistant
- r. Zaira Stokes – Recreation Assistant
- s. Riley Brooks - Recreation Assistant
- t. Raegan Treskot - Recreation Assistant
- u. Aidan Smarch - Recreation Assistant
- v. Dominic Garcia - Recreation Assistant
- w. Benjamin Ireland - Recreation Assistant

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Joanna Ireland		X	X			
Jamie Johnson	X		X			
Mark Noble			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel			X			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

G) Request to Approve the hire of Karleen Fluck as the Recreation Manager for the summer of 2026 at the rate of \$25.00 per hour contingent on the satisfactory completion of required background checks, employment documentation, and drug screening. The motion passed.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Joanna Ireland			X			
Jamie Johnson	X		X			
Mark Noble			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel		X	X			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
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COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT –

- **Arbor Day Program** – Council President opened by reminding residents of the upcoming Arbor Day Program, scheduled for Friday April 24, 2026, at 1:00 PM in Stanley Avenue Park at the new Magnolia tree. All residents are welcome to attend.
- **Drug Take Back Program** – Council President also reminded residents of the upcoming National Drug Take Back Program, scheduled for the Borough Saturday, April 25th, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Police Station.
- **Quality of Life Citations and Enforcement** – Council President reminded residents that, with warmer weather approaching, they should be mindful of their neighbors regarding noise levels, as windows are more likely to be open. Quality of life ordinances will be enforced, and citations may be issued for noise violations.
- **Target Speeding Enforcement** – Council President reminded residents that, with the arrival of warmer weather, targeted speeding enforcement will be implemented throughout the Borough. Residents are urged to observe posted speed limits. Council members also emphasized that passing is strictly prohibited on Delaware Avenue and on double yellow lines, citing safety concerns and hazardous conditions.
- **Parking Enforcement** – Council President reminded residents that parking regulations will be enforced in designated zones, yellow zones, and near fire hydrants, emphasizing these areas must remain clear for safety, particularly near the park by the baseball fields. Councilmember Johnson noted that faded curb markings do not negate the law. Police Chief Mr. Bachert reported ongoing patrols in the park, including evenings, and at the pool. Mr. Trabel raised concerns regarding motorized bicycles and scooters, which Council President acknowledged fall under police enforcement.
- **Pet Waste Compliance Reminder** - Council President reminded residents to clean up after their pets when walking them. This is required by law, and the Borough has received prior complaints regarding non-compliance.
- **Memorial Day Reminder** - Council President reminded residents to mark their calendars for the upcoming Memorial Day observance scheduled for May 22nd at 1:00 PM at the Triangle behind the wall.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – None.

ADJOURNMENT –

ADJOURNMENT

Council President entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Trabel and the motion was unanimously approved.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Joanna Ireland			X			
Jamie Johnson	X		X			

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Mark Noble			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel	X		X			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.			X			
Mayor Johnson						

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
By:

Stewart McCandless - President of Council

ATTESTED

BY: _____
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager

SUBMITTED

BY: _____
Alysia Romulus, Finance Clerk