

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
April 6, 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 Solicitor Filling in for Mr. Berger, Ms. Vivian Hadian, Borough Manager Amy Burkhart, and Mrs. Alysia Romulus.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President McCandless reported that, prior to the meeting, there was a discussion regarding personnel matters related to employee contracts, noting that they are underway and still in progress.

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A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 18, 2026, with no revisions. 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						

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

NEW BUSINESS –

- **PennDOT Detour Plan** – Borough Manager Burkhart introduced new business by informing Council of a PennDOT detour plan involving local streets within the Borough of Fountain Hill. She explained that the plan is associated with the Hill-to-Hill Bridge construction project and that related correspondence was included in Council's packets for review. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that, in addition to Council's review, the plan has been forwarded to the Borough Engineer to ensure there are no concerns requiring immediate attention prior to granting approval to PennDOT to implement the detour. She further noted that Council received a response form to either confirm approval of the detour plan or propose amendments and emphasized that there is still time to respond as the

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matter remains in its early stages. Ms. Ireland inquired whether a specific completion date had been established for the Hill-to-Hill Bridge project. Borough Manager Burkhart responded that construction began in 2020; however, no definitive completion date has been identified. Mr. Trabel asked for clarification regarding the specific route of the proposed detour plan. Borough Manager Burkhart acknowledged his questions and stated that the Borough Engineer, Jill, will review the plans provided to Council and identify any issues, if present, prior to granting approval to PennDOT. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that the Police Department has been informed of the matter and that implementation is expected soon. She added that, while she does not currently have a specific date, she will obtain that information and report back to Council. There were no further questions.

- **Handicapped Parking Application** – Borough Manager Burkhart presented a handicapped parking application for 1111 Russell Avenue, which had previously been reviewed and approved by the Chief of Police, but remains pending approval from Public Works Supervisor Mr. Quarry. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that a motion is on the agenda to approve the application and recommended that Council's approval be contingent upon approval from Public Works Supervisor Mr. Quarry. There were no further questions.
- **Quote from Guidemark for Line Striping** – Borough Manager Burkhart reported that the current year's budget includes line striping on Delaware Avenue to be completed by an outside vendor, Guidemark. She explained that the original quote was approximately \$4,000; however, additional requests have since been identified, including the installation of at least two "piano key" style crosswalks to enhance pedestrian safety and clearly delineate crossings. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that the revised quote totals \$8,785.60 and that a motion is on the agenda to approve the proposal from Guidemark. President McCandless noted that this matter has been discussed in prior committee meetings, including the Police Committee, ensuring Council's awareness of the project. There were no further questions.
- **Bench Donation** – Borough Manager Burkhart reported that a request has been received to accept the donation of a bench in memory of Mr. Tommy LaBuda. She explained that the bench is being donated to the Borough and that the final location will be determined by the committee organizing the fundraising efforts. Borough Manager Burkhart noted that correspondence has been received requesting acceptance of the donation, after which the bench will become Borough property and the responsibility of the Borough for maintenance and upkeep. She further stated that a motion is on the agenda to approve acceptance of the bench in memory of Mr. Tommy LaBuda. Ms. Johnson inquired whether acceptance of the bench would remain open pending final determination of its location. Borough Manager Burkhart responded that Public Works Supervisor Mr. Quarry has been in communication with the donors and that there is a tentative agreement to place the bench at the entrance of the Borough pool, with no anticipated conflicts related to its placement. There were no further questions.

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Signature Authority for DCED Initiative Program Grant – Borough Manager Burkhart reported that, as discussed at the previous meeting, the Police Department applied for a grant to fund cameras, improvements to the squad room, and potentially the holding cells. She stated that the Borough was awarded approximately \$40,000 through Senator Gene Yaw’s office. Borough Manager Burkhart explained that the grant documents have been returned, designating Mayor Johnson and Officer Krasley as authorized signatories on behalf of the Borough to ensure the grant process continues without delay. There were no further questions.

OLD BUSINESS –

- **Delinquent Account Policy** - Borough Manager Burkhart reported on the proposed updates to the Borough’s delinquent account policy, noting that the revisions reflect necessary updates to the current policy. She explained that the matter was reviewed by the House and Ordinance Committee, which recommended adoption of the new policy as distributed in Council’s packets and presented at the meeting. Borough Manager Burkhart added that two additional pieces of related legislation will need to be brought before Council at a later date; however, she emphasized that the policy currently before Council is the priority for this meeting. She further noted that an update to the payment agreement is also required, and that the existing ordinance will need to be aligned with associated fees and collection procedures. She clarified that no ordinance is included for review on the evening’s agenda. There were no further questions.
- **Ordinance 890** - Borough Manager Burkhart reported that a motion is before Council to approve Ordinance 890, as previously discussed at prior meetings. She explained that the ordinance updates the Borough’s sewer lateral policy in accordance with Pennsylvania state law, requiring homeowners to bring properties into compliance within one (1) calendar year following a passed sewer lateral inspection. She noted that the Borough will be responsible for tracking compliance, and that completion of the inspection will be required from either the seller or buyer during property transactions. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that Ordinance 890 reflects updates to the existing sewer lateral ordinance in alignment with state requirements. Mr. Blat inquired about potential penalties for non-compliance by a new property owner. Borough Manager Burkhart responded that the owner would receive a notice of violation, which would be treated as a zoning matter, and further enforcement actions would proceed through the magistrate. If found guilty, daily citations may be issued as applicable. She further clarified that the motion on the agenda is to authorize the Borough to advertise the ordinance, with anticipated consideration for adoption at next month’s meeting.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Nothing to report

MAYOR’S REPORT – Nothing to report

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BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT - Nothing to report

RESOLUTIONS -

- **Resolution No. 2026-15** – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF BROUGH VEHICLES. Borough Manager Burkhart elaborated on the resolution regarding four vehicles located in the County parking lot that are no longer in use by the Borough. She explained that the Borough intends to dispose of vehicles by listing them on Municibid. She further stated that the minimum bid would be set based on the value the Borough would receive from Harry's U-Pull-It, less the cost of transporting the vehicles to the desired location. 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			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.	X		X			
Mayor Johnson						

ORDINANCES -

Draft Ordinance 890:

- **Sewer Lateral Update** – Borough Manager Burkhart noted that the draft ordinance was moved under Motions, as it had already been previously described and discussed.

MOTIONS -

- A) On recommendation of the House & Ordinance Committee, request Council approve and accept the Borough's Delinquent Account Collections Policy. The motion passed.

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

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

- B) Request Council approve the Hanicapped parking application submitted by 1111 Russell AVE. Contingent upon public work supervisor Mr. Quarry's approval. The motion passed.

	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						

- C) On the recommendation of the Borough Solicitor, request Council approve the advertisement of Ordinance 890, with consideration to be held at the first meeting of May. The motion passed.

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

- D) Request Council accept and approve the quote provided by Guidemark INC. for the line striping in the amount of \$8,785.60. 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	X			
Philip Trabel		X			
Stew McCandless		X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.		X			
Mayor Johnson					

- E) Request Council accept the donation of a park bench in Memory of Tommy LaBuda. Prior to the vote, Mr. Blatt inquired whether any balance would remain owed on the donation. Borough Manager Burkhart confirmed that the donation is in full. 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						

- F) Request Council Authorize Officer Richard Krasley & Mayor Michael Johnson to sign necessary documentation for the DCED Initiative Program grant in the amount of \$40,000. The motion passed.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

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A. Finance – Mr. Trotter reviewed the financial reports and expenses paid for the Month of March. A motion was made and approved to pay the bills as presented. The motion passed.

- a. General Fund - \$185,234.14
- b. Health & Sanitation - \$54,596.69
- c. Sewer Fund - \$3,805.56
- d. Fire Fund - \$92,125.15
- e. Liquid Fuel - \$4,150.37

	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						

B. Public Works – President McCandless reported that the committee is moving forward with line striping and is preparing for the upcoming summer season.

C. Police – Mr. Blatt reported that no committee meeting held, as it was rescheduled from April 6th to April 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall. He also reminded residents that the Drug Give Back Program will be held on Saturday, April 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and encouraged the public to bring any expired and/or unwanted medications for proper disposal.

D. House & Ordinance – Ms. Ireland reported that last month's committee meeting primarily focused on the collections policy and updates to procedures for late payments. She also noted that discussions included attorney fee charges, updates to the sewer lateral ordinance, and ongoing codification efforts.

E. Fire – Mr. Trabel reported that in March there were 23 emergency calls, with an average of 4.1 members responding per call. He further reported that the Borough responded to two mutual aid working fires, with 20 active personnel involved in Fire Department operations.

F. Recreation – Ms. Johnson reported that the Egg Hunt was successful on its original scheduled date. She expressed appreciation to the Public Works Department for setting up the lines and to the Fire Department for helping maintain order during the event. She also thanked Wawa for its donation of soft pretzels and residents for their generous candy contributions. Ms. Johnson further recognized President McCandless and his family for their involvement and support, noting that their participation helped make the Egg Hunt a success. Ms. Johnson reported concerns regarding ongoing trash and damaged property issues at the playground. She reminded residents that they are responsible for the well-being and behavior of their children. She further noted that the playground is a public

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space & Borough property and emphasized the importance of all users contributing to keeping it clean and welcoming. President McCandless added to Ms. Johnson's comments by encouraging residents to also make their children's friends and out-of-town peers are aware of appropriate behavior, stating that Borough children are not the only contributors to the issue.

G. Health & Sanitation - Mr. Nobel had nothing to report.

H. Personnel – Mr. Trotter had nothing to report

I. IT Committee – Ms. Ireland reported that the committee's first meeting is scheduled for April 20th, with discussion to focus on the first Borough newsletter and potential content to be included.

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES – Nothing to report

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT -

- A) **Opening Day – Baseball** – President McCandless announced that Opening Day for baseball will be held on Saturday, April 18, at 8:00 a.m., and noted that the Little League team is currently practicing. He advised all Council members, the Borough Manager, applicable staff, and the Fire Department to be in attendance on time, as he intends to recognize Council during the event.
- B) **Arbor Day Program** – President McCandless reported that the Arbor Day Program is scheduled for Friday, April 24, at 1:00 p.m. The exact location has not yet been determined, though the area near the Borough pool is being considered. He noted that further discussions are underway with Public Works Supervisor Mr. Quarry regarding final site selection.
- C) **Public Reminder – Animal Waste Cleanup** – President McCandless reminded residents that, with warmer weather approaching, they reminded to clean up after their pets while walking them. He noted that this is a common concern raised by residents and encouraged compliance to help maintain clean public spaces.
- D) **Parking and Traffic Safety Concerns** – President McCandless reported ongoing parking issues that have escalated into safety concerns, noting that vehicles have been observed parking too close to corners and obstructing sightlines for drivers, resulting in near misses and collisions, particularly on Delaware Avenue. He reminded residents to observe posted markings, stating that the Police Department will be enforcing parking regulations due to the severity of the issue. Ms. Ireland suggested the installation of a permanent solar-operated speed monitoring device. Borough Manager Burkhart responded that this option has been previously explored; while beneficial in theory, it is not practical for a Borough of this size due to installation complexity and cost, including PennDOT requirements. President McCandless added that he does not support a permanent fixture but would consider a temporary solution in the future. Returning to parking enforcement, President McCandless reiterated that parking on side streets and within marked no-parking zones will be enforced. Ms. Johnson also expressed concern regarding increased use of motorized bicycles and scooters by children as the weather

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improves, noting unsafe speeds and lack of protective gear. She urged residents to exercise caution. President McCandless stated that he has shared e-bike regulations previously and will redistribute them to ensure community awareness.

- E) **Fire Hydrant Clearance** – President McCandless emphasized the importance of maintaining proper distance from fire hydrants. He reminded residents that regulations require a clearance of 15 feet on either side and stated that the Police Department will enforce these requirements. He reiterated that these are growing safety concerns and will be addressed accordingly and swiftly.

President McCandless concluded his remarks by expressing appreciation to all who contributed to the success of the Egg Hunt. He thanked the Fire Department for their assistance with setup, the Public Works Department, Borough Hall staff, the Zoning Officer for attending the event, and the Police Department for their support. He noted that this strong sense of community enables the Borough to positively serve and give back to its residents.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Nothing to report

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			
Mark Noble		X	X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel			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

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7 P.M.**

SUBMITTED

BY: _____
Alysia Romulus, Finance Clerk

APPROVED