

**MINUTES  
BOROUGH COUNCIL  
JANUARY 5, 2026  
7 P.M.**

**SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMEMBERS AND MAYOR -**

Before the Pledge of Allegiance Council Members Mr. Norman Blatt, Ms. Joanna Ireland, Mr. Stewart McCandless, Mr. Philip Trabel, and Mayor Michael Johnson were sworn in by Judge Zanelli.

The Council Meeting was held in-person at Borough Hall. Council members present were Ms. Johnson, Ms. Ireland Mr. Trotter, Mr. McCandless, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel and Mayor Johnson. Also in attendance were Borough Amy Burkhart, Ms. Velez and Solicitor Mr. Berger.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –**

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order and asked for everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

**REORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL –**

Mayor Johnson proceeded with rollcall and opened the floor to nominations for Council President. Councilperson Mr. McCandless was nominated, and the motion passed:

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

Council President McCandless proceeded with opening nominations for Vice President. Councilperson Ms. Johnson was nominated, and the motion passed:

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

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Mr. McCandless proceeded with opening the floor to council on nominee votes for Chairman Pro Tempore. Councilperson Mr. Trotter was nominated, and the motion passed:

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

**MINUTES** - There was a motion to table the Minutes from DEC 17, 2025. The motion passed.

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

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED** – None.

**INTREVIEWS, NOMINATIONS, AND SWEARING-IN COUNCILMEMEBER** –

Mr. McCandless asked if Council had any questions for the Council applicants; none were presented. Mr. McCandless then asked Mr. Mark Noble for clarification regarding environmental policy and stormwater. Mr. Noble stated that he teaches environmental policy and environmental issues and noted the relevance to small communities. He further stated that he believes he has insight into issues affecting the community and can contribute positively toward addressing them.

Mr. Blatt commented that he was pleased with the number of applicants and their demonstrated interest in serving the community. He noted that although only one appointed Council position

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was available, there are additional opportunities to serve on the Borough’s boards and committees, which are open to new applicants.

Mr. McCandless asked Ms. Wamsley for clarification regarding her thoughts on a resident-run recreation committee separate from the Borough’s committee. Ms. Wamsley offered no additional comment but acknowledged that a resident-run recreation committee outside of the Borough would be a logical approach.

No further questions were asked and Mr. McCandless moved forward with nominations for appointment of Council

The following nominations were made. P. Trable nominated Mr. Lee Reisling. D. Trotter seconded the nomination for Mr. Reisling. D. Trotter nominated Mr. Mark Noble. N. Blatt seconded the nomination for Mr. Noble. J. Johnson nominated Ms. Rebeckah Wamsley. J. Ireland seconded the nomination for Ms. Wamsley. No additional nominations were made; nominations were closed. As a result, Mr. Robert Birk and Ms. Ashley Woods were not nominated for the appointed Council position.

Votes were taken on the nominees.

A voice vote was taken for Mr. Lee Reisling. The motion did not pass.

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

A voice vote was taken for Mr. Mark Noble. The motion passed.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Joanna Ireland					X	
Jamie Johnson			X			
Vacant						
Doug Trotter	X		X			
Philip Trabel				X		
Stew McCandless			X			

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Norman E. Blatt Jr.		X	X			
Mayor Johnson						

A voice vote was taken for Ms. Rebeckah Wamsley. The motion did not pass.

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

Following the vote, Mr. Noble was sworn in, completing Resolution 2026-07, Appointment of Council Member. Mr. Noble acknowledged that, due to his status as a Zoning Committee member, he would vacate that position effective immediately. Mr. Noble will be filling the unexpired term of former councilmember Annamarie Jordan.

Following the appointment of Councilperson Mr. Noble, Mr. Trotter commented that the remaining applicants should not be discouraged by the outcome and encouraged them to continue demonstrating their vested interest in the community.

**NEW BUSINESS -**

➤ **Award of the LSA Grant**

Borough Manager Burkhart stated that the Borough was awarded \$51,000.00 that specifically goes to fire equipment such as nozzles. Borough Manager stated that she will get in contact with the fire chief discussing how the allocations of funds will be dispersed.

**OLD BUSINESS -**

➤ **Vacation of Street**

Solicitor Mr. Berger noted that several months ago a petition was submitted requesting a street vacation. The project was postponed due to the budget season. He further stated that he and his team have been in contact with the petitioners' attorney and that final details will be prepared for a public hearing at the first meeting in February.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT -**

➤ **ADA Curb Ramp Deferral Agreement**

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Solicitor Berger directed Council to review draft 88 Program PERL agreement in response to Mr. Blatt’s prior inquiry. He reviewed the consent decree with PennDOT and explained that as long as the Borough completes the required work, it remains in compliance. He noted that the Borough’s ordinances, aligned with PennDOT requirements, allow for hardship and deferral periods. Based on this information, Mr. Berger stated that no violations have occurred on the Borough’s part. He encouraged Council to review the submitted paperwork and strongly recommended voting on the matter at the February Council meeting.

**MAYOR’S REPORT** – Mayor Johnson had no formal report but welcomed the newly appointed Councilperson, Mr. Noble, and thanked all applicants for their interest and continued involvement. He emphasized the importance of community outreach, cleaning up after pets, keeping sidewalks clear, and watching for children at crosswalks.

**BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT** – Nothing to report

**RESOLUTIONS –**

Resolution 2026-01: Holidays 2026; 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						

Resolution 2026-02: Committee/Board Appointments; 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						

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Resolution 2026-03: Appointment of Professional Service Firms of 2026; the motion passed as amended.

	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						

Resolution 2026-04: HIPPA Officers: The motion 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						

Resolution 2026-05: Sewer Enforcement Officers; the motion passed:

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Joanna Ireland			X			
Jamie Johnson			X			
Mark Noble			X			
Doug Trotter			X			
Philip Trabel	X		X			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.		X	X			
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Resolution 2026-07: Experimental Parking; 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						

**ORDINANCES** – none

**MOTIONS** – none

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** – nothing to report

**POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT** – Mr. Blatt reported that a Police Committee meeting was held prior to the general meeting. He stated that discussion included new in-car cameras, body cameras for officers, and the continued collection of information for the autism survey. Mr. Blatt noted that another meeting will be held in February to continue the discussion. The Chief of Police reported on the year-end report for December and stated that all department staff are fully sworn and certified for the upcoming year.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT** – Mr. Trotter reported for the Month of DEC on the following accounts:

- General Fund Account total expenses \$132,615.58
- Sewer Fund Account total expenses \$29,045.83
- Liquid Fuel Fund Account total expenses \$2,314
- Library Fund Account total expenses \$8,053.25
- Health & Sanitation Fund total expenses \$10,492.57

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Councilmember Trotter upon reading made a motion to approve listed expenses. The motion passed

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

**HOUSE + ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT** – Council President McCandless reported that the committee did not meet in December. However, in January the committee will work on updating the Boroughs Ordinances.

**FIRE COMMITTEE REPORT** – Mr. Trabel reported 31 emergency calls were made for the month of November totaling the amount to 271.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT** – Ms. Johnson reported that the committee did not meet in December but noted that meetings are scheduled for January to discuss summer plans. She reminded those present that the meetings are public but do not include public comment. Ms. Johnson announced the winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest as follows:

- ✓ The Light of the Borough - MOST CREATIVE USE OF LIGHTS: 1102 Stanley AVE.
- ✓ Magical Masterpiece -MOST WHIMSICAL: 1034 Broadway
- ✓ Winter Wonderland - BEST PRESENTATION: 751 Seneca St.

**HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE REPORT** – Ms. Johnson reported for the Month of DEC the Aged Balance Report at \$348,984.00

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT** – Nothing to report

**IT COMMITTEE REPORT** – Nothing to report

**SPEICAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES** – Nothing to report

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT** – Mr. McCandless reported that a change to the Public Works holiday schedule was approved by vote, allowing Public Works employees to observe the holiday on Friday instead of Wednesday.

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**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – Discussion on Non - Agenda Items - None.

**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
Annamarie Jordan			X			
Jamie Johnson			X			
Mark Noble			X			
Doug Trotter	X		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 Velez, Finance Clerk