

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
JULY 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. Ireland, Mr. Noble, Mr. Trotter, Mr. McCandless, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel and Mayor Johnson. Also in attendance were Borough Manager Amy Burkhart, and Solicitor Mr. David Berger.

Ms. Johnson was not in attendance at this meeting.

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 June 17, 2026 meeting. Mr. Blatt requested an amendment to the roll call to reflect that he was absent, as indicated elsewhere in the minutes, rather than as present. President McCandless requested that the name "Mr. Douglas Carter" be corrected to "Mr. Douglass Trotter III" wherever it appears in the minutes. A motion was made to approve June 17, 2026 Minutes as amended. The motion was approved.

	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						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED –

- A. Council welcomed Mr. Sean Memmi, a resident of 1308 Jeter Avenue. Mr. Memmi addressed Council regarding a complaint he filed against the Police Department approximately one year ago, stating that he believes it has not been adequately addressed. He explained that he later elevated his concerns to the Mayor and expressed dissatisfaction with the Mayor's response, describing it as brief and impersonal. Mr. Memmi further stated that he subsequently spoke with Police Chief Bachert but felt the interaction was discourteous and unprofessional. He requested that Council hold the Mayor accountable for what he characterized as an apathetic response to his complaint and hold Chief Bachert accountable for his conduct during their conversation.

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Mr. Memmi also proposed that the Borough establish an independent ombudsman to receive and investigate complaints, as well as a civilian police review board independent of Borough administration and the Police Department. He stated that he believes similar models have been successful in other municipalities and could help promote accountability.

Without discussing the specifics of his original complaint, Mr. Memmi stated that his purpose in addressing Council was to express his concerns regarding the manner in which his complaint was handled and to request greater accountability from Borough officials. Chief Bachert offered to respond to Mr. Memmi's comments; however, Borough Manager Burkhardt and Council declined to permit a response during the meeting. Mr. Berger agreed that the matter would be more appropriately discussed at a later date, and Council President McCandless indicated that it would be addressed during a future Police Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS –

- **St. Ursula's Church** – Borough Manager Burkhardt noted that the preliminary/final land development plan for St. Ursula's Church was on Council's agenda for conditional approval. The Planning Commission had recommended approval. Mr. Jonathan Rogers of Keystone Consulting Engineers, accompanied by parishioner Mr. Michael Metzger, presented the proposed project. Mr. Rogers explained that the plan consists of constructing a 22-space parking lot, including two ADA-accessible spaces, on the former convent site to improve parking availability and accessibility for the church. Mr. Blatt requested clarification regarding the number of ADA-accessible spaces, believing only one had been proposed. Mr. Rogers confirmed that two accessible spaces are included to better accommodate parishioners with mobility needs. Mr. Rogers also noted that the project has received three variances from the Zoning Hearing Board and that several waiver requests were submitted for Council's consideration. Mr. Blatt inquired about traffic circulation. Mr. Rogers stated that vehicles will be restricted to right turns only when entering and exiting the parking lot. Borough Manager Burkhardt stated the adoption and approval of the Planning Commission's recommendation is on the agenda for Council.
- **Cherry Street Approval** – Borough Manager Burkhardt presented Hanover Engineering's recommendation for the Cherry Street construction project. She reported that the Borough received seven bids for the project and upon review Hanover Engineering recommended

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awarding the contract to Gorecon in the amount of **\$148,551.97** for the base bid only. She noted that the alternate portion of the project was not recommended, as available budgeted funds are insufficient to cover the additional cost. Borough Manager Burkhart recommended that Council adopt Hanover Engineering's recommendation and award the contract accordingly. Mr. Blatt requested that the record reflects that the lowest bid on the project had been withdrawn due to a clerical error in the bid documents. The error created a significant cost difference and the bidder requested to withdraw their bid. Gorecon is the next lowest bidder.

- **Stickball Classic** – Borough Manager Burkhart presented a request from the organizers of the annual Stickball Classic to use Stanley Avenue Park on August 1, with a rain date of August 2, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Borough Manager Burkhart noted that she was uncertain whether the event fees had been waived in prior years. Council confirmed that the fees have historically been waived and agreed to continue that practice for this year's event. A motion was made to approve the use of Stanley Avenue Park for the Stickball Classic and to waive the applicable event fees.
- **Members Only** – Borough Manager Burkhart presented a request from Members Only, a nonprofit sports organization, to use Stanley Avenue Park for a fundraising event on August 8, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Borough Manager Burkhart explained that the organization is a newly formed flag football team that has been informally using the park for practices without a regular schedule. She noted that the organization has submitted the required certificate of insurance and that the applicable park rental fee for the event is \$150. A motion was made to approve the use of Stanley Avenue Park for the fundraising event.
- **Lifeguards** – Borough Manager Burkhart presented recommended personnel and wage adjustments for the Borough pool staff. She recommended reducing Aiden Walters' pay to \$18.50 per hour, with Mr. Walters continuing to serve as a lifeguard; promoting Garrett Longbon to Head Lifeguard at \$20.00 per hour; and hiring James Taylor as a lifeguard at \$18.00 per hour. Borough Manager Burkhart noted that the pool experienced high attendance over the Fourth of July weekend and stated that the additional staffing will help meet operational needs. A motion was made to approve the personnel and wage adjustments as presented.

OLD BUSINESS –

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- **Hertzog Ave.** – Borough Manager Burkhart informed Council that the road project is scheduled to begin the weeks of July 13 and July 20. She stated that residents will be notified in advance and that signage will be posted to advise of temporary closures on Hertzog Avenue during construction. Borough Manager Burkhart noted that the project is expected to be completed before the end of the summer.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Nothing to report

MAYOR’S REPORT – The Mayor expressed his appreciation to the Borough pool and park staff for their hard work throughout the summer season. He also thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, and all participants who attended and assisted with the annual Soak event, recognizing their contributions to its success.

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT – Nothing to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- A. Finance** – Mr. Trotter reviewed the financial reports and expenses paid for the Month of June. A motion was made and approved to pay the bills as presented.
- a. General Fund - \$456,617.37
 - b. Health & Sanitation Fund - \$117,677.68
 - c. Sewer Fund - \$68,972.49
 - d. Liquid Fuel Fund - \$1,551.60
 - e. Library Fund - \$16,106.50

A motion was made to accept the financial reports and pay the bills. 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						

- B. Police** – Mr. Blatt reported that a committee meeting was held prior to the Council meeting, during which several topics were discussed. He highlighted two items of public interest: a drug drop-off event scheduled for the last Saturday in October information to come and a request for police overtime to conduct speed enforcement on several main

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streets throughout the Borough, including but not limited to Delaware Avenue and Broadway. Mr. Blatt reminded residents to observe posted speed limits and exercise caution, noting that increased enforcement may result in citations being issued for violations.

- C. Personnel** – Mr. Trotter had nothing to report, there were no meetings.
- D. Public Works** – President McCandless reported that no formal committee meeting was held; however, he has remained in communication with the head of the Public Works Department. He noted that the department continues to be active throughout the summer months and that operations have been proceeding smoothly.
- E. Fire** – Mr. Trabel reported that the Fire Department responded to 25 emergency calls during the month of June, with an average response of four members per call. He noted that the department responded to one dwelling fire within the Borough and provided mutual aid assistance at three additional working fires. Mr. Trabel reported that the department currently has 14 active members.
- F. House & Ordinance** – Councilmember Ireland had nothing to report, there were no meetings.
- G. IT Committee** – Councilmember Ireland reported that no committee meetings were held. She announced that the Borough newsletter is scheduled for release and expressed enthusiasm regarding its publication. Borough Manager Burkhart provided additional information, stating that the newsletter is expected to be released in September. President McCandless encouraged increased communication between the IT Committee and the Police Department to help share news, updates, and information regarding police activities and community efforts.
- H. Health & Sanitation** – Mr. Noble had nothing to report, there were no meetings.
- I. Recreation** – President McCandless reported that the Borough park and pool operations are running well. He noted that the annual Soak event was a success.

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES – Nothing to report.

RESOLUTIONS – None

ORDINANCES – None

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MOTIONS –

- a) Request Council accept and approve Hanover Engineering's Recommendation of Award for the Cherry Alley Reconstruction Project to Gorecon in the amount of \$148,551.97. 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						

- b) Request Council accept and approve the recommendation from Fountain Hill Planning Commission regarding the preliminary/final Land Development plan for St. Ursula's Church. The approval includes waiver and conditions listed in the Planning commission letter dated June 10, 2026. 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			
Stew McCandless			X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.	X		X			
Mayor Johnson						

- c) Request Council approve the use of Stanley Avenue Park for the Stickball Classic scheduled August 1, 2026 from 7AM to 9AM with rain date of August 2, 2026, and to waive the fees for the use of the park. 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			

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Stew McCandless		X			
Norman E. Blatt Jr.		X			
Mayor Johnson					

- d) Request Council approve the use of Stanley Avenue Park by Members Only for a fundraising event on August 8, 2026, from 12PM - 5PM. 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						

- e) Request Council approve the assignment Aiden Walters from head Lifeguard to Lifeguard as of July 1, 2026. The new payrate will be \$18.50/hour. 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						

- f) Request Council approve the assignment of Garrett Longbons from Lifeguard to Head Lifeguard. The payrate will be \$20.00/hour. 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	X			

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- g) Request Council approve the hiring of James Taylot as a lifeguard at the rate of \$18.00/hour on the submission of all required applications and clearances. 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						

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT -

- a) President McCandless reiterated the success of last Thursday’s Soak event, despite its early conclusion due to a Fire Department call on Jeter Avenue. He expressed his appreciation to the Fire Department staff for their professionalism, coordination, and quick response, and thanked all residents who participated in the event.
- b) President McCandless recognized the success of the Borough’s park and pool operations, attributing their smooth operation to the efforts of the Public Works Department.
- c) President McCandless recognized the current lifeguards for their efforts during the summer programs and reported that they are performing well.

PRIVILAGE OF THE FLOOR –

- A. Mr. Sean Memmi requested that Council consider increasing recycling collection from every other week to weekly service. Council responded that the matter could be discussed during the next contract renewal period; however, making a change during the current contract term may be difficult. Council noted that while weekly recycling service could be considered during future negotiations, it would likely result in a significant increase to residents' garbage collection costs.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION – President McCandless announced that an Executive Session would be held to discuss Personnel Agreements. A motion was made and approved to enter Executive Session for that purpose.

	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			
Mayor Johnson						

ADJOURNMENT –

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