

MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
May 20, 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, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Noble, Mr. Trotter, Mr. McCandless, Mr. Blatt, Mr. Trabel and Mayor Johnson. Also in attendance was 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE – President Mc Candless asked for a moment of silence for the recently departed Mr. Ed Stech & Mr. Michael Langton.

MINUTES –

Council reviewed the minutes of the May 4, 2026 meeting. Mr. Blatt noted that the word “quantified” at the top of the third page should be changed to “codified.” He also requested a revision to his report regarding the Drug Take-Back Program announcement, noting that the event had already occurred in April. The statement should be revised to read: “The Drug Take-Back event was scheduled for the prior month.” Additionally, Mr. Blatt noted that Mr. Klo’s name was misspelled and that the “w” at the end of the name should be removed. President McCandless noted that the representative from the office of Nick Miller was incorrectly listed as “Brovski” and should be corrected to “Ropski.” Mr. Noble noted that his name was misspelled in several instances as “Nobel” and should be corrected to “Noble.” Ms. Ireland noted that Representative Jeanne McNeill’s name was misspelled as “Jeannie McNeil” and should be corrected to “Jeanne McNeill.” There was a motion to approve the amended Minutes of May 4, 2026 – The motion was 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						

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

NEW BUSINESS –

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- **Omega Security** – Borough Manager Burkhart opened discussion regarding the renewal of Omega Security services for the Borough’s evening park program, as utilized over the past two years. She explained that security coverage is provided during program hours from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. While no recent incidents have occurred, she noted that prior issues involving individuals disregarding designated program space led to the implementation of on-site security as a preventative measure. Mr. Blatt inquired who would supervise the security personnel. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that Park Manager Fluck would serve as the direct supervisor of the Omega Security guard. Mr. Blatt expressed concern regarding the cost and effectiveness of Omega Security and stated he would prefer the use of Borough police officers for park security. Mr. Blatt further commented that he had personally observed an Omega Security guard using mobile device to play video games while assigned to the park on more than one occasion, which contributed to his concerns regarding the effectiveness of the service. Councilmember Johnson noted that Omega Security remains on-site for the duration of the program, whereas police officers must continue regular patrol duties throughout the Borough. President McCandless suggested an alternative option of assigning officers through overtime sign-ups for up to four hours each evening. Councilmember Johnson suggested that using police overtime would not be a cost-effective use of taxpayer funds. Mr. Blatt reiterated his preference for utilizing Borough personnel rather than outside contractors. Councilmember Ireland added that Park Manager Fluck cannot be present every evening and that maintaining security coverage through Omega Security is both practical and financially reasonable. President McCandless emphasized that prior incidents prompted the Borough’s decision to implement security at the park and stated that maintaining a security presence is a preventative measure intended to promote public safety and program structure. Additional comments were made regarding the Borough’s obligation to provide a safe environment for the community and the benefit of visible police presence in support of park security operations. There were no further questions or comments.
- **Park Pool Hires** – Borough Manager Burkhart continued with new business regarding seasonal recreation staff hires. She stated that several candidates are being recommended for hire. It was noted that personnel with pay rates different than previously approved would require an individual motion to set those pay rates. Borough Manager Burkhart explained that the Borough intends to maintain two Assistant Park Manager positions. The Assistant Park Managers would serve as daily on-site points of contact and remain on call while Park Manager Fluck oversees broader program operations. The recommended candidates for the positions were Joshua Lee and Aliciana Rosa, each at an hourly rate of \$17.75. Borough Manager Burkhart noted that both candidates have prior experience working for the Borough. Borough Manager Burkhart also recommended

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Ethan Ferris, the Assistant Pool Manager, be assigned an hourly rate of \$23.00. She stated that this would be his third year working at the pool. There were no questions or comments.

- **EJ Aquatic Safety Inservice and Lifeguard Certification** – Borough Manager Burkhart continued discussion regarding the engagement of EJ Aquatic Safety, a professional pool manager and lifeguard instructor, whom the Borough had previously considered hiring last year. She explained that Mr. Jones will provide two lifeguard in-services and conduct audits to ensure Borough lifeguards remain properly trained and compliant with safety standards. Borough Manager Burkhart noted that, although the agreement does not meet the threshold requiring Council approval, she wanted Council to be aware of the arrangement due to its benefit to community safety. In conjunction with the training services, Mr. Jones requested use of the Borough pool, a Red Cross-certified facility, to conduct his lifeguard certification classes. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that the classes would occur during normal pool hours and would not require additional staffing. In exchange for use of the facility, Mr. Jones agreed to provide certification courses to any Borough lifeguards needing certification at a reduced cost of \$100 per participant, compared to the standard \$325 fee, and to prioritize Borough lifeguards for enrollment. Borough Manager Burkhart also noted that hosting the certification classes could encourage local youth to pursue future recreation employment opportunities by allowing them to observe the certification process firsthand. She stated that the matter involved two separate motions. There were no questions or comments. Council expressed support for the arrangement and viewed it as a beneficial use of the Borough pool.
- **Opening Day of the Park & Pool** – Borough Manager Burkhart concluded New Business by announcing the projected opening date for the park and pool as June 10. She noted that Park Manager Fluck will be present at both locations and commended her for her work preparing for the upcoming programs, events, and activities. Council expressed excitement and support for the upcoming summer program season.

OLD BUSINESS –

- **Hertzog Avenue** – Borough Manager Burkhart reported that bid openings have begun and that the project remains within the projected budget. She noted that the project will be funded through multiple sources, including the Borough's General Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund, and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Borough Manager Burkhart further stated that, due to the use of CDBG funding, the matter must also be presented to the County and will appear on the next meeting agenda. There were no questions or comments.

MAYOR'S REPORT –

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The Mayor reminded residents that the Borough's Memorial Day Program will be held on Friday, May 22, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the triangle near the ballpark.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT – Nothing to report

RESOLUTIONS – None

ORDINACES – None

MOTIONS –

- A. Request Council hire Joshua Lee & Aliciana Rosa as assistant manager for the park program at an hourly rate of \$17.75 per hour. 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						

- B. Request Council set the hourly rate for Ethan Ferris at \$23.00 per hour. 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						

- C. Request Council accept the proposal of Omega Security for the 2026 recreation Program. The motion passed by majority.

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

D. Request Council hire the following people as temporary summer employees for 2026:

- a) Brian Brown – Lifeguard
- b) Andrew Taylor – Lifeguard
- c) Marcus Morales – Recreation Assistant
- d) Corey James – Recreation Assistant
- e) Dylan Lewis – Recreation Assistant
- f) Mazzia Kroll – Cashier
- g) Nigella Lacko – Cashier
- h) Alyssa Mortucci – Cashier
- i) Deb Spadaccia – Cashier

	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						

E. On recommendation of the IT Committee request Council approve the purchase of the Diversified Billing Engine Cloud and Smart Forms as described on the proposal dated January 23, 2026. The motion passed.

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

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

F. Request Council approve EJ Aquatic Safety on June 16-June 18, 2026 for the Lifeguard certification program. 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						

G. Request Council approve the hiring of EJ Aquatic Safety for the in- service training at the Fountain Hill Pool. The motion passed.

	Motion	2nd	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
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						

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT -

- a) Before beginning his report, President McCandless recognized Councilmember Johnson, who reminded residents that the park and pool programs will begin on Wednesday, June 10.

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- b) Councilmember Johnson stated that the park program will operate from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and again from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The pool will operate daily from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and will be open seven days per week. She further noted that pool passes and registration for the park program are available at Borough Hall.
- c) President McCandless thanked Borough staff for their hard work and efforts in preparing the pool to operate seven days per week for the summer season.
- d) President McCandless notified residents that Senator Nick Miller will host a “Coffee & Conversation” event at Borough Hall on June 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The event will be held in Council Chambers. Residents were encouraged to attend, with additional details to follow.
- e) Councilmember Johnson reminded residents that fireworks are prohibited within the Borough during the Memorial Day holiday weekend. She also noted that multiple DUI checkpoints will be conducted throughout the Borough during the holiday period. *

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Discussion of Non-Agenda Items - None

ADJOURNMENT –

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

	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						

BOROUGH OF FOUNTAIN HILL
LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
By:

Stewart McCandless - President of Council

ATTESTED

BY: _____
Amy Burkhart, Borough Manager

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SUBMITTED

BY: _____
Alysia Romulus, Finance Clerk

APPROVED