

**MINUTES
BOROUGH COUNCIL
May 4, 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 was Solicitor Mr. Berger, Borough Manager Amy Burkhart, and Mrs. Alysia Romulus.

Ms. Johnson was absent.

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 22, 2026 meeting. Mr. Blatt commented on the second page of the minutes, questioning whether the statement regarding the 1406 Broadway property was accurately attributed as, “Borough Manager clarified that approval exists for six total units, with three currently on the upper level.” It was clarified that Borough Manager Burkhart did not make the statement; rather, the statement was made by Councilmember Johnson. There was a motion to approve the amended Minutes of April 22, 2026 – The motion was 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			
Mayor Johnson						

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR/ PRE-SCHEDULED -

- A. Mrs. Romulus recognized Mr. Mike Zovko of 507 Green Court for public comment. Mr. Zovko announced that the Fountain Hill Community Coalition will host a public safety presentation led by the Police Chief on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 10:30 AM at St. Paul’s Church, with doors opening at 10:15 AM. He stated the presentation is intended to provide general safety tips and awareness for unsafe situations and is not specific to Fountain Hill. Mr. Zovko noted that social media comments regarding the event raised concerns about safety within the Borough and asked whether there had been any recent increase in crime or arrests. Mayor Johnson and Councilmember Blatt confirmed there has not been a recent spike in crime or unusual public safety concerns within the Borough. Councilmember Blatt stated that the most common complaint received involves panhandling near Wawa. President McCandless added that parking remains the

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Borough's most frequent issue. Borough Manager Burkhart noted that the Police Chief regularly participates in monthly meetings and discussions regarding public safety matters. Councilmember Blatt further stated that police reports are reviewed regularly and that serious crime within the Borough remains limited. Mr. Zovko suggested providing monthly public crime and traffic reports. He also announced that the Coalition is organizing a walking group associated with a scholarship initiative mostly involving St. Luke's staff and is exploring the creation of a community chess club for youth residents. Mr. Trabel inquired about the timeline for the chess club, and Mr. Zovko responded that he hopes to begin as soon as possible. Councilmember Ireland offered to provide Mr. Zovko with additional contacts and resources to assist with organizing the proposed community chess club.

- B. Mrs. Romulus recognized the next listed speaker, Ms. Amy Arnold; however, it was noted that Ms. Arnold had left the meeting prior to providing comment.

NEW BUSINESS –

- **PennDOT Detour Plan** – Borough Manager Burkhart reviewed the previously distributed PennDOT detour plan related to the Hill-to-Hill Bridge reconstruction project. She stated that Hanover Engineering reviewed the proposed detours and determined they would not significantly impact traffic flow within the Borough. Hanover Engineering's only comment was the need for a confirmed construction start date, which will be communicated to PennDOT soon. Mr. Trabel inquired whether the bridge would undergo reconstruction, and Borough Manager Burkhart confirmed that it would. Mr. Trabel expressed concern that traffic impacts may be greater than anticipated. Borough Manager Burkhart acknowledged the project will present challenges but stated that PennDOT developed the proposed detours to minimize traffic disruptions as much as possible. Council noted that concerns regarding the bridge project and related traffic impacts have been discussed since 2020. There were no further questions.
- **2026 Pool Rates** – Borough Manager Burkhart presented the proposed 2026 pool rates for Council approval and recommended that rates remain unchanged from the past two years. She proposed season pass rates are \$60 for residents and \$90 for non-residents. Daily admission rates at the pool are \$8 per person, with a reduced rate of \$5 per person after 4:00 PM. Residents may also pre-purchase daily passes at Borough Hall for \$6 per person. Borough Manager Burkhart stated that the individual rate structure has continued to streamline the process effectively for the Borough. There were no further questions.

OLD BUSINESS –

- Borough Manager Burkhart started off old business with Ordinance 890 that is up for Council approval to adopt, she briefly explained that Ordinance 890 is going to

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- update the sewer lateral inspection portions of our codified ordinances, providing people additional time to make any remediation efforts to failed sewer later inspections. Borough Manager stated there is an Ordinance section for this along with it being a motion. There were no further questions.
- **1401 Broadway Request for Feedback** – Borough Manager Burkhart introduced discussion regarding the 1401 Broadway property and invited the property owner, solicitor, and realtor to address Council regarding the proposed redevelopment project. Solicitor Mr. Blake Marles of Stevens & Lee, representing Mr. Mohammed Benjalali, stated that the property currently contains three apartments on the upper level and that approval for a total of six units was granted in 2002. He explained that the property consists of a vacant commercial storefront with attached residential units and stated that the applicant believes converting the vacant commercial space into senior housing would better serve the community. Mr. Marles noted difficulties in securing a commercial tenant for the space and stated that the proposal would include additional senior-designated residential units. In response to questions from Council, Mr. Marles stated the proposal includes a total of 25 residential units consisting of six upper-level units, ten main-floor units, and nine lower-level units. He further stated that the project would comply with parking requirements applicable to senior housing. Council raised concerns regarding sewer capacity, ADA accessibility, parking, and the zoning process. Mr. Blatt questioned whether prior sewer capacity concerns identified by the City of Bethlehem had been addressed, and Mr. Marles stated that matter had not yet been reviewed by the applicant's team. President McCandless expressed concerns regarding ADA accessibility due to the property's steep location and emphasized the importance of compliance for senior housing. The property's realtor stated that all six existing residential units are currently leased and acknowledged that improvements to ADA accessibility, including ramp access, would be necessary. She further stated that the commercial space has been difficult to lease due to its size and market conditions. Mr. Benjalali addressed Council and stated that the property has remained family-owned since 2002. He confirmed that efforts had been made to market the commercial storefront for lease but that few viable prospects had emerged. Borough Manager Burkhart clarified that Council does not grant zoning variances and advised that the proposal must proceed through the Zoning Hearing Board process. President McCandless emphasized that Council's discussion did not constitute approval of the project and stated that the applicant must complete the appropriate zoning and due diligence process, including addressing sewer capacity concerns, before returning to Council for further consideration.
 - **Little League** - Borough Manager Burkhart introduced discussion regarding the Little League organization in connection with a motion on the agenda related to a proposed fundraising event. Kevin, representing the Little League organization, announced that a car wash fundraiser will be held on June 6, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM near the field house at the lower Dodson fields. He also noted that a Men's League will be organized this year. Kevin requested Borough assistance with the installation of black netting along the right field fence. Borough Manager Burkhart

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stated that the current agenda item was limited to approval of the car wash fundraiser but noted that the netting request could be reviewed for a future season. Council indicated that budget discussions for such requests are typically addressed around October prior to the next league season. Mr. Noble inquired where residents could obtain information regarding the league, and Kevin stated that information is available on the Fountain Hill website. He also noted that league registration will open at the end of May. There were no further questions.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Nothing to report

MAYOR'S REPORT –

The Mayor wanted to thank the staff, representative Jeanne McNeill, Kyle Ropski from representative Nick Miller's office taking time out of their day in joining the Borough for the Arbor Day Celebration.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT - Nothing to report

RESOLUTIONS – None

ORDINANCES -

Ordinance 890 – An ordinance amending Chapter 18, Part 7, Section 701 of the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Fountain Hill relating to the testing, inspection, repair, and replacement requirements for building sewers and sewer laterals, including remedies and penalties for non-compliance. The ordinance was moved to the motion's agenda for consideration.

MOTIONS -

A. Request Council to adopt Ordinance 890

	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			
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B. Request Council approve the 2026 pool rates as follows:

***3years and under free**

Passes:	Prices:
Season Pass Resident	\$60.00/person
Season Pass Non-Resident	\$90/person
Daily Rate at the Pool	\$8/person
Daily Rate at the Pool after 4PM	\$5/person
Daily Rate at Borough Hall *if purchased at Borough Hall must show proof of residency*	\$6/person

	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						

C. Request Council approve the use of the Borough Facilities for Fountain Hill Little League Car Wash.

	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			
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COMMITTEE REPORTS –

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- A. Finance** – Mr. Trotter reviewed the financial reports and expenses paid for the Month of April. A motion was made and approved to pay the bills as presented. The motion passed.
- a.** General Fund - \$115,497.71
 - b.** Sewer Fund - \$1,502.92
 - c.** Health & Sanitation Fund - \$51,885.16
 - d.** Library Fund - \$8,053.24

	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 had nothing to report in the absence of the Police Chief. He noted that a drug take-back event was scheduled for the prior month.
- C. Personnel** – Mr. Trotter had nothing to report, there were no meetings.
- D. Public Works** – President McCandless had nothing to report due to the absence of a committee meeting. He noted that Public Works is preparing for summer programs, including pool and park operations.
- E. Fire** – Mr. Trabel reported that in April there were 10 emergency calls, with an average of 4.6 members per call with 76 emergency calls year to date.
- F. House & Ordinance** – Ms. Ireland had nothing to report as there was no meeting
- G. IT Committee** – Ms. Ireland reported that the committee's upcoming meeting is May 14th at 7PM.
- H. Health & Sanitation** - Mr. Noble had nothing to report.
- I. Recreation** – President McCandless reported that a meeting was held. Borough Manager Burkhart added that summer staff hiring is ongoing. Council discussed tentative pool opening dates, which are still to be determined.

Upcoming Committee Meetings – The following committee meetings were announced: Fire Committee Meeting to be held on May 6, 2026 at 7PM
House and Ordinance Meeting to be held on May 13, 2026 at 7PM
IT Committee Meeting to be held on May 14, 2026 at 7PM
Recreation meeting to be held on May 20, 2026 at 6PM

Residents are permitted to attend; however, these meetings are not open to public comment.

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SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES –

Zoning Hearing Board scheduled for May 18, 2026 at 7PM

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S REPORT -

- a) President McCandless thanked Mike Klo for his dedication to the Shade Tree Commission and expressed appreciation to Borough staff, Borough Manager Burkhart, the administrative staff, Public Works personnel, the Police Department, Councilmembers, and residents for their continued participation and support at Borough events and programs.
- b) President McCandless reminded residents that the Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, and that the Memorial Day Program is scheduled for Friday, May 22, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the Triangle. He also reminded residents that speeding enforcement efforts will continue throughout the warmer months and encouraged attendance at the upcoming Fountain Hill Community Coalition presentation.
- c) Additionally, President McCandless reminded residents to comply with parking regulations, including restrictions involving yellow curbs, fire hydrants, and intersections, noting that violations are enforced. He also reminded residents to clean up after their pets while in public areas, as these regulations are also enforceable.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR –

David Beedleman of 841 N. Lynn Street addressed Council regarding the possibility of developing an all-ages pump track within the Borough. Mr. Beedleman stated that he had previously corresponded with Borough Manager Burkhart on the matter and was advised to present the concept to the Recreation Committee at its May 20, 2026 meeting. Mr. Beedleman requested to be placed on the committee agenda for discussion. Borough Manager Burkhart recommended that Mr. Beedleman continues email correspondence regarding the proposal and prepare a brief presentation for the Recreation Committee to review and discuss further.

ADJOURNMENT -

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

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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

APPROVED