

Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting
Borough Hall, 113 S. Main St., Mercersburg, PA
May 11, 2026
MINUTES

Attending: Council President Kelani Craig, Council Vice-President Jacob Morgan, Mayor Michael Pedersen, Member Dusty Stoner, Member Tom Heefner, Member Tobey Banks, Member Don Palesky, Borough Manager Matthew Moxley, Administrative Professional Angela Alleman

Absent: Member Anthony Frisby

Guest(s)/Press:

See sign in sheets.

Council President started the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Wilmoth – Inquired about historical information regarding past mayors and council members. Mayor Pedersen advised that he will follow up with additional information.

MINUTES

MOTION: To approve April 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURER'S/BILLS PAYABLE REPORT

MOTION: To approve April 2026 Treasure's Report was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve April 2026 Bills Payable Report was made by Heefner, seconded by Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

Members agreed that the remaining Playground Program funds will be held until next year to determine whether another individual is interested in taking over the program.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pederson reported that approximately 2,000 people attended Springfest. He also noted that he continues to serve as a crossing guard during the afternoons, while Chief Zechman serves in the mornings.

POLICE REPORT

Not scheduled to be present. Member copy available upon request.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Present. No formal report was given; however, comments were provided during discussions of old and new business items.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Moxley reported that with the exception of the capital fund transfers, the 2025 water and sewer accounts have been completed.

An insurance claim was filed involving paint leaking from a Public Works vehicle onto another car. The incident was documented and submitted to the carrier.

The financial audit is currently underway, and the required documents are being uploaded.

Staff continues correcting utility billing issues discussed through the Communications Committee. Complaints have dropped significantly, with more than 1,000 bills reviewed and only a small number of disputes remaining.

For the water department, Filter Line No. 1 is offline due to a clog and is expected to be repaired shortly. At the sewer department, the Sewer Keeper pump station failed and required emergency service; repairs are in progress.

The UV system project is nearing final completion. We also still have no commitments for the Sewer Board vacancy.

The Oregon Street and Salt Shed RFPs will be presented tonight and bid simultaneously. Public Works continues addressing pothole complaints and investigated standing water at North Main and Oregon Streets, which appears to be related to roadway grading on a PennDOT road.

We continue receiving positive feedback regarding the Public Works crew, including compliments on the downtown cleanup and lighting improvements.

Chief Zechman plans to remeasure and repaint timing lines for stopwatch-based speed enforcement once the necessary equipment is available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Act 537 - No meeting

Communications – Discussion was held regarding Facebook posts and upcoming community events.

Finance – No meeting

Fire Board – A copy of the first quarter Profit and Loss statement was presented.

HARB - No meeting

Personnel – No meeting

Planning – No meeting

Property/Technology – Topics will be discussed during old and new business.

Steering Committee - No meeting

Streets – Topics will be discussed during old and new business.

Zoning Hearing Board - No meeting

OLD BUSINESS

PMCA conducted a site visit on a property within the Borough and identified multiple code and safety violations. Primary concerns included a bedroom window that does not provide adequate emergency egress, as it is a tilt-style window that cannot be fully opened for exit in the event of an emergency. Additional deficiencies noted included the absence of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, exposed electrical wiring (including a confirmed energized wire that had been cut and was lying in the stone parking area), lack of required GFCI protection, missing or non-visible address numbers, and missing railings on elevated surfaces exceeding 30 inches. Additional concerns were also noted regarding damaged or compromised glass. Standing water was observed beneath the structure, reportedly caused by a disconnected dishwasher drain line. A formal

violation notice has been issued through Code Enforcement requiring that all identified deficiencies be corrected.

Manager Moxley reported that he is in the process of developing a new nuisance ordinance and rental ordinance which will address life safety concerns. A draft will be circulated to Planning and Council for review and approval upon completion.

Members were advised that the transfer of funds to the Street Improvement Fund has been completed for 2025.

MOTION: To approve execution of the Salt Shed RFP was made by Heefner, seconded by Palesky, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve execution of the Oregon Street RFP was made by Stoner, seconded by Banks, all ayes, motion carried.

Plans will move forward for a joint town hall public meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Angela Alleman will secure a location and report back at the next Borough Council meeting.

MOTION: To remove New Business items E and M from the agenda to be discussed during executive session was made by Palesky, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Members discussed the donation of Flock Safety license plate reader cameras by Moose Lodge 1790. Discussion focused on the proposed placement of the donated cameras within the borough. Deputy Foy and Chris Ardinger explained that camera locations are generally coordinated with the state police based on crime trends and traffic patterns, with borough entry points identified as likely installation sites. They noted that the cameras have aided law enforcement in recovering missing persons, locating stolen vehicles, and identifying suspects involved in serious crimes. It was further explained that the cameras capture only license plate information, retain data for 30 days, and serve as a force multiplier for agencies experiencing staffing shortages.

Members raised questions regarding safeguards, system oversight, ongoing fees, and training requirements associated with local access to the system. Member Banks reported that the Moose Lodge would be willing to cover the ongoing financial obligations related to the system. Deputy Foy explained that system usage is subject to auditing and monitoring procedures to ensure proper access and compliance. He also stated that the Borough would need to complete a form authorizing placement of the cameras on Borough property, and that the form would be forwarded to the Borough for Solicitor review.

MOTION: To accept the donation of the Flock Safety cameras and authorize their use pending agreement information being reviewed by the Solicitor was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, 4 ayes, 2 nays (Morgan, Palesky) motion carried.

Manager Moxley shared information regarding eCode360, a codification platform already utilized by many surrounding municipalities. The estimated cost is approximately \$15,000, with the project expected to take up to two years to complete. The system would consolidate and codify all borough

ordinances into a single searchable platform, making it significantly easier for both officials and residents to access and review ordinance information. The platform also cross-references related ordinances by topic. It was noted that most neighboring boroughs already use the system, while the borough is currently among the few that do not.

MOTION: To approve the use of eCode360 and authorize payment through the UDAG Fund was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

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Manager Moxley expressed interest in transitioning from Cohick and Associates to Gusto Payroll and Benefits Software in an effort to improve payroll efficiency and reduce costs.

MOTION: To approve the use of Gusto Payroll and Benefits Software was made by Stoner, seconded by Banks, all ayes, motion carried.

Manager Moxley obtained internet service quotes after concerns about the borough office's slow speeds. Comcast's proposal was significantly higher, while Brightspeed's was much lower; however, neither provider is on COSTARS, so a third quote will be required.

MOTION: To approve the transfer of funds to the Street Improvement Fund per 2026 Budget was made by Stoner, seconded by Banks, all ayes, motion carried.

Manager Moxley he will obtain quotes for a new, updated Borough website and report back to Council with a recommendation for approval to use UDAG Funds to support the project.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 25-26 Appointing Constance Creighton as Assistant Borough Manager was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 26-26 Appointing Constance Creighton as Assistant Treasurer was made by Heefner, seconded by Banks, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To retroactively approve a pay increase for PWD Luke Schellhase of \$2.00 per hour representing completed training requirements to support the Sewer and Water Plant testing was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Pedersen reported that a nomination has been made for Richard Rotz for the Harriet Lane Award. He noted that Mr. Rotz has made significant contributions to the community through his involvement with the local chorus and music programs.

MOTION: To nominate Richard Rotz for the 2026 Harriet Lane Award was made by Heefner, seconded by Palesky, all ayes, motion carried.

Members discussed the importance of increasing public awareness of the James Buchanan and Harriet Lane Awards and encouraging greater resident participation in the nomination process.

CORRESPONDENCE

President Craig reported that correspondence from Ryan's Computer Consulting had been included in each member's packet for review.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session with Possible Action to be Taken at 8:29PM was made by Morgan, seconded by Palesky, all ayes, motion carried.

Regular meeting session resumed at 8:42PM.

Members discussed paint color options for Borough Hall.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:49PM was made by Stoner, seconded by Palesky, all ayes, motion carried.

Date: 6/8/2026

Motion: *Heefner*

Seconded: *Banks*

Borough Manager

SEAL