

Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting
Borough Hall, 113 S. Main St., Mercersburg, PA
June 8, 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

Tiffany Black - Expressed concerns regarding the approval of Flock cameras at the previous council meeting, stating that the proposal was advanced quickly and that potential concerns were not discussed as thoroughly as the benefits. She also expressed concerns about the cameras and first year of service being donated by the council president's employer and felt additional public awareness and discussion should have occurred prior to the vote. Tiffany noted that these comments reflected her personal opinion and not those of the Communications Committee.

Mary Frisby - Requested that the Borough clean up Zion Union Lane of overgrown branches prior to their upcoming July 18, 2026 event.

Andi Frey - Expressed concerns regarding the process used to approve the Flock camera donation, stating that the agenda indicated discussion of the donation but did not clearly indicate that a vote would be taken. She felt additional public notice and opportunity for input should have been provided prior to the vote. Questions were raised regarding the transparency of the donation process, the circumstances surrounding the donation, and whether any potential conflicts of interest were reviewed. Andi requested that Council consider rescinding the prior approval and scheduling a future public hearing and vote after allowing additional time for public discussion and comment. Andi has been in contact with Borough Manager Moxley and has requested a copy of the May 11, 2026 Borough Council Meeting recording.

Kendra Thompson - Asked questions regarding the Flock camera program, including the length of the agreement, how the proposal originated, who benefits from the cameras, data access and security, and the potential for future expansion of surveillance. She requested that the Borough provide periodic reports regarding the effectiveness of the cameras and any benefits realized by the community. She emphasized the importance of Council remaining receptive to public input, listening to residents' concerns with an open mind, and providing clear responses to questions raised by the community. She further encouraged Council members to avoid becoming defensive or dismissive when residents' express concerns and to maintain respectful and constructive dialogue during public discussions.

Tom Suddeth - Requested the exact wording of the motion regarding the Flock camera's during the May 11, 2026 Borough Council Meeting.

Vincent McCullough - Commented on the Flock camera program and sought clarification regarding funding, future costs, data handling, and the process for evaluating the program's effectiveness. He expressed support for reviewing the program after the initial one-year term and encouraged transparency regarding how data is managed and how the cameras are utilized.

Chris Ardinger – Shared his experience using Flock cameras in Antrim Township. He spoke in support of the program, citing examples where the technology assisted law enforcement in locating wanted individuals, stolen vehicles, and missing persons. He stated that the system is managed by law enforcement, that access to information is restricted and logged, and that participating municipalities may terminate their agreements if concerns arise regarding the program or its use. He shared that law enforcement agencies receive alerts related to criminal investigations, stolen vehicles, missing persons, or active warrants, while direct access to search the system is limited to authorized personnel.

Sahand Miraminy – Expressed opposition to the installation of Flock cameras, stating a preference for maintaining the community's rural character and limited surveillance. He questioned the motivations behind the proposal and expressed concerns regarding public trust, transparency, and the level of public support for the program. Sahand encouraged Council to consider community feedback and the views of residents when making future decisions regarding the cameras.

Renee Kelly – Asked questions regarding law enforcement response procedures, data access, data retention, and the accuracy of information being provided to the public regarding the Flock camera program. She expressed concerns about potential discrepancies between statements made during the meeting and the terms of the agreement governing the program.

Lisa McCulloh – Asked if it would be possible to invite Sherriff Ben Sipes and Deputy Foy to attend the Townhall Meeting scheduled for June 13, 2026.

Kelly Buterbaugh – Inquired about the ownership of Borough alleys. Manager Moxley reported that staff is continuing to research the matter.

Member Morgan expressed concerns regarding the Borough's understanding of the Flock camera program and suggested that a public meeting with representatives from the Sheriff's Department be held to address questions related to data sharing, privacy, and program operations. Morgan stated that additional review and discussion of the program would be beneficial and reiterated concerns regarding the speed of the approval process.

Council members discussed the Flock camera program, noting that the agreement is for an initial one-year term funded through a donation. The cameras are intended to assist law enforcement with criminal investigations, warrants, missing persons, and stolen vehicles. Council stated that the program's effectiveness will be monitored, updates will be provided when available, and continuation beyond the first year will be evaluated at a later date.

Council President Craig reported that all related documents have been forwarded to the Borough Solicitor for review. Any concerns identified during the review will be brought back to Council for further consideration; otherwise, implementation will proceed as approved.

MINUTES

MOTION: To approve May 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes was made by Heefner, seconded by Banks, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURER'S/BILLS PAYABLE REPORT

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

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pedersen reported receiving multiple complaints regarding large landscaping company trailers parked along Linden Avenue and early morning employee gatherings associated with the business. He also inquired about two lamps on the Square that are not functioning properly and noted that he is monitoring several trees in the Square to determine whether they are dead or in decline.

Mayor Pedersen expressed concerns regarding the Flock camera program and requested additional information before a final decision is made.

Manager Moxley reported that he is drafting an ordinance to address the parking concerns.

Mayor Pedersen thanked Manager Moxley and the Public Works Department for their continued hard work and dedication to the Borough.

POLICE REPORT

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Not scheduled to be present.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Moxley reported that he intends to attend a PA State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) training course regarding Municipality Budgeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Act 537 - No meeting

Communications – If there are no items to list on the agenda, a formal meeting will not be held.

Finance – No meeting

Fire Board – Council Member Stoner inquired about the status of the Municipal Questionnaire. Manager Moxley provided an update on its progress.

HARB - No meeting

Personnel – No meeting

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

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

A Joint Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the MMP&W Activity Center. Notice of the meeting has been posted on the Borough website and published in the June 3, 2026, edition of the Mercersburg Journal.

Manager Moxley reported a typographical error under Old Business Item B and noted that the word "Consider" should be removed.

MOTION: To approve Ordinance No. 10-15 Nuisance and Property Maintenance for submission to the Franklin County Planning Commission for review and comment, and authorize staff to schedule a Public Hearing following receipt of the Commission's review was made by Morgan, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

Council members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of continuing the Per Capita Tax. Tax Collector Angel Myers provided statistical information for Council's review and consideration.

MOTION: To decide by November 1, 2026 how to resolve the Per Capita Tax issues or discontinue it beginning January 2027 was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

Borough Council was informed of a vacancy on the Mercersburg Water Authority. Several individuals have expressed interest in the position. Their qualifications and interest will be reviewed by the Water Authority at its June 18, 2026 meeting.

Council approved moving forward with consideration of the Strategic Management Planning Program (STMP) and requested that representatives from DCED provide a presentation on the program.

MOTION: To approve consideration of the Strategic Management Planning Program (STMP) was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Fire Police participation at various Borough of Chambersburg events was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Signal Service Contract as recommended at the May 27, 2026 Streets Committee Meeting was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve a donation of \$600.00 to the Junior Fire Fighter Academy was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To authorize staff to review the contents of the blue storage building located on the Salt Shed property and dispose of any unusable materials through scrap or salvage was made by Stoner, seconded by Banks, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve RAVE Mobile Safety Contract renewal for 1 year as recommended at the June 3, 2026 Property Committee Meeting was made by Stoner, seconded by Banks, all ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Manager Moxley presented a SALDO related email from the Franklin County Planning Commission.

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session with Possible Action to be Taken at 8:44PM was made by Morgan, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

Regular meeting session resumed at 9:01 PM.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:02PM was made by Morgan, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

Date: Motion: Seconded:

Borough Manager

SEAL