



FOX CHAPEL
BOROUGH

Minutes

Fox Chapel Borough Council Meeting Held November 17, 2025

Call to Order

Present: Andrew C. Bennett, Council President; Harrison S. Lauer, Council Vice-President; Frederick C. Leech, Bradley D. Harrison, Betsy Monroe, Sarah Hanna, Jonathan Colton, Councilmembers

Also Present: Walter A. Scott, III, Mayor; Bruce Bowden, Solicitor; Julie P. Bastianini, Borough Manager; Jeanine A. Mancuso, Treasurer; Michael Catanzaro, Fox Chapel Police Officer; Larry Kurpakus, Public Works Director; Shawn M. Peterson, Assistant to the Manager; Jenifer Swab, Deputy Chief of Foxwall EMS; Wesley Posvar, Chairperson for the Park Commission; Kabeer Chopra, Aiden Drucker, Anna Grace Shultz, Ahmed Elsayed, Junior Councilmembers; Chris Bason, Executive Director of Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve; four other attendees

Via Zoom: Ben Shopland, Chief of Foxwall EMS (left after the EMS Report), three other attendees

Absent: Laurence Park, Junior Councilmember

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

- I. The meeting was held on October 20, 2025.

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the meeting minutes from October 20, 2025. Ms. Hanna seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Resident Comments

None

Reports

- II. Police Report for October 2025

Officer Catanzaro stated that the Police Department completed mandatory state training in firearms and defensive tactics in October. He also said that while the SRO officer is out due to an injury, the Department will maintain a presence at Shady Side Academy. He reminded the Council that Light Up Fox Chapel will be

held on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Officer Catanzaro noted that the Deer Management Program reported that, as of November 1, there were 31 motor vehicle accidents involving deer in the Borough, up from 21 in 2024, with December being the highest month for such accidents.

III. Fire Report for October 2025

Total calls: 26, 13 Fox Chapel Borough (2- Aspinwall, 2- Pittsburgh, 1- Harmar, 1- Indiana, 3- O'Hara, 4- Sharpsburg)

IV. EMS Report for October 2025

V. Public Works Report

Mr. Kurpakus stated that the Public Works Department has its full focus on leaf collection, as the leaves have dropped later this year than usual. He also stated that the Borough has taken full delivery of its fall salt order and has a stockpile of salt for the first snowfall of the season.

VI. Engineer Report for October 2025

Mr. Bennett stated that the stoplight at Fox Chapel and Field Club Roads will be operational in early December. He said the project was delayed because one of the poles was defective and needed to be replaced.

A discussion on the Shady Lane/Delafield Road Stream Removal project was held. Ms. Bastianini and Mr. Kurpakus provided information to the Council members on the project.

VII. Treasurer Report for October 2025

1. Ratification of Payments for October 2025

Ms. Monroe moved to ratify the payment of bills for October 2025, General Fund Vouchers 6163-6219 in the amount of \$1,792,818.44. The motion was seconded by Mr. Colton and passed unanimously.

VIII. Environmental Reports

1. Solar Status Report for EIS Fox Chapel for October 2025
2. Recycling/Solid Waste Report for October 2025

New Business

IX. 2026 Budget and Sewer Ordinance Advertisement Approval

Mr. Lauer summarized the 2026 budget that was reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the advertisement for the proposed 2026 budget,

subject to any modifications that may arise from the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously. Mr. Lauer thanked Ms. Mancuso for another excellent budget. He stated that the budget was thorough and exceedingly well done.

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the advertisement for the proposed ordinance for the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) sewer rate increase. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The proposed budget will be available for public viewing from December 1 to December 12, 2025, at the Borough Building, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

X. Resignation Letter

Council member Jonathan Colton has submitted a letter of resignation, effective Sunday, January 4, 2026. He will begin his role as Mayor of Fox Chapel on Monday, January 5, 2026.

Mr. Bennett moved to accept the resignation of Jonathan Colton from his position as a member of the Borough Council, effective January 4, 2026. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

XI. Authorize Advertisement for the Vacant Seat on the Borough Council

Ms. Monroe moved to approve the advertisement seeking applicants for the vacant seat on the Borough Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

This formal process for appointing Council members for the duration of a term includes soliciting applications from community members and scheduling interviews with the potential candidates by the Borough Council.

XII. Fox Chapel Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Leech summarized the Fox Chapel Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Bennett moved to approve the Fox Chapel Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement for the years 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Bennett thanked both the Police Department's negotiating team, consisting of Sergeant Clark and Officers Stoner and Klein, as well as the Borough representatives, Mr. Leech, Mr. Harrison, and Ms. Monroe.

XIII. Resolution No. 717 - Revising the Borough of Fox Chapel's Fee Schedule

Mr. Leech moved to adopt Resolution No. 717, revising the Borough of Fox Chapel's Fee Schedule, which was last updated on August 19, 2024. The

motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

The two items that were revised are as follows: Notice of Proposed Environmental Disturbance Application (EAC Review) Escrow, which increased from \$2,000 to \$3,000, and the Parking Permit Fee was added to the Fee Schedule, with a corresponding increase in non-resident fees from \$50 to \$100 annually, as recommended by the Park Commission.

- XIV. Authorize Council President Signature for Agreement Between Fox Chapel Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Assoc. and the Borough of Fox Chapel

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the signature of the Borough of Fox Chapel Council President for the Agreement between the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fighters' Association and the Borough of Fox Chapel regarding the purchase of gym equipment for the VFD and Borough employees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

- XV. Seasonal Borough of Fox Chapel Parks Program Coordinator Position Discussion

Mr. Posvar summarized the Seasonal Borough of Fox Chapel Parks Program Coordinator Position to the Borough Council. He stated that the Park Commission strongly recommends that the Borough Council approve the creation of the Seasonal Parks Program Coordinator position and allocate a budget not to exceed \$12,000 to fund the role for the 2026 season.

Ms. Monroe stated that the job description needs to be revised to establish clear goals for the position.

Mr. Posvar stated that he would inform the Park Commission members that the Borough Council has a consensus supporting the position, and it is included in the proposed budget.

Informational

- XVI. Thank You Letter from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies

Mr. Bennett stated that a wonderful letter from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies was received, thanking the Borough Council for the donation of \$2,798.39 in honor of the previous Borough Manager, Gary Koehler.

Mayor Scott took a moment to introduce Chris Bason, Executive Director for Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, to the Borough Council.

Executive Session

- XVII. Personnel

At 7:14 p.m., the Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss a

personnel matter. At 8:30 p.m., the meeting was reconvened.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Shawn Marie Peterson
Assistant to the Manager