



FOX CHAPEL

BOROUGH

Minutes

Fox Chapel Borough Council Meeting Held January 5, 2026

Call to Order: Organization Meeting

Present: Andrew C. Bennett, Harrison S. Lauer, Frederick C. Leech, Bradley D. Harrison, Betsy Monroe, Councilmembers; Jonathan Colton, Mayor

Also Present: Julie Bastianini, Borough Manager; Jeanine A. Mancuso, Treasurer; Craig Sorg, Interim Chief of Police; Shawn M. Peterson, Assistant to the Manager; Aiden Drucker, Anna Grace Shultz, Kabeer Chopra, Ahmed Elsayed, Junior Councilmembers; Walter Scott, Sandy Garfinkel, Wesley W. Posvar, Benjamin Rister, residents; twelve other attendees

Via Zoom: Barry Schaitkin, Councilmember (joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.); A. Bruce Bowden, Solicitor; three other attendees

Absent: Larry Kurpakus, Public Works Director; Laurence Park; Junior Councilmember

Mayor Colton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Election of Officers

- I. Mayor Colton called for nominations for the President of the Borough Council, the Vice President of the Borough Council, and the President Pro Tem.

Harrison S. Lauer nominated Andrew C. Bennett for the position of President of Borough Council. With no further nominations, the Borough Council unanimously voted for Mr. Bennett, with an abstention from Mr. Bennett.

Andrew C. Bennett nominated Harrison S. Lauer for the position of Vice President of Borough Council. With no further nominations, the Borough Council unanimously voted for Mr. Lauer, with an abstention from Mr. Lauer.

Andrew C. Bennett nominated Frederick C. Leech for the position of President Pro-Tem for the Borough Council. With no further nominations, the Borough Council unanimously voted for Mr. Leech, with an abstention from Mr. Leech.

At this time, Mayor Colton turned the gavel to President Bennett, who congratulated Mayor Colton on his new position and thanked Walter "Alex" Scott for the 27 years he had spent on the Borough Council, 13 of those years as Mayor.

Additional Appointments

- II. Solicitor - A. Bruce Bowden, Esq., Leech Tishman
Labor Attorney - Michael Palombo, Campbell Durrant PC
Consulting Engineer - Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc.
Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee - Julie Bastianini (Delegate) and Jeanine Mancuso (Alternate Delegate)

Mr. Lauer moved to appoint A. Bruce Bowden, Esq., of Leech Tishman to the position of Solicitor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lauer moved to appoint Michael Palombo, Esq., of Campbell Durrant, P.C., to the position of Borough Labor Attorney. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

Ms. Monroe moved to appoint Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc., to the position of Borough Consulting Engineer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

Ms. Monroe moved to appoint Julie Bastianini as the Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee Delegate for the Borough of Fox Chapel, and Jeanine Mancuso as the Alternate Delegate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

Board/Committee Appointments

III. Vacancy Board Chairperson

Mr. Leech moved that A. Bruce Bowden, Esq., be appointed to chair the Vacancy Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed unanimously.

IV. Environmental Advisory Council

Mr. Lauer moved to appoint Donald H. Newman and Brenda McEver to another three-year term on the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), as recommended by the members of the EAC. The terms will expire on December 31, 2028. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

V. Zoning Hearing Board

Mr. Harrison moved to appoint Nina Gusman to another three-year term on the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB), as recommended by the members of the ZHB. The term will expire on December 31, 2028. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

VI. Fox Chapel Authority Board

Mr. Leech moved to appoint Donald H. Newman and Andrea Lehman to another five-year term on the Fox Chapel Authority Board. The terms will expire on December 31, 2030. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

VII. Fox Chapel Sanitary Authority

Ms. Monroe moved to appoint Harrison S. Lauer, Frederick C. Leech, and Andrew C. Bennett to the Fox Chapel Sanitary Authority for another four-year term. The terms will expire on December 31, 2029. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lauer moved to appoint Julie Bastianini as the Secretary to the Fox Chapel Sanitary Authority. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

(Barry Schaitkin joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.)

Ms. Monroe moved to appoint Barry Schaitkin to the Fox Chapel Sanitary Authority to fill the remaining term of Jonathan Colton, which expires on December 31, 2027. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

VIII. North Hills Council of Governments (COG)

Mr. Leech moved to appoint Bradley D. Harrison as the North Hills Council of Governments Delegate for the Borough of Fox Chapel, and Barry Schaitkin as the Alternate Delegate. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous

IX. Set Meeting Date and Time

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the regular meeting date and time for the Borough Council, to be held on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

X. Bank Depository

Ms. Monroe moved to approve Dollar Bank as the bank depository for the General Fund, Capital Reserve Fund, Land Fund, Sewer Fund, Highway Aid Fund, Park Fund, Interceptor Fund, Fire Truck Fund, Infrastructure Emergency Fund, Bond Fund, Sanitary Authority Fund, and Grant Fund. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

XI. Check Signing Authority

Mr. Lauer moved to approve check signing authority for the Borough of Fox Chapel for all Borough Council members, the Mayor, and the Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

The Organization Meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Call to Order: Regular Meeting

Mr. Bennett called the regular meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

XII. The meeting was held on December 15, 2025.

Ms. Monroe moved to approve the minutes from December 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech, with an abstention from Mr. Bennett, as he was not in attendance at the December meeting.

Resident Comments

None

New Business

XIII. Resolution No. 721 — Deputizing Jordan Tax Service, Inc. as Deputy Tax Collector for the Borough of Fox Chapel

Ms. Monroe moved to adopt Resolution No. 721. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

XIV. Resolution No. 722 - Establishing the Annual Salary of the Borough of Fox Chapel Tax Collector

Mr. Leech moved to adopt Resolution No. 722. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed unanimously.

XV. Amending the Borough of Fox Chapel's Employee Policy Manual

Mr. Lauer moved to amend the Borough of Fox Chapel's Employee Policy Manual. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

XVI. Resolution No. 723 — Establishing Work Week for the Finance Director

Mr. Harrison moved to adopt Resolution No. 723. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed unanimously.

XVII. Resolution No. 724 - Amendment to the Borough of Fox Chapel Police Pension Plan

Mr. Leech moved to adopt Resolution No. 724. The motion was seconded by Ms. Monroe and passed unanimously.

XVIII. Borough Council Vacancy — Interviews

Following the vacancy left by Jonathan Colton's election as Mayor, the Borough Council conducted interviews with Sandy Garfinkel, Wesley W. Posvar, and Benjamin Rister, the candidates for the vacant Borough Council position. Each candidate was asked a series of eight questions that were prepared by the Borough Council.

Executive Session

At 7:20 p.m., the Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and one contract

matter, and it was expected that they would take action afterward. At 8:58 p.m., the meeting was reconvened.

Cont. New Business

XIX. Appoint Council Member to Fill Vacancy

Mr. Lauer moved to appoint Wesley W. Posvar to the vacant seat on the Borough Council to carry out the remainder of Jonathan Colton's term, which expires on December 31, 2027. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Shawn Marie Peterson
Assistant to the Manager