



Minutes
Borough Council Meeting
Monday, May 18, 2026, at 6 p.m.

Present: Andrew C. Bennett, President; Harrison S. Lauer, Vice-President; Frederick C. Leech, Bradley D. Harrison, Wesley W. Posvar, Council Members; Jonathan Colton, Mayor

Also Present: Julie P. Bastianini, Borough Manager; A. Bruce Bowden, Borough Solicitor; Jeanine Mancuso, Treasurer; C. Ellis Watson, Chief of Police; Larry Kurpakus, Director of Public Works; Shawn M. Peterson, Assistant to the Manager; Donald H. Newman, EAC Member; Melinda Guinn, Park Commission Member; Aiden Drucker, Anna Grace Shultz, Ahmed Elsayed, Kabeer Chopra, Junior Council Members; Hayley Streit, CPA, Manager for MaherDuessel; Jeffrey Clark, Police Officer; Sandy Garfinkel, resident; and sixteen other attendees

Via Zoom: Four attendees

Absent: Betsy Monroe, Barry Schaitkin, Council Members; Ben Shopland, Chief of Foxwall EMS; Laurence Park, Junior Council Member

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026, Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

Resident Comments

Melinda Guinn, 107 Haverford Road, thanked the community, as a Park Commission member, for all the volunteer work that has gone into removing invasive species. She stated that volunteers have dedicated 100 hours over the last few weeks to pulling Garlic Mustard from Borough parkland.

Environmental Advisory Council

Mr. Newman summarized the EAC meeting held on May 11, 2026. He stated that the EAC recommends that the Borough Council approve Environmental Disturbance Application No. 26-03, as submitted, including a waiver for the geotechnical report requirements.

Mr. Leech moved to approve Environmental Disturbance Application No. 26-03, as recommended by the EAC. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Planning Commission

Mr. Lauer summarized the Planning Commission meeting, held immediately before the Council meeting.

Mr. Lauer moved to approve Land Development Application No. 26-03 for Shady Side Academy's temporary kitchen, as recommended by the Planning Commission, conditioned on its being in place for no more than 24 months. The motion was seconded by Mr. Posvar and passed unanimously.

Reports

Mayor Report

Mayor Colton stated that Fox Chapel Day will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from noon to 4 p.m. at McCahill Park.

Mayor Colton also recognized Sergeant Jeffrey Clark's retirement and thanked him for his 27 years of service to the Borough of Fox Chapel. Mayor Colton wished Sergeant Clark and his family the best of luck in the future.

Chief Watson presented Sergeant Clark with a plaque for his dedicated years of service to the Borough of Fox Chapel. Mr. Bennett thanked Sergeant Clark, on behalf of the Borough Council, for his years of service and wished him all the best. Sergeant Clark thanked the Borough Council and staff.

Mr. Bennett thanked Mayor Colton for recognizing and proclaiming May 10 through May 16, 2026, as National Police Week and May 15, 2026, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day in the Borough of Fox Chapel. He thanked the Fox Chapel Police Department for its service.

Public Works Report

Mr. Kurpakus stated that Borough staff met with the Borough Engineer and Shields Asphalt Paving Inc. for a pre-construction meeting, and paving is slated to begin in mid-June.

Engineer Report

Ms. Bastianini stated that DEP has issued a draft permit for the Hardie Valley Park Stormwater Project, which begins a 30-day review process, after which the Borough expects to then receive the permit to begin work. She said she asked the Borough's Engineer to prepare bid documents to move the project along.

Ms. Bastianini said that the Borough Engineer prepared a service order authorization for the midblock crossing analysis for the Dorseyville Road crosswalk located at Hidden Falls and Beechwood properties. She said the initial engineering work for the project would be \$6,350, and she proposed a three-way split between the Borough, Indiana Township, and Allegheny County, as Dorseyville Road is a county road. She is waiting for a reply from Indiana Township, but the County doesn't seem willing to contribute to the engineering work.

Regarding ALCOSAN Regionalization, Ms. Bastianini stated that the Public Works Department, the Borough's contractor, and the Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority (PWSA) worked together to televise the Waterworks sewer line overnight, and she thanked PWSA for its cooperation. She also said the sewer line was in good condition and that the information would be given to ALCOSAN to move forward with the next step in regionalization.

Lastly, Ms. Bastianini discussed the stormwater fee. She said that on April 30, 2026, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court affirmed the Commonwealth Court's decision that stormwater charges are taxes, not fees, and tax-exempt properties would not need to pay them. This would mean a loss of approximately \$27,000 in revenue, or 9% of the fee collected each year. She stated that she would like to discuss the subject further during the Executive Session to get the Solicitor's opinion on the case and what it might mean for the future of stormwater fees.

Treasurer Report

Ms. Mancuso stated that the Borough completed a five-year pension audit and received a verbal exit interview that looked good with no findings or issues.

Ratification of Payments

Mr. Lauer moved to ratify the payments of the April 2026 General Fund Vouchers 6473 - 6499, totaling \$446,078.13. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leech and passed unanimously.

MaherDuessel 2025 Audited Financials

Hayley Streit, CPA, Manager for MaherDuessel, provided a brief presentation regarding the 2025 Audit. Ms. Streit stated that there were no findings and that the Borough is in good financial condition.

Unfinished Business

Due to a posting error, the following motions did not appear on the posted Borough Council agenda for the April 20, 2026, Council meeting and therefore needed to be reapproved by the Borough Council.

Mr. Lauer moved to approve the Civil Service Commission to proceed with the hiring process for a new patrol officer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

Mr. Leech moved to approve the advertisement for the Civil Service Commission Exam. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harrison and passed unanimously.

Mr. Bennett moved to approve the designation of Police Consulting Services to administer a written examination for the patrol officer position. Mr. Leech seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

New Business

Resolution No. 727: Allegheny County 2026 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Mr. Leech moved to adopt Resolution No. 727. Mr. Lauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Zoning Hearing Board Member

Mr. Leech moved to approve the appointment of Sandy Garfinkel to the Zoning Hearing Board, to fill the vacant seat left by Jeremy Sphar, with the term expiring on December 31, 2027. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lauer and passed unanimously. Mr. Bennett thanked Mr. Garfinkel and said the Borough is thrilled to have him on the Board.

Contract Awards

Motor Vehicle Fuel Dispensing Maintenance Project

Mr. Bennett moved to approve the award of the Motor Vehicle Fuel Dispensing Maintenance Project to Nexus Energy Services, in the amount of \$86,992.00. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Fuel Contract: Option Year Approval

Mr. Leech moved to award the Option Year (June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027) under the current Fuel Contract for 87 Octane and B2 Diesel to Reed Oil. The motion was seconded by Mr. Posvar and passed unanimously.

SHACOG Spring Commodities

Mr. Lauer moved to award the contracts outlined in the attached bid tabulations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Posvar and passed unanimously. (*see attached*)

Executive Session

At 6:48 p.m., the Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. At 8:35 p.m., the regular meeting reconvened.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Shawn M. Peterson
Assistant to the Manager