



**Draft Minutes**  
**Borough Council Special Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 6 p.m.**

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

**Also Present:** Julie P. Bastianini, Borough Manager; A. Bruce Bowden, Borough Solicitor; Jim Loeffler, Cindy Minogue, Patrick Minogue, Margaret Pohl, Mike Pohl, Carole Steigerwalt, William Jacobs, Jerry Vest, Patti Weaver; residents, others present in audience

**Via Zoom:** Barry Schaitkin, Council Member

**Call to Order**

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

Mr. Bennett stated that the purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the purchase of Parcel 438-G-10, 580 Old Mill Road. He said that a recommendation under the adopted Joint Comprehensive Plan is for the Borough to purchase parcels to connect them to the park and trail networks. The property has a historical log cabin placed there in the 1950s, but the cabin dates to 1780.

Mr. Bennett said the asking price for the property was \$860,000, but the agreed-upon purchase price is \$675,000, with a \$100,000 pledge from the Grable Foundation and \$577,000 in the Borough's Land Fund, which is dedicated for land acquisitions. He said that the full intent is for the purchase price to be covered by community donations, as the purchase is strongly supported by the community at large.

**Resident Comments**

Jim Loeffler, 106 Shadow Ridge Drive, stated that he opposes the Borough's purchase of any private land that would increase maintenance and liability insurance costs.

Cindy Minogue, 440 Dorseyville Road, stated that she does not object to the Borough purchasing historic buildings or large parcels to add to the Borough's parklands, but the Hardie property was supposed to complete the park system.

Patrick Minogue, 440 Dorseyville Road, asked about the benefits of purchasing the Old Mill Road property and that the vote should be delayed until questions are answered.

Margaret Pohl, 116 Wilmar Drive, asked how much due diligence was conducted regarding the property purchase, and she felt the decision to purchase the Old Mill property had already been made.

Mike Pohl, 116 Wilmar Drive, stated that the only way someone knew about the special meeting was by visiting the Borough website or by word of mouth. He asked why the Borough was purchasing private property when groups like the Fox Chapel Land Trust or Parks Conservancy exist.

Carole Steigerwalt, 103 The Oaks, stated that if there is money available for property purchases, the Borough should spend it on maintaining the current Borough parks instead.

William Jacobs, 303 Pasadena Drive South, stated that he believes the Borough has other priorities for the land it already owns, including the hillside property along Delafield Road.

Jerry Vest, 716 Fairview Road, said the issues raised by the speakers before him warrant public discussion by the Borough Council before a decision is made to purchase the Old Mill Road property.

Patti Weaver, 111 Riding Trail Lane, asked about the property's and the house's annual maintenance costs, and whether the home has any historical significance.

#### Executive Session Meeting

Mr. Bennett stated that an Executive Session meeting was held on Friday, May 22, 2026, at noon, to discuss real estate.

#### Purchase of Parcel 438-G-10, 580 Old Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Ms. Monroe moved to approve the purchase of Parcel 438-G-10, 580 Old Mill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Mr. Schaitkin seconded the motion.

Mr. Bennett asked Mr. Bowden about the legality of a municipality's handling of real estate. Mr. Bowden stated that the Borough's powers, exercised by the Council, are set forth in the Borough Code.

Ms. Bastianini asked Mr. Bowden to discuss the Sunshine Act as it applies to the Executive Sessions held to discuss the property purchase. Mr. Bowden said that negotiations for property purchases are not subject to the Sunshine Act.

Mr. Bowden stated that the purchase of the property must be in the Borough's best interest and that the Council is responsible for making that determination. He said the property should not be purchased for more than it is worth. He said the purchase is contingent on a professional real estate appraisal to ensure the Borough does not pay more than the property's market value.

Ms. Monroe stated that the intention is for donations to cover or reimburse the purchase price of the property, but grants are also available for the site's historic preservation.

Borough Council Special Meeting  
Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Mr. Schaitkin stated that it's unlikely there will be a project that every resident will support, but he thought there were some great comments and that the reasons the Borough is interested in the property were articulated, which he hopes was helpful to people.

Mr. Bennett called for a vote on the motion to approve the purchase, and it passed unanimously.

**Executive Session**

At 6:41 p.m., the Borough Council adjourned into Executive Session to discuss personnel. At 7:03 p.m., the meeting was reconvened.

**Adjournment**

With no other business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

**Shawn M. Peterson**  
Assistant to the Manager