

Borough of Sinking Spring

April 9, 2026

Council Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., by Council President Tracy Peterson. After the pledge to the flag, Elizabeth Egelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

Tracy Peterson
H. David Miller
Denise Stine
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa (Absent)
Robert Metzgar
John Egelman

Other officials present: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; Lowell Leaman, ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Police Officer William Skelton; and Elizabeth Egelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – 3-12-26 Council Meeting

A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Mr. Egelman and seconded by Mrs. Gantner. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitors/Public Comment

No visitors were present for public comment.

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

Approval of the Bills for March 2026

A motion was made by Mrs. Stine to approve the bills from March 2026 and seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Treasurers Report for March 2026

A motion was made by Mrs. Gantner to approve the treasurer's report for March 2026 and seconded by Mrs. Stine. The motion passed unanimously.

Western Berks Fire Department Report

Mr. Renshaw presented the March activity report and provided updates on his recent trip to Washington DC for the Congressional Fire Service Institute annual training symposium dinner. During the trip, he met with Congressman Muser and Senator McCormick to discuss funding for a new firehouse. Senator McCormick agreed to sponsor the department for congressional discretionary funding, with applications submitted for both a brand-new firehouse and a remodel project. While the applications have passed initial USDA approval requirements, he noted this doesn't guarantee funding as the final decisions are made by Senate appropriations. He emphasized they won't know the outcome until the end of this year or next year, but stated "if we don't try, we only have ourselves to blame."

Western Berks Ambulance Report

The Western Berks ambulance report was included in the packet with no additional discussion.

Revitalization

Mr. Hoffa was absent and sent a text indicating he had nothing to report for revitalization. No meeting had taken place since the last council meeting.

Unfinished Business/ Possible Action Items

Revisit Cacoosing No Parking Restrictions

The council engaged in extensive discussion about the no parking restrictions on Cacoosing Avenue. Mrs. Stine expressed that it would be beneficial for residents on her side of the street to be able to park there before 6 o'clock at night and on weekends, citing issues with a resident across the street who has 6 or 7 cars and a flatbed that are sometimes parked on the street.

Mr. Hart reported that Code Enforcement has been addressing violations at 44 Cacoosing Avenue, where a tenant is operating an unauthorized car sales and repair business. The operator has been parking cars in a grass field behind the homes and has received violation notices. Mr. Hart explained that both the property owner and tenant deny the business operation despite photographic evidence.

Discussion ensued about vehicle inspection requirements and property code enforcement. Mr. Haws clarified that while registered vehicles can legally park on the street, the borough's property maintenance code requires outdoor stored vehicles to be operable, licensed, and insured, though inspection requirements were questioned.

The council discussed the timing of the paving project, which is scheduled to begin in two weeks. Mr. Hart explained that after paving, they must wait 2-3 months before painting parking lines to allow the asphalt to properly cure. The new striping will create approximately 4 additional parking spaces with additional spaces available on the newly one-way North Hall Street (12-15 spaces) and around the corner on new Kirkwood Street (2-3 spaces).

Council members debated changing the no-parking hours, with some suggesting allowing parking on weekends since enforcement appears inconsistent. However, concerns were raised

about bus schedules and increased traffic congestion during peak hours. The discussion revealed that special needs transportation sometimes runs after 5 PM.

Mayor Cirulli suggested that emergency vehicles should have special parking privileges, but other council members disagreed, stating that emergency vehicles without an emergency are just regular vehicles and don't deserve special treatment.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller to direct staff to coordinate with police to investigate potentially illegal vehicles on Cacoosing Avenue, pursue speed table studies for traffic calming, and schedule parking line installation as soon as possible after the paving cures. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Gantner and passed.

Mrs. Peterson stated that we will revisit the parking situation on Cacoosing Avenue in the fall once the parking lines have been painted and summer is over.

New Business - Possible Action Items

Approve Resolution #2026-06 – Restated Emergency Operations Plan

A motion was made by Mrs. Stine to approve Resolution #2026-06 for the Restated Emergency Operations Plan and seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Ordinance 671-2026 – Amending Chapter 196, Section 196-36.D of Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Haws opened the Hearing for the adoption of the Ordinance as advertised. He asked if anyone had any input. Hearing non he closed the hearing.

A motion was made by Mr. Egelman to approve Ordinance 671-2026 and seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion passed with one opposing vote from Mr. Metzgar.

Hire Summer Playground Leaders

Mrs. Gantner presented the list of summer program staff to be hired, including two head leaders at \$17.00 per hour, two assistant leaders at \$15.00 per hour, returning staff at \$14 per hour, and new staff at \$12 per hour. The list included 32 individuals.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gantner to hire all listed summer playground staff and seconded by Mr. Metzgar. The motion passed unanimously.

Appoint Jeff Weaver to Zoning Hearing Board

A letter from Jeff Weaver expressing interest in serving on the zoning hearing board was included in the packet.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gantner to appoint Jeff Weaver to the zoning hearing board and seconded by Mr. Metzgar. The motion passed unanimously.

Approve Telco Payment #3 for Pedestrian Crossing Signal Project - \$16,366.50

Mrs. Peterson praised the crosswalk system, noting she has seen it in action many times and it works well when people press the button.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller to approve Telco payment number 3 for \$16,366.50 for the pedestrian crossing signal project and seconded by Mr. Egelman. The motion passed unanimously.

Authorization to purchase New Utility Truck for Sewer Plant - \$102,000.00

Mr. Hart confirmed this purchase was included in the budget for equipment replacement this year.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller to authorize the purchase of a new utility truck for the sewer plant for \$102,000 and seconded by Mrs. Stine. The motion passed unanimously.

Environmental & Municipal Engineer's Report

Engineer Lowell reported that the crosswalk project has been completed. He mentioned ongoing follow-up on apartment projects and preparations to survey the manhole 214 area that was discussed in the previous month's meeting.

Committee Reports

Mr. Hart provided several updates including notification that the borough was awarded \$113,000 through the LSA local grant for replacement of the big wheel loader. He noted that a state grant application was also submitted for the same equipment, and he wants to wait to see the outcome since the state grant could cover the full \$284,000 purchase price. He explained that the current used loader purchased from state surplus has required extensive repairs nearly equal to the original purchase price.

Mr. Hart also provided an update on the freight house renovation project. He stated that he has photos of the progress including exterior framing, doors, windows, trim installation, and interior work with bathrooms being plumbed and drywalled. He noted a potential issue with the deck railing not meeting current building codes due to its historical nature, which may require a variance from Harrisburg L&I.

Mr. Hart confirmed that a property cleanup hearing is scheduled for June 18th for a problematic property, though he expressed doubt about voluntary compliance.

Mr. Metzgar brought attention to an important zoning hearing scheduled for Monday, April 13th at 7 PM. The 412 Holding Company is seeking variances for a downtown development project. He expressed concern that this significant development affecting the borough's downtown area did not go through the normal planning commission review process before seeking variances. He encouraged council members and residents to review the plans in the borough office and attend the hearing if they have concerns about the project's compliance with the borough's downtown zoning requirements.

Mrs. Gantner reported on a successful Easter egg hunt with 3,800 eggs filled by volunteer Lynn Stuck. Mrs. Peterson mentioned the challenges with accessing the concession stand due to baseball organization key issues. She noted excellent volunteer help from high school students.

Mrs. Stine noted that she attended the EMA meeting with no significant new developments to report.

Mr. Egelman reported that the Civil Service Commission has been formed and will conduct their first interviews for police candidates on Saturday, with physical agility tests on the 25th and oral exams scheduled for May 2nd.

The meeting concluded with administrative business including signature of documents and brief discussion about upcoming paving project notifications to residents.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth A. Egelman".

Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary