

Borough of Sinking Spring
December 11, 2025
Council Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., by Council Vice-President H. David Miller. After the pledge to the flag, Elizabeth Eagelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

Other officials present: Mayor Gary Cirulli; Charles Haws, Barley Snyder, Borough Solicitor; David M. Schlott Jr., ARRO Consulting; Michael Hart, Borough Manager; Police Chief James Oxenreider; and Elizabeth Eagelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

Approval of the November 13, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2025 meeting was made by Council Member Brian Hoffa, seconded by Council Member John Eagelman, and unanimously approved.

Visitors

Two residents addressed Council:

Todd Kline from 28 Winding Brook Drive expressed appreciation for the improvements in the borough over the past decade or two. He raised concerns about parking regulations on Cacoosing Avenue, and implementation of time-restricted parking. Mr. Kline presented issues with compliance, specifically mentioning that he has documented approximately 80 instances of violations during designated no-parking times. He suggested eliminating parking entirely on one side of the street and painting designated parking lines to improve safety, particularly given the high volume of children in the area. Mr. Kline also reported a past accident where he accidentally struck a resident's mirror due to tight road conditions. Council Vice President Miller thanked him for his comments and indicated the matter would be reviewed.

Christine Mazza from 14 Spring Crest Boulevard expressed concerns about speeding on the boulevard. She stated that existing stop signs are ineffective at reducing speed, with drivers coming from Penn Avenue and other connecting streets frequently traveling at speeds of approximately 45 mph. Ms. Mazza noted increased danger with small children now living on the street and expressed worries about the upcoming road construction potentially increasing cut-through traffic. She also described problems with impatient drivers illegally passing on

the wrong side of the road while she helps her elderly mother in and out of vehicles. Council Vice President Miller acknowledged her concerns and indicated that the borough would consider adding this location to the list of areas requiring increased surveillance.

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

Approval of the Bills and Treasurer's Report for November 2025

Motion to approve the bills and the Treasurer's Report for November 2025 was made by Council Member Brian Hoffa, seconded by Council Member John Egelman, and unanimously approved.

Western Berks Fire Department Report

Mr. Renshaw stated that their November activity report is included in the email packet. He mentioned that he was going to stick around for the voting in case anyone had any questions about the tax rate increase. He stated that Wernersville Borough voted last week and it was favorable with a 7-0 approval and South Heidelberg Township will be voting next week.

Mrs. Gantner thanked the Fire Department for bringing Santa to the Open House.

Mr. Haws asked Mr. Renshaw about the Agreement. He stated that we advertised for the tax ordinance but have not reviewed the Agreement. Mr. Renshaw stated that he would get it over to him.

Western Berks Ambulance Report

The report was included in the meeting packet; no additional discussion occurred.

Revitalization

Council Member Brian Hoffa reported that the committee did not meet but expects to hold a meeting this month.

Unfinished Business/Possible Action Items

Amendments to Master Fee Schedule

The master fee schedule is still being finalized with some missing items yet to be included. It is expected to be ready for review next month.

New Business/Possible Action Items

Approve Resolutions for 2026 Budgets

Approve Ordinances for 2026 Tax Rates

Approve Resolution 2025-13 – Accepting \$30,000.00 National Grant

Council was informed that this grant is for playground equipment as part of a fitness program. The resolution confirms the borough has matching funds available for the project.

Approve Resolution 2025-14 – Requesting a \$250,000.00 GTRP Grant

This grant would be used to complete the proposed fitness court project.

Approve Payment to Servpro for \$169,667.60 for Freight House

Motion to approve all New Business Action Items was made by Council Member Brian Hoffa, seconded by Council Member Lisa Gantner, and unanimously approved.

An update was provided indicating that the Freight House project is approximately 70% complete with framing. Rough plumbing has been installed in the kitchen and restroom area, and the project should be largely enclosed by the end of next week. Electrical work will be arranged shortly.

Environmental & Municipal Engineer's Report/ Possible Action Items

The engineer provided an update on several projects:

- The pedestrian crossing at Hull Street is expected to have equipment delivered in late December with installation planned for January 2026.

Approve Bowman Proposal for Columbia/Krick Engineering Services

The engineer explained that PennDOT has requested additional data for the Columbia Avenue and Krick Avenue intersection, particularly regarding truck traffic and coordination with the proposed business district. The borough will work directly with Bowman for this service at a cost of \$20,400.

Motion to approve the Bowman proposal for Columbia/Krick Engineering Services at a cost of \$20,400 was made by Council Member Brian Hoffa, seconded by Council Member John Eagelman, and unanimously approved.

Sunrise Apartments Partial Construction Escrow Release - \$46,519.10

The engineer recommended release of escrow funds after reviewing and observing the construction progress.

Motion to approve the Sunrise Apartments partial construction escrow release in the amount of \$46,519.10 was made by Council Member Brian Hoffa, seconded by Council Member Lisa Gantner, and unanimously approved.

Empire Wrecking Payment Application #2 - \$10,000.00

The engineer recommended payment for work completed on the reed bed refurbishment project.

Motion to approve Empire Wrecking Payment Application #2 in the amount of \$10,000.00 was made by Council Member Brian Hoffa, seconded by Council Member John Eagelman, and unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Council Member Lisa Gantner reported on the holiday open house held the previous week, noting that while attendance was lower than expected due to cold weather, the event was successful overall. She reminded council members about the decorating contest and requested confirmation of attendance for the holiday luncheon scheduled for Friday of the following week at noon.

Council Vice President Miller reported on developments with Western Berks EMS, explaining that a core group of seven municipalities (Spring, Wyomissing, West Reading, Sinking Spring, Lower Heidelberg, South Heidelberg, and Wernersville) are working toward forming a joint EMS authority. This structure would enable the authority to set rates directly rather than relying solely on municipality contributions, creating a more equitable funding model across the coverage area.

Borough Solicitor reported on two items: 1) He is working on a revised ordinance requiring suitable bases under RVs, and 2) Ongoing negotiations with Chase Bank regarding a development agreement that would split responsibilities between the bank and the prime developer.

Police Chief reported 180 calls for service during November, including 6 non-reportable accidents, 2 reportable accidents, and 18 domestic calls.

Public comment for matters not on the agenda

No public comments were offered on matters not on the agenda.

Adjournment

Council Vice President Miller thanked everyone for their work throughout the year, expressing appreciation for being part of the council.

Mrs. Egelman reminded everyone that the reorganization meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 5, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Brian Hoffa, seconded by Council Member John Egelman, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Egelman
Borough Secretary