

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, June 11, 2026, 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
Lisa Gantner
Brian Hoffa
Robert Metzgar (Absent)
John Eagelman

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes – 5-14-26 Council Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2026 Council Meeting was made by Mr. Hoffa and seconded by Mrs. Gantner. The motion carried unanimously.

Environmental & Municipal Engineer's Report - Possible Action Items

Borough Engineer Lowell Leaman presented his report prior to New Business, at the direction of Mr. Miller.

A. Approve Execution of PennDOT's Notice of Completion Form for Penn Avenue Pedestrian Crossing at Hull Street Project

Engineer Lowell Leaman noted that the final invoice for the Penn Avenue Pedestrian Crossing at Hull Street had been previously approved. The Notice of Completion form is an administrative action required to formally close out the project and requires no further Council vote.

Action Item Assigned to Borough Administration to execute PennDOT's Notice of Completion Form.

B. Approve Sinking Spring OP Holdings Escrow Release No. 2 - \$47,000.50

Engineer Lowell Leaman reviewed and recommended approval of the second escrow release for the Chase Bank project.

Motion to approve Sinking Spring OP Holdings Escrow Release No. 2 in the amount of \$47,000.50 was made by Mr. Eagelman and seconded by Mrs. Stine. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Approve Synagro Application for Payment No. 1 - \$76,943.67

Engineer Lowell Leaman presented Synagro's first application for payment in the amount of \$76,943.67 for the cleaning and removal of approximately 592 tons of solids from the wastewater treatment plant drying beds.

Motion to approve Synagro Application for Payment No. 1 in the amount of \$76,943.67 was made by Mrs. Gantner and seconded by Mr. Hoffa. The motion carried unanimously.

Additionally, Engineer Lowell Leaman provided an update on Manhole 14, located behind Jack Williams and Dairy Queen on Penn Avenue. Survey work is complete, and design concepts are being developed to raise the upstream 8-inch pipe to the interceptor. Current conditions are causing a backwater condition that worsens as flows from Lower Heidelberg and South Heidelberg Townships areas continue to increase.

Mr. Eagelman asked about the alley between Park Avenue and Elwyn Avenue and mentioned that it looks like Sunrise Apartments closed off that end of the alley. Mr. Hart stated that it was part of the plan and that they needed the green space for their storm water management. Mr. Miller noted a concern regarding access to fire hydrants near Sunrise Apartments due to the closure of the alley between Park and Elwyn Avenues.

Executive Session – Personnel Issue/Loudermill Hearing – Possible Action

Council recessed into Executive Session at approximately 7:07 PM for a Loudermill Hearing on a personnel matter. Council reconvened at 7:51 PM.

Upon reconvening, Council took action to continue the suspension of a police officer without pay pending the outcome of the preliminary hearing.

Motion to continue the suspension of the police officer without pay until the outcome of the preliminary hearing was made by Mr. Eagelman and seconded by Mrs. Gantner. The motion carried, with one member, Mrs. Stine, opposed.

Visitors/Public Comment

No members of the public were present for comment.

Correspondence

No correspondence of note was reported.

Approval of the Bills for May 2026

Motion to approve payment of the bills for May 2026 was made by Mr. Hoffa and seconded by Mrs. Gantner. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Treasurers Report for May 2026

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for May 2026 was made by Mrs. Gantner and seconded by Mr. Hoffa. The motion carried unanimously.

Western Berks Fire Department Report

The Western Berks Fire Department report was included in the Council packet. No additional discussion was held.

Western Berks Ambulance Report

The Western Berks Ambulance Report was included in the Council packet. No additional discussion was held.

Revitalization

Mr. Hoffa reported that a revitalization committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for the following Tuesday.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business was presented.

New Business - Possible Action Items

A. Approval to Hire Eden Turner @ \$12.00 per hour and Zoe Peterson @ \$15.00 per hour as Summer Playground Leaders

Council approved the hiring of two Summer Playground Leaders. Mrs. Gantner noted that a previously selected candidate had declined the position, necessitating the hiring of Eden Turner. Zoe Peterson's higher rate was attributed to her approximately six years of experience as a head playground leader.

Motion to approve the hiring of Eden Turner at \$12.00 per hour and Zoe Peterson at \$15.00 per hour as Summer Playground Leaders was made by Mrs. Gantner and seconded by Mr. Hoffa. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approve Hiring Chris Orzech as Full Time Police Officer

Council approved the hiring of Chris Orzech as a Full Time Police Officer at a starting rate of \$39.25 per hour, effective immediately.

Motion to approve the hiring of Chris Orzech as a Full Time Police Officer at \$39.25 per hour was made by Mr. Eagelman and seconded by Mrs. Gantner. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Approve Purchase of ATS Security & IP Video Surveillance Systems for Freight House and Museum

Mr. Hart presented the proposal for the installation of ATS Security and IP Video Surveillance Systems at both the Freight House and Museum buildings. The systems were

necessitated by the destruction of the prior systems in the Freight House fire. The proposal includes cameras on all four corners of the Freight House, one interior camera, and two cameras on the Museum building, all integrated with the Borough's existing central station monitoring system. The not-to-exceed amount was set at \$10,000.00, with the actual proposal at \$9,270.00. Council noted that the Historical Society was not contributing to the cost.

Motion to approve the purchase of the ATS Security and IP Video Surveillance Systems for the Freight House and Museum not to exceed \$10,000.00 was made Mr. Hoffa and seconded Mrs. Gantner. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Approve Sale of Surplus Equipment Listed on Municibid

Mr. Hart summarized the surplus equipment sold through the Municibid municipal auction platform, including two snow blowers, jackhammers and accessories, a plastic water tank, old lumber from the Freight House, a toolbox, a welder, a storage cabinet, and the Borough's old pickup truck. The auction had closed and bids were final. Council's action authorized the release of the equipment. The total came to \$8,850.00

Motion to approve the sale of surplus equipment listed on Municibid and authorize release of said equipment was made by Mr. Eagelman and seconded by Mrs. Stine. The motion carried unanimously.

E. WWTP Mechanical Building Roof Replacement Proposals

Mr. Hart reported that the roof on the old control building at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been deteriorating beyond the capacity of staff to patch and has begun leaking onto electronic equipment. Two quotes were obtained, Bachman's came in at \$40,300.00 and Weaver came in at \$42,900.00. He asked for approval to go with Bachman's. Council directed Borough Solicitor to review the terms and conditions of the proposals prior to execution. The motion was approved contingent upon that review.

Motion to approve the WWTP Mechanical Building Roof Replacement proposal in the amount of \$40,300.00, subject to Solicitor review of terms and conditions, was made by Mrs. Gantner and seconded by Mrs. Stine. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Mrs. Gantner reported that the summer playground program opened with strong attendance, with approximately 150 children at one location and 100 at another on opening day, and 402 children registered in total. She noted the staff training program was significantly revamped this year with improved engagement methods and commended the playground leaders. She also thanked Chief Oxenreider for conducting CPR training for eleven playground leaders.

Mr. Hart reported that Village Green Apartments is now fully complete and occupied across all six buildings, totaling 216 units. He further noted that the Freight House renovation is nearing completion, with a final inspection scheduled for the following week. A potential code variance regarding deck and stairwell railings may be required from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry if the inspector does not accept the historically-matched railing design. He also reported that the trash situation on Penn Avenue has substantially improved. Mayor Cirulli asked about the big orange construction sign on Reedy Road and when it would be taken down. Mr. Hart stated that it will remain until grading, paving, and conversion of sediment basins to permanent detention ponds is complete.

Mr. Miller asked if Council could start getting monthly activity reports from the Streets Department consistent with those submitted by other Borough departments. Mr. Hart stated that he would have them put something together.

Borough Solicitor reported that an unrecorded easement issue has been identified at a pump station off Mountain Home Road. A tractor-trailer is being parked adjacent to the pump station by a tenant of the new property owner, blocking equipment access. Borough staff will research historical municipal authority records and work to formalize a utility access easement with the current property owner.

Chief Oxenreider reported 253 calls for service in May 2026, compared to 188 in May of the prior year. Additional activity included 26 citations, 16 parking tickets, 8 warning notices, 6 non-reportable accidents, 8 reportable accidents, and 11 domestic incidents.

Mayor Cirulli thanked the Civil Service Commission for their hard work with the hiring of the new police officer.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Hoffa. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eageman
Borough Secretary