

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Sinking Spring was called to order on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., by Council Vice-President H. David Miller. After the pledge to the flag, Elizabeth Egelman called the roll reflecting the following Council Members present:

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

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 Egelman, Borough Secretary, who recorded the minutes of the proceedings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Miller asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2025 Council Meeting. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS AND TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Miller asked for a motion to approve the bills and the Treasurer's Report for September 2025. Mrs. Stine made a motion to approve the bills and the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mr. Egelman. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Renshaw handed out a packet he put together concerning the need to update the Intermunicipal Agreement. He gave a power point presentation. He stated that they are looking at going with a millage rate of 1.22 for 2026 and 2027 which will mean that a home assessed at \$150,000.00 will pay \$183.00 a year which is a \$10.50 per year increase. He stated that Mr. Haws and Mr. Miller both have copies of the draft agreement and would like them to review it and let him know if there are any questions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence.

WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:

Mr. Miller stated that their September 2025 Activity Report is included in the email packet.

REVITALIZATION:

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that their next meeting is scheduled for October 21st and they will be discussing signage for the borough.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Miller stated that the first item is the Street Ordinance. Mr. Haws stated that they advertised the Ordinance for adoption tonight and it amends Chapter 184, Articles III and IV, by imposing a weight limit on Woodrow Avenue, limiting parking on the Northeast side of Cacoosing Avenue, making North Hull Street one-way and limiting parking on North Hull Street. Mr. Hoffa made the motion to approve the Ordinance; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

The next item was to approve the municibid sale of the old street sweeper. Mr. Hart stated that the high bidder was a gentleman from Ohio with a bid of \$20,200.00. He also mentioned that we sold a couple chairs for around \$20.00. Mr. Miller asked for a motion to approve the sale of the street sweeper for \$20,200.00. Mr. Egelman made the motion; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Schlott stated that he had two action items for tonight. The first was the Sunrise Apartments Escrow Release in the amount of \$10,401.80. He stated that Arro has observed the work and recommends the partial release. Mrs. Stine made the motion approving the escrow release of \$10,401.80; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

The next item was the Reed Bed Refurbishment Payment Application from Empire Wrecking. Mr. Schlott stated that the work is substantially complete and that ARRO recommends partial payment in the amount of \$289,229.64 to Empire Wrecking. Mr. Miller mentioned that there are clerical errors on the Payment Application and letter and that he would entertain a motion to pay the application amount of \$289,229.64 once the application is corrected and authorizing Mr. Hart to sign the application on behalf of Council. Mrs. Stine made the motion; seconded by Mr. Metzgar. AYES – 5, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 2. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Miller stated that the first item was to review the draft budgets. Mr. Hart went over the Emergency Services Fund Proposed Budget for 2026. He stated that the numbers will change with the rate increase, so he will have it updated for the next meeting. Mr. Hart went over the proposed Sewer Fund Budget for 2026. He mentioned that there is no increase in the sewer rates in the income portion and under expenses they added one capital item, a new utility truck. He mentioned that some of the biggest expenses out there after salaries is the chemicals and electricity costs to run the plant. Mr. Hart went over the Proposed General Fund Budget for 2026. Mr. Metzgar asked if the additional full-time police officer was added. Mr. Hart stated that it was not because we would have to raise the millage rate. He also mentioned that we currently do not have a Civil Service Commission. Mayor Cirulli stated that he already had two people lined up and can get a third. Discussion ensued concerning the need for an additional full-time officer. Mr. Hart explained that with the new trash collection contract, we will need to increase the fee for trash removal to the residents by \$25.00 for next year.

CHIEF OXENREIDER:

Chief Oxenreider went over his September 2025 Activity Report.

MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:

Mr. Hart mentioned that we will need to update our fee schedule which includes the trash fees, playground fees, Zoning Hearing Appeal fees and Mass Gathering permit fees. He suggested that we look at it every year and he will meet with the Admin Committee to discuss the changes.

Mr. Hart advised Council that because of our safety program, we received another check from our Workers' Compensation company for almost \$17,000.00 which is the second installment.

ROBERT METZGAR – FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Metzgar stated that they had a meeting on September 24th and will have another meeting before December to talk about some of those things.

DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Stine mentioned that she attended the EMA meeting but had nothing to report.

JOHN EAGELMAN – PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Eagelman mentioned that he has been looking at other municipalities and their RV parking restrictions before he comes back to Council with suggestions.

BRIAN HOFFA – ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

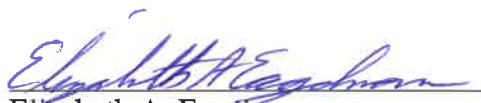
Mr. Hoffa mentioned that he and Mr. Hirsch attended the Main Street Meeting and will be attending in the future.

Mr. Metzgar asked about Halloween and setting the Trick-Or-Treat night. Mayor Cirulli stated that it will be Friday, October 31st from 6 pm to 9 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth A. Eagelman
Borough Secretary