

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

Tracy Peterson  
H. David Miller  
Denise Stine  
Lisa Gantner  
Brian Hoffa  
Robert Metzgar – (Arrived at 7:15)  
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.

Mrs. Peterson asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the 9-11 victims.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2025 Council Meeting. Mr. Eagelman made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Hoffa. AYES – 6, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 1. Motion carried.

#### **VISITORS:**

The first visitors signed in were Ron and Kerin DeCarlo of 216 Elwyn Avenue. Mrs. DeCarlo stated that they were there in response to a letter of violation that they received on August 20, 2025 concerning their travel trailer that is parked in their rear yard and has been parked there for eight (8) years (letter on file in Borough Office). Mr. Hart explained that we had an issue with campers being parked on lawns and neighbors fighting so we passed an Ordinance, No. 625-2016, setting the regulations. One of the regulations is that they must be parked on a paved hard surface, either concrete or asphalt driveway, on residential properties. Another resident that was not signed in and lives on Ashley Road stated he also received a letter for his boat that is parked on stone.

Mr. Metzgar arrived at 7:15 PM.

Mr. Haws suggested Council look at the Ordinance and either give guidance to Mr. Miller as to how we interpret the Ordinance, amend the Ordinance, or leave it as it is. Mrs. Peterson suggested that the Admin and Street committees meet and discuss it and have Mr. Miller hold off on any fines until Council gets back to him.

**VISITORS (Cont.):**

The next visitor is Mr. John Bondarchuk of 301 Broad Street. Mr. Bondarchuk addressed Council concerning the ongoing traffic issue with people not stopping at the stop sign. He is also concerned about the construction noise from Village Greens and the LED lights in the stairwells at Village Greens apartments. Mr. Hart stated that he will check the stop sign to see if it needs changing or updating and he will check on the lights at the apartments. He stated that the rule of thumb for the construction working hours is 6 am to 11 pm.

**WESTERN BERKS FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Mr. Renshaw stated that his August Activity Report is included in the email packet. He mentioned that their annual Fire Prevention Open House is on October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm at the station in Wernersville. He also mentioned that they are doing a poster contest with Green Valley Elementary School and Conrad Weiser East Elementary School. He stated that there will be one winner from each school that will receive a gift card and a custom-made wrestling belt that the class will keep for the school year.

Mr. Renshaw mentioned that Mayor Cirulli handed out a letter that he drafted regarding the Intermunicipal Agreements. He stated that he is not ready to talk about it tonight but that it is something that they have been working on. He mentioned that he could come to a workshop meeting and show a power point presentation if Council would like.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Council went into executive session at 7:49 p.m. for an ongoing litigation issue.

**RECONVENED:**

Council reconvened at 8:05 p.m. The following action was taken.

Mr. Egelman made a motion to accept the Settlement Agreement and Release with Barry Schlouch as laid out by Siana Law; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

No correspondence.

**APPROVAL OF THE BILLS AND TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mrs. Peterson asked for a motion to approve the bills and the Treasurer's Report for August 2025. Mr. Hoffa made a motion to approve the bills and the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mr. Miller. Mrs. Gantner mentioned that the amount listed under Police for Tumble N Bounce is incorrect. She stated that it looks like it was paid correctly but listed wrong on the report because it was split with the Rec Department so the Police portion should only be \$382.50 not \$1,440.00. She stated that she will ask Mrs. Bohn to switch that. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

**WESTERN BERKS AMBULANCE:**

Mrs. Peterson stated that their August 2025 Activity Report is also included in the email packet.

**REVITALIZATION:**

Mr. Hoffa mentioned that they are working on a grant to clean out the creek and to build a walkway bridge to go across at Kirkwood. He mentioned that they have two new members, Laura Bare and April Crossley, who are going to work on the Sign Committee. He stated that he and Mr. Hirsch are going to attend the Main Street meeting on Monday at 11 am.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

Mrs. Peterson stated that the only item is the Street Ordinance. Mr. Haws explained that he miscommunicated with Mr. Mooney and the Ordinance did not get advertised. He stated that if the form of the Ordinance is good, he will have it advertised for adoption at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

Mrs. Peterson stated that the first item was to approve Resolution No. 2025-07 authorizing an application to PA Local Share Account – Statewide. Mr. Hart mentioned that this is a duplicate from last month. He stated that last month we applied under the Category 4 Berks for the \$283,400.00 for the Wheel Loader and now he was advised to apply under Statewide since it is a larger amount. Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Stine. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (Cont.):**

The next item was to approve the PMRS Police Pension Plan Amendment reducing the employee contribution rate to .5% for 2026 and approve Resolution No. 2025-08 Authorizing the Amendment. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the Plan Amendment and the Resolution; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was to approve the 2026 Police Pension Plan MMO for \$23,868.00. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the 2026 Police Pension Plan MMO; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was to approve the 2026 Non-Uniform Pension MMO for \$73,469.00. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve the 2026 Non-Uniform Pension MMO; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was to approve the sale of surplus. Mr. Hart mentioned that he would like to list the old street sweeper along with some old furniture and miscellaneous items. Mrs. Stine made a motion approving the sale of the surplus items; seconded by Mr. Miller. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

The next item was to approve the 2025 Audit Engagement Letter. Mrs. Stine made the motion to approve signing the 2025 Audit Engagement Letter; seconded by Mrs. Gantner. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

**ARRO CONSULTING – ENGINEER/POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

Mr. Leaman mentioned that they had two contracts out for bid that they opened on Friday. He stated that the first one was the Pedestrian Crossing at Penn & Hull and that they only received one bid from Telco Group LLC in the amount of \$110,091.00. Discussion ensued if we should rebid or not. Mr. Miller made a motion to accept the bid from Telco Group LLC for the Penn & Hull Pedestrian Crossing Signals in the amount of \$110,091.00; seconded by Mr. Egelman. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Leaman stated that the second bid opening was for the five-year contract for the Sludge Hauling. He mentioned that they received three bids for this one with the low bidder being Synagro Central LLC, who has been doing the work, with a bid of \$424,210.50 for the five years. He mentioned that it is three years committed and two years optional one-year extensions. Mr. Miller made a motion to award the sludge removal and disposal contract to Synagro Central LLC at a price of \$424,210.50; seconded by Mr. Egelman. AYES – 7, NAYS – 0, ABSENT – 0. Motion carried.

**CHIEF OXENREIDER:**

Chief Oxenreider went over his August 2025 Activity Report. He mentioned that he would like to get rid of some of the bikes that are downstairs and donate them to a non-profit and will start looking into it.

**MICHAEL HART – BOROUGH MANAGER:**

Mr. Hart advised Council that the Tennis Courts are done and that they look super. He mentioned that they kept them closed for about a week to make sure everything was dry and set. He also advised Council that PennDOT will be starting their paving project on Mull Avenue next week and they will be working at night from 6 am to 6 pm. He stated that he started working with Mrs. Bohn on the 2026 budget. He reported that they discovered an issue at the WWTP on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. They believe that someone put something in the system on Friday evening that wiped out the microbiology in the plant. Ms. Cherry contacted DEP right away to make them aware of the situation, because there were permit violations. In her report she states that they were meeting permit requirements on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, but the plant was still not as stable as it was before the incident.

**ELIZABETH EAGELMAN – BOROUGH SECRETARY:**

Mrs. Eagelman reminded everyone that she needs articles for the newsletter to go out in October.

**LISA GANTNER – RECREATION:**

Mrs. Gantner reported that the Rec Committee started meeting again this week and she mentioned that they need a Santa for the Open House.

**DENISE STINE – PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Stine thanked Council for the snack basket they sent when her mother passed away.

**JOHN EAGELMAN – PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Eagelman reported that he and Mr. Hart met with a contractor about the speed tables for Reedy and Ruth Street. He stated that they are still waiting for information from him.

**LISA GANTNER:**

Mrs. Gantner mentioned that there were a lot of vehicle break ins in their neighborhood. Chief Oxenreider stated that they did catch a sixteen-year-old male and charged him with the thefts. He advised everyone that they should lock their cars.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Hoffa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth A. Eagelman  
Borough Secretary