

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Council President Cathy Kernen at 6:30PM

ROLL CALL: Council President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, Damien Brewster and Jr. Councilperson Alicia Hoffmann

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Solicitor Rebecca Geiser, Engineer David Leh, Police Chief John Barnshaw, Manager Tamara Twardowski and Assistant Suzanne Robertson

MOTION to approve the minutes from the July meeting by Costello with a second by Hoffmann
MOTION carries 6-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Aileen Johnson from the Perkiomen Valley Library advised of the activities and resources available at the library and noted their big fundraiser is coming up. The Fall Book Sale is on Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21. She asked everyone to come out and support the library.

Penny Balzereit 232 Freeland Dr. – Ms. Balzereit asked the Chief if there are any precautions being put in place to avoid voter intimidation at the polling locations this year. Chief Barnshaw said he has not gotten any specific directives yet, but that he is available to discuss such measures with her anytime.

Brandon Ott 120 E 9th Ave – Mr. Ott expressed complaints with the amount of buses entering and leaving the college on 9th Avenue. He feels it is a safety issue when he and his family go out for walks. Chief Barnshaw noted that that is the entrance Ursinus needs to use for all sporting events, and that will not change. Mr. Ott asked about sidewalks. Ms. Kernen said that the borough will continue to appeal to the college about installing sidewalks and that they will investigate grants for such.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's Report and check numbers 6945-7007 by Beckius with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 6-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: Ms. Kernen reported that she is part of the America 250PA committee that is headed by Lisa Minardi of Historic Trappe. Ms. Minardi gathered about 30 people from different towns and historical societies in Pennsylvania to explore how we can all work together to celebrate America's 250th. Ms. Minardi is working on updating the Historic Walking Tour Map for Collegeville and Trappe in honor of the anniversary coming up in 2026. Any and all are welcome to join the committee. The draft of the Main Street Plan is complete and will be presented to the Main Street Steering Committee on September 12. After that, it will go to the Planning Commission for their review and then to Council. There will be an open meeting for residents to review the plan also.

CPVRPC: Ms. Beckius noted there was no meeting in August. The next meeting is September 16.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. Beckius reported for Ms. McKinney that at the meeting they discussed routine maintenance at the pump station. Public Works sanded and painted 61 hydrants. Samples have been taken from the wells to be evaluated. They received some results from their engineer about the state of the pumps, valves, tanks and wells with regard to the PFAS issue. Much of the information has resulted in more questions.

LPVRS: Ms. Stagliano noted that they did not have an August meeting. The generators are in place and should be operational in October. She noted that they received the final financial audit for 2023 and have started the budget for 2025. They do not project a rate increase for 2025. All but two of the representative meters that were damaged by Hurricane Ida are operating.

Ms. Stagliano thanked the Colledgeville Fire Company for putting Al on their sign and Colledgeville PD for their attendance at Al's funeral. He loved them all and she appreciates their support.

PARKS: Ms. Costello noted that Kelly and Jim Taylor have volunteered to fix the library box at the park. The Elastic Karma concert has been rescheduled for September 15 from 4PM-6PM. There will be donation boxes at the concert for the Food Pantry. She is still waiting for an installation date for the new playground equipment. There are several issues regarding the scout cabin and the future of baseball at the Colledgeville Park. Ms. Costello expressed her interest in having a workshop meeting to discuss issues at the park that would be open to the public. She feels that she needs more input from all of council to make some big decisions. Ms. Kernan agreed that when Ms. Costello is ready to present the issues, a workshop meeting will be scheduled. Ms. Kernan asked Ms. Twardowski if it is possible to have water and electric hookups at the Creekside Park. That would make it possible for there to be events and be better for the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy. Mr. Leh noted that there is still water and electric there that could be tapped into.

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Farr advised that the committee did not meet in August. He asked Ms. Twardowski about the sidewalk repair project near Colledgeville Park. Ms. Twardowski said she submitted the proposal and is waiting for the contractor's response.

PERSONNEL: No report

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ENGINEER: Mr. Leh reported that all of the homes for the FEMA/Demolition Project have been demolished. They are awaiting well closures and final stabilization.

SOLICITOR: Ms. Geiser said she has nothing new to report on the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel at this time. Many council members said they get constant questions about the status of the hotel from residents. It was decided there will be a meeting to update the public on what is happening. It's important that everyone knows that we are using all legal methods to urge the cleanup of the structure and property.

MANAGER:

MOTION to approve the MMO contribution for non-uniformed employees in the amount of \$83,102.00 by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve the sick time/medical leave employee policy by Beckius with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

Ms. Twardowski advised that the Planning Commission has a meeting on September 19 to discuss the 7Brews Land Development application. The Zoning Hearing Board will have a hearing on September 26 to decide on a variance for the property at 222 W 5th Avenue. The owners want to transform their barn into living space.

POLICE:

MOTION to approve the MMO contribution for uniformed employees in the amount of \$187,399.00 by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve closing Main Street between 3rd & 5th Avenues from 6-9PM on October 30 for the Halloween Parade by Costello with a second by Hoffmann

MOTION carries 6-0

MOTION to approve a Fire Police request from Jefferson Fire Company on September 21 from 10AM-4PM by Costello with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 6-0

MAYOR: The Mayor reported that the Police Advisory Board is coming together. The group will be funded by a grant from the Rotary.

AMBULANCE: Lower Providence Ambulance reported that there were 82 calls in July and they covered 71 of them. They have begun staging an ambulance at the Ursinus football games.

FIRE: Mr. Penuel reported that there were 36 calls last month and 736 hours of service to the community.

MOTION to approve all reports by Costello with a second by Brewster

MOTION carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OTHER BUSINESS: Ms. Kernen noted that the Colossal Yard Sale planned for this weekend has been postponed until September 14 due to weather. There will be a 90th birthday party for longtime resident Howard Kriebel at Trinity Church on September 22 and a Designer Bag Bingo at Trinity Church on September 29. She noted that the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy is having their Flannel Formal on September 20th and the borough is being honored for our work at the Creekside Park. The Rotary Halloween Parade on October 30th promises to be bigger and better than ever this year!

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:43PM

