

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2025

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

ROLL CALL: President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, Valarie Beckius, and Damien Brewster. Mayor Wright-Riggins was absent

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

MOTION to approve the minutes from the August 6 meeting by Costello with a second by Beckius
MOTION carries 7-0

PV250 Presentation – Lisa Minardi and Emily Sneff were in attendance and gave a presentation on their efforts to coordinate a Regional Approach to the area celebrating the Country’s 250th anniversary. Perkiomen Valley 250 is a collaboration of local nonprofits, businesses, and municipalities to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. From the Declaration of Independence in 1776 through the fall of 1777 when the Revolutionary War came to the Perkiomen Valley, there is a rich history behind the sites, roads, and waterways in this region. Whether you are a longtime resident, new to the area, or visiting for the first time, there is much to see and do in the Perkiomen Valley during the Semiquincentennial. They presented Council with multiple ways to sponsor the effort and went over the benefits to the community with each.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A question was asked about the work being done on Clahor Ave. Ms. Twardowski explained that Kehoe Construction was doing the mill and overlay after the PECO gas main repairs and it appears that they are doing the full width for a good portion of the road.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION by Costello to approve the Treasurer’s Report and checks numbered 433 - 462 reflecting two payrolls, ACH transfers and payments in the amount of \$315,548.05. Seconded by Kernen.

MOTION carries 7-0

Mid-year budget review Ms. Twardowski and Mr. Hoffmann gave an overview of the mid-year budget. Our revenues and expenses are on track. We do anticipate the year-end income to be higher than budgeted due to \$400k in appropriations, thanks to Senator Pennycuick and Representative Webster. These appropriations were not budgeted, but expenses from those grants will also be higher. Some of the expenses will also come in 2026, so some of that revenue will carry over. Mr. Hoffmann also discussed future upcoming expenses that will need to be funded. The Borough is working diligently on budgeting for the future and building up some reserves so that we have money

to fund the year until taxes start to come in. We can leverage that money to utilize grants, which are usually reimbursable, and also to fund future projects so that the Borough doesn't have to borrow money.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:

Ms. Kernen and Ms. Twardowski met with members from the Montgomery County Commerce Department to talk about our Main Street Revitalization and how they may be able to help us find developers.

LVPRSA: No meeting this month.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS: At the last meeting there was a representative from PennVest to discuss potential future financing. The Collegeville Trappe Joint Works Committee is not a stand-alone entity, so as it currently exists it is unable to borrow money. The Solicitors are looking at the best way to legalize the entity so that it could borrow. Ms. Twardowski reported that at the Trappe Borough Council meeting last evening, the Trappe Council suggested setting up an ad hoc committee with the managers, The Public Works Director, Council Presidents and/or finance person to focus on the financing options.

REGIONAL PLANNING: Ms. Beckius reported that there is an event being hosted on September 11th at Troubles End called "Pizza with a Planner." It is an opportunity to learn about Montgomery County's 2050 Comprehensive Plan for a Changing World and to provide an opportunity to give feedback.

PARKS:

The park board would like to have 3 new shade trees planted in the fall at the park. Ms. Costello is requesting to use \$1500 from the tree fund to plant these trees.

MOTION to approve taking \$1500 from the tree fund for 3 trees to be planted at Community Park by Beckius with a second by McKinney.

MOTION carries 7-0

A Concert in the Park will be held on Thursday October 2nd at 6:30. The band is The American Ramblers. We will also be collecting food and toiletry items for the Daily Bread Food Pantry. There will be an open house on October 8th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Collegeville Fire House to present the draft of the Master Park Plan and get feedback from the community.

PERSONNEL:

Ms. Kernen, Mrs. Costello and Ms. Twardowski met with 5 applicants for the position of Jr. Council person. They were all very good candidates, but the committee selected 2 applicants who will be contacted to see if they want to take their places at the October meeting.

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY:

The committee discussed the use of electric bikes, scooters, etc. and the problems that we are seeing because of them. Many users do not follow the rules of the road, don't wear helmets, dart in and out of cars, etc. We are discussing different ways to try to deal with the issues including ordinance revisions, education, etc.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

ENGINEER:

Dave Leh advised that the streambank restoration project is expected to start in the next few weeks, but most of the live planting won't take place until November. The road project is expected to start the first week of October and should only take a few days. The contractor will be paving Avon, Colonial and part of School Street.

SOLICITOR:

The Purdue Settlement Agreement Motion was discussed. The Solicitor went over a memo she prepared after questions at last month's meeting.

MOTION to support the Purdue Settlement bankruptcy agreement McKinney with a second by Hoffman

MOTION carries 6-1, Farr opposing

MOTION to sign the paperwork support the Purdue Settlement bankruptcy agreement McKinney with a second by Hoffman

MOTION carries 6-1, Farr opposing

MANAGER:

MOTION to approve the MMO contribution for non-uniformed employees in the amount of \$84,166.00 by McKinney with a second by Beckius

MOTION carries 7-0

Ms. Twardowski updated Council that she had spoken with the owner of the Perkiomen Bridge Hotel and he had repaired the breach in the fence. She has also been in contact with the Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority to see if they have any ideas on what might be able to be done with the property.

POLICE:

MOTION to approve the MMO contribution for uniformed employees in the amount of \$255,121.00 by McKinney with a second by Costello

MOTION carries 7-0

MOTION to approve the Chief attending the International Police Chief's conference in October by McKinney with a second by Beckius. The expense is budgeted, but per the contract needs approval by Council.

MOTION carries 7-0

FIRE:

The Fire Company responded to 29 incidents during the month of August and was in service for 970.26 hours with a total of 355 firefighters attending. They attended 3 training sessions during the month. The 25th annual car show was held in August and was a huge success. There was a significant fire event at 406 E. Main where the building fire displaced 6 residents. Council thanked the Fire Company for their volunteers and their continued dedication to the safety of the Borough's residents and businesses. At the request of Council, Chief Kuklinski gave an overview of how fire companies respond to calls, why there are so many different departments, and how they are staged at the fire.

AMBULANCE: Report on file

MOTION to approve all reports by McKinney with a second by Brewster
MOTION carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Sassaman, 11th Avenue brought up concerns about flooding and the water coming from upstream and how it impacts the culverts. He thinks it may be beneficial to look at a joint stormwater project with Trappe Borough at Water Works Park.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

MEETING ADJOURNED