

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2025

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

ROLL CALL:

President Cathy Kernen, VP Gary Hoffmann, PPT Craig Farr, Marion McKinney, Kathy Costello, and Damien Brewster and Mayor Wright-Riggins. Valarie Beckius attended via zoom.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

MOTION to approve the minutes from the September 3 meeting by Costello with a second by Beckius.

MOTION carries 7-0

LAND USE STATEMENT:

Mayor Wright-Riggins read the Borough's Land Use Statement.

JR COUNCILPERSON SWEARING IN:

Mayor Wright-Riggins swore in Junior Councilpersons Thomas Heyward & Jenaris Deifenbach.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Aileen Johnson and Carol Ewing informed Council of current events and happenings at the Perkiomen Valley Library.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET & FINANCE:

MOTION by McKinney to approve the Treasurer's Report and checks numbered 480 - 525 reflecting two payrolls, ACH transfers and payments in the amount of \$567,191. Seconded by Costello.

MOTION carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:

Ms. Kernen noted that the Borough still has the \$3.5 million safety revitalization grants for Main Street. John Zvarick, whose house was affected by the fire, is also eligible for the grants if he decides to add a mixed-use building to the side of his property.

LVPRSA:

It was reported that 4 EDUs were issued; two for Upper Providence and two for Lower Providence. 256 Chapter 94 Consistency Letters for Upper Providence Township were issued.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS:

MOTION by McKinney to increase the billable overtime rates per hour from \$45, \$65 & \$30 to \$55, \$75 & \$35. Seconded by Hoffman.

MOTION carries 7-0

CTMA has made some investments and successfully moved funds around. Public Works has had discussions about forming a financing subcommittee with Trappe, including Gary Hoffmann from Collegeville and one representative from Trappe. However, progress on securing the necessary grants for the North Penn hookup has been slow. A lot of Public Works' attention has been diverted due to ongoing discussions regarding how the wells should be constructed. Despite having all the plans in place, the project won't be "shovel-ready" for at least another year. Additionally, there was discussion about the document Joe Hasting provided, which addressed raising labor rates. These rates have not been updated since 2016.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

Ms. Beckius reported that they are still refining the wording for the Comprehensive Plan and Policy Matrix. They also discussed flood resistant transportation infrastructure and are planning modifications to one of the trial bridges to use it as an emergency storm pathway. Additionally, they are working on completing right-of-way policies to enable the bridge's use during emergencies.

The Borough's Creekside Park area was identified as one of the Phase 1 (top20) priority locations through the Perkiomen Mapping and Flood Mitigation Study. Ms. Twardowski has been coordinating with them, and we are awaiting the paperwork to review the plans. The Commission will be sharing recommendations for the top 20 sites along with costs covered for both long-term and short-term improvements. These changes will also impact neighboring municipalities. The Borough has already purchased and demolished around 15 homes in this area, which will alleviate the concern of repetitive losses of property and keep people from having to live in a major flood zone.

Ms. Beckius provided updates from surrounding municipalities. Two new developments are under construction in Upper Frederick. Lower Frederick has three stalled developments.

In Schwenksville, the old Univest Bank will be transformed into a group hub. The former lumber yard will feature two apartments on the ground floor and one on the second floor. The old thrift store will be converted into a bakery.

PARKS:

There will be an open house at the Collegeville Firehouse on October 8th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM to discuss the Master Park Plan. The Rotary will be hosting a Halloween Fest on West 4th Avenue, featuring four food trucks, two inflatables, and a DJ. The road will close at 6:45 PM for the parade and will reopen for an after-party once the parade has ended.

PERSONNEL:

Motion to approve the resignation of Karen Vitelli from the Planning Commission by Kernan with a second by Brewster.

MOTION Carries 7-0

Ms. Kernan noted that Ms. Vitelli's resignation was due to her running for Judge of Elections.

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY:

MOTION to approve Halloween parade Wednesday October 29th by McKinney with a second by Farr.

MOTION carries 7-0

It was a consensus that the parade route will be going the normal route from Clamer Ave. down Main Street to Third Ave. The Rotary and Bald Bird Brewing will need to submit applications to allow them to serve alcohol and those applications need to be completed by the October 26. West Fourth Avenue will also be closed from 4:30 to roughly 8:00 due to the gathering at the park.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

ENGINEER:

Mr. Leh updated Council on the Stream Bank Restoration Project. Seeding was completed a week ago. They are demobilized until phase two, which will begin November. The rest of the work such as plantings and trees will be finished then.

MOTION to approve \$62,553 to the Ambien Group, the contractor for the 8th Avenue Streambank Restoration, by McKinney with a second by Brewster.

MOTION carries 7-0

Mr. Leh also reminded Council of the paving project which will be done on Avon Avenue, Colonial Avenue, and School Street. He noted construction has begun at the 7Brews project near the Collegeville Shopping Center.

SOLICITOR:

The Council met in an Executive session on September 30th that went from 12:00-12:30 to discuss litigation.

MANAGER:

Ms. Twardowski updated Council that the LSA Grants at the State level are open. She suggested submitting an application for the Sixth Avenue Culvert. The Borough is able to submit multiple applications. A street sweeper to help keep gutters and drains free of debris/leaves was also another suggestion, as this is an MS4 requirement. The Grants are non-matching grants but need to meet a certain criterion. The deadline for applications is in November. Ms. Twardowski is also planning to meet with some of the other surrounding municipalities to discuss cost cutting and inflation. She has already met with Upper Providence to discuss the issue. The idea of a joint Planning Committee with the surrounding municipalities was also discussed.

POLICE:

MOTION to approve Fire Police for the West Norriton Car Show from 10am-3pm on November 1st by McKinney with a second by Brewster.

MOTION carries 7-0

Chief Barnshaw reported that all Perkiomen Valley School District buses are now equipped with cameras. To date 14 citations have been issued. Each citation is \$300. Repeat offenders will receive a larger fine or punishment.

FIRE:

It was reported that the Fire Company responded to 30 calls in September. They are sponsoring a 5K Hero Run on Sunday, October 5.

AMBULANCE: No report

MOTION to accept all the reports by McKinney with a second by Hoffman.

MOTION carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert Botti commented on Ms. Twardowski's suggestion about a Regional Planning Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Wright-Riggins informed Council that a Venezuelan couple was opening up a brunch restaurant that will be serving Venezuelan/American cuisine.

MEETING ADJOURNED