

COLLEGEVILLE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 5, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 PM by Council President Cathy Kernen.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Engineer David Leh, Solicitor Kailie Melchior, Manager Tamara Twardowski, Police Chief John Barnshaw and Junior Councilpeople Jeaniris Diefenbach and Thomas Hayward.

Mayor Aidsand Wright-Riggins read Collegeville Borough's Land Acknowledgement Statement:

“We acknowledge that indigenous peoples and nations, including the Delaware Tribe of Indians, Delaware Nation, Eelūnaapèewii Lakhèwiit (Delaware Nation at Moraviantown), Stockbridge-Munsee Community, and Munsee-Delaware Nation (Ontario) have stewarded through generations land and waterways on what is now known as Collegeville Borough”.

Our residences, businesses, organizations, and institutions rest on Lenapehoking, their ancestral and spiritual homeland. Collegeville Borough, in the State of Pennsylvania, honors and respects the enduring relationship that exists between these peoples and nations and this land.”

**MOTION** to approve the minutes from the December 3rd meeting by McKinney.

Seconded by Farr.

**Motion** carries 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

BUDGET & FINANCE:

**MOTION** by McKinney to approve checks numbered 611-681, reflecting two payrolls, ACH transfers and payments in the amount of \$389,844.93. Seconded by Hoffman.

**Motion** carries 7-0

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT:

Ms. Kernen shared that 7Brews will have its ribbon cutting on January 21 at 10:00 a.m.

CPVRPC:

Ms. Beckius reported that the Commission did not meet in December. They will be meeting on the third Monday of the month to re-organize and have their regular meeting at the Lower Frederick Township building.

CTMA/PUBLIC WORKS:

Minutes dated 9/23 and financial reports dated 12/16 were received from both entities.

Ms. McKinney reported that the CTJPWC is recommending a rate increase for water from \$5.30 to \$7.35 per 1000 gallons. This rate is more than the normal suggested rate increase, but that is because the Boroughs have been unable to agree to smaller rate increases over the last 8-10 years.

**MOTION** to approve Resolution 2026-01 to set water rates for 2026 by McKinney. Seconded by Farr.

**Motion** carries 7-0

LVPRSA: No report

PARKS:

Ms. Costello noted that the first concert will be held on June 7 with the American Ramblers as the entertainment. The park survey has been completed that was needed to address standing water issues. The committee will be meeting with Trappe to discuss future joint concert possibilities.

Ms. Twardowski reported that the Borough was not successful in obtaining a GTRP grant for the playground in the 2025 grant round, but we will continue to apply for grants as they open.

PERSONNEL:

**MOTION** to approve the Police Chief Contract by McKinney. Seconded by Costello.

**Motion** passes 7-0

**MOTION** to approve the Administration salaries by McKinney. Seconded by Hoffman.

**Motion** passes 7-0

STREETS & PUBLIC SAFETY: No meeting in December

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

ENGINEER:

Engineer Dave Leh reported the contractor has completed the Stream Bank Stabilization Project. He recommends their final payment in the amount of \$33,730.05 to be issued after the required maintenance bond is received.

**MOTION** to approve by McKinney. Seconded by Hoffmann.

**Motion** carries 7-0.

MANAGER:

Ms. Twardowski reported that she has spoken with the Trappe Borough Manager about possibly applying for a Montco 2040 Grant with Trappe Borough for an interconnection water project. She asked if there was any objection to them working on a joint application, Council agreed it was a good idea.

A Zoning Hearing is scheduled for January 6 for 521 Shakespeare Drive.

The Borough received an LSA Grant in the amount of \$236,000 that will be used for the Sixth Avenue culvert project.

Thank you letters for donations were received from Montgomery County Emergency Services, the Daily Bread Food Pantry and Historic Trappe.

POLICE:

Chief Barnshaw provided his report for December. The Santa Run was held on December 20 and was a success. No Fire Police requests were received.

MAYOR:

Mayor Wright-Riggins, with the assistance of the Junior Council Persons, read a blessing about leadership written by author John Donohue.

FIRE:

The Fire Company report for December was received along with a report that included all of 2025. There were 50 incidents that the Fire Company responded to in December. December was the second highest month in 2025 regarding the number of calls that were responded to. Two training sessions were held in December.

AMBULANCE: No Report

Junior Council Persons Thomas Heyward & Jenaris Deifenbach updated Council on various activities at Perkiomen Valley High School. Ms. Dieffenbach also shared that many students are increasingly concerned about incidents in nearby communities where leaders have made discriminatory or hurtful remarks and where bullying has occurred. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that Collegeville remains a place where every student (and person) feels safe, respected, and supported.

**MOTION** by McKinney to accept all the reports. Seconded by Brewster.

**Motion** carries 7-0

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ms. Kernen extended her thanks to the Fire Department and to Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus for their participation of the Borough's Christmas tree lighting that was held at Troubles End Brewery.

MEETING ADJOURNED