

Pen Argyl Borough Council held their Meeting for March on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. in the Borough Social Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Council President Joe LeDonne opened the Council Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Council Members present and responding to roll call: Joseph LeDonne, Stephanie Cooper, Tammy Kemp, John Apgar, Joann Anderson, and Josephine Hildabrant. Council members Scott Brumbaugh and Steven Goffredo were absent.

Also present were Borough Manager Robin Zmoda, Borough Solicitor Peter Layman, Mayor Stephen Male and Borough Secretary Juli Lemak.

Executive Session:

President LeDonne announced an Executive Session was held on February 18, 2025 at Borough Hall at 6:30 P.M. for personnel, litigation, and public safety.

Visitors:

Shirley Keller, 602 William Street, raised concerns about ongoing issues caused by tractor trailers associated with the garage at 11 Savercool Avenue. The trucks are knocking down the street sign on William Street, parking on and damaging the sidewalk while loading and unloading contributing to water entering her basement. The Slate Belt Regional Police Department (SBRPD) have cited at least one truck for the violation. SBRPD Chief Hoadley was present and provided his business card to Ms. Keller to report any future incidents. He clarified that the damage done to her sidewalk is a civil issue.

Public Works Report:

All Council Members were given a copy of Public Works Director Steven Bender's February report to review.

Manager Zmoda provided an update on the Lobb Avenue repair project.

All Council Members discussed truck restrictions on Borough roads and received a copy of the PennDOT LTAP Technical Information Sheet #194, dated Summer 2019. This sheet explains that truck restrictions for trailers over 45 feet in length do not require an engineering study, though such restrictions may not be admissible in court without one. Solicitor Layman also provided all Council Members with a memorandum stating that an engineering study is required for any roads with truck restrictions regarding weight or size under 45 feet in length unless posted or erected prior to February 4, 2006. Manager Zmoda will follow up with PennDOT for more clarity.

Zoning Report:

All Council Members were given a copy of Zoning/Codes Office's February report.

Police Report:

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department's agenda from February 4, 2025, and minutes from January 16, 2025

Fire Chief's Report:

All Council Members received a copy of the January and the February report. In January there were 13 calls for service and in February there were 10 calls for service.

Minutes:

Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting of Tuesday, February 4, 2025, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of the Park Board's February 12, 2025 agenda and January 8, 2024 minutes.

Correspondence:

President LeDonne reported that Walt Cole's third book about Pen Argyl is estimated to cost \$3,700, to produce 250 copies at 75 pages per book, and proceeds will benefit the Pool Pals. All Council Members discussed making a donation for the book and decided to wait for potential grant funding from the Green Knights Economic Development Committee (GKEDC) and Slate Belt Rising.

All Council Members received a copy of email correspondence from Slate Belt Pride requesting sponsorship for their July 12, 2025 event. No motion was made on this matter.

All Council Members received a copy of an email from Adrienne Fors, Waste Management representative, confirming April 29th as the day for Pen Argyl's trash clean-up program in partnership with the Pen Argyl High School's Character in Education Program.

All Council Members received an email from Dave Possinger, 34 Davey Avenue, expressing his concerns about Waste Management's proposed expansion.

All Council Members received notification from Green Knight Economic Development Corporation that they are accepting grant applications from February 1 to May 31.

Correspondence con't:

All Council Members received a copy of an email from The Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government at Lafayette College, inviting the Borough to participate in their summer internship program. Manager Zmoda noted money was not put aside in the budget for this year, however; if the Borough is interested in participating next year, they should ensure that funds are allocated in the budget to cover the cost.

Mayor's Report:

All Council Members received a copy of February 26, 2025 minutes from the Slate Belt Council of Governments. Mayor Male reported he, along with Councilman Goffredo presented the revised Green and White subdivision plans to members of the Green & White Youth Association and the plans will be presented at their next meeting for vote.

Planning Commission:

All Council Members received a copy of a request for a sixty (60) day continuance for the commencement of the conditional use hearing on March 4, 2025 from Slate Hills Enterprises, Inc. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to accept the Slate Hills Enterprises, Inc. request for a sixty (60) day continuance, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to advertise for a public hearing for Slate Hills Enterprises, Inc.'s conditional use application, at the April 1, 2025 regular council meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received a copy of the Planning Commission's February 20, 2025 agenda and December 19, 2024 minutes.

Solicitor's Report:

Nothing to report for open session.

Sanitation, Solid Waste & Recycling:

All Council Members received a copy of the Wastewater Treatment Plant's February report and the Municipal Authority's agenda from February 3, 2025 and November 4, 2024 minutes.

All Council Members received a copy of an email request from Mike Friedman, 201 N. Lobb Avenue request for an adjustment to his sewer bill. No motion was made on this matter.

Sanitation, Solid Waste & Recycling:

All Council Members received a copy of correspondence from Joyce Otto, 122 Crestmont Street, request for an adjustment to her sewer bill due to a leak that caused her water usage to be higher than usual in August 2024. Although she received credit in November, her water usage was below the minimum consumption for the November 1, 2024 billing cycle and did not fully address the issue. She further stated she did not receive the November bill. Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper made a motion to approve a credit to Joyce Otto, 122 Crestmont Street sewer billing account for \$108.00, which is for the same number of gallons that Pennsylvania American Water issued, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

All Council Members received one (1) application for the Pen Argyl Municipal Authority Board's vacancy, a resume from Jeffrey Knecht, 121 E. Laurel Avenue. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to appoint Jeffrey Knecht to the open position on the Authority, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrandt. Unanimous by roll call.

Manager Zmoda provided all Council Members with an update on the control panel upgrade for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Finance, Tax Exoneration, Insurance & Personnel:

All Council Members were given a copy of the February Treasury Report as prepared and submitted by Borough Manager/Treasurer Zmoda. Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by roll call.

Property & Utilities:

All Council Members received a copy of a proposal from Altronics to upgrade the security system in the Borough Hall that is no longer supported and not compliant. Manager Zmoda stated that The Borough has been experiencing trouble with the system. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to approve the Altronics proposal to upgrade the security system for \$5,394.50, including an additional monthly \$45.00 monitoring fee, and for Manager Zmoda to apply for a Green Knights Economic Development Committee grant to offset some of the cost, seconded by Councilwoman Josephine Hildabrant. Unanimous by roll call.

Community Outreach:

Borough Secretary Juli Lemak provided Council with the February feral cat report.

All Council Members received a copy of the Slate Belt Rising Steering Committee's February 13, 2025 agenda and January 9, 2025 minutes.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Zmoda provided Council with her February monthly report.

Payment of Bills:

The following bills were presented for payment: General Fund, \$34,970.65; Sewer, \$66,103.54; State Fund \$12,527.45, and Reserve Money Market Fund \$85,478.84. Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Stephanie Cooper. Unanimous vote by roll call.

Executive Session:

Councilman John Apgar made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, real estate, and personnel, seconded by Councilwoman Tammy Kemp. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Council went into Executive Session at 8:34 P.M. and reconvened at 8:54 P.M.

Special Note: Borough Secretary Juli Lemak left the meeting at 8:34 P.M. and the rest of the minutes were taken by Borough Manager Zmoda.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Tammy Kemp made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Joann Anderson. Unanimous by voice vote. Council meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Juli Lemak
Borough Secretary

Workshop – Tuesday, March 25th - 7:00 P. M.

Regular Council Meeting – Tuesday, April 1st - 7:00 P. M.