

Stewartstown Borough Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 6th, 2026

Members present

Pamela Almony
Roy Burkins
Donna Bloom
Kimberly Carl
David Elwell
Kenton Kurtz

Others present

Mayor Brittany Barnette
Craig Sharnetzka, Solicitor
Jason Brenneman, Engineer
Ira Walker, Jr., Sewer/Water
Stacy Myers, Recording Sec'y

Visitors

Linda Miller
Erica Rearich
Kevin Brunicke

Terri Hebel
Louise & Paul Roscosky

Dave Stampler
Jeff & Joyce Ryer

1. The meeting was called to order @ 6:30pm followed by the pledge to the flag. *Tonight's meeting is also being held online via Microsoft Teams.
2. **General Business**
 - **Approval of Meeting Minutes**—Mrs. Carl made a motion to approve the March 2nd, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Kurtz seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Approval of Financial Statements**
 - **General Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve General Fund bills & payroll (\$3,003.09) dated Feb 26th thru March 27th, 2026, totaling \$32,977.77. Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Sewer Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve Sewer Fund bills & payroll (\$17,538.01) dated Feb 26th thru March 27th, 2026, totaling \$173,163.21. Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Water Funds**—Mr. Burkins made a motion to approve Water Fund bills & payroll (\$22,947.99) dated Feb 26th thru March 27th, 2026, totaling \$105,583.82. Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
3. **Public Comment**—The following were present to address Council:
 - **Joyce Ryer, 54 S. Main Street**, was present to ask a few questions as she is a new member of the Sewer & Water Authority and wanted to understand which staff does which duties related to Borough & Authority work. Borough Office staff performs day-to-day Borough business & operations, while also conducting Authority business like billing water & sewer and collecting the revenue for those bills. Office staff is overseen by Borough Council/Personnel Committee, as is Sewer & Water staff. Mrs. Ryer stated, it was reported at the March Authority meeting that three water meters in the Bridgeview townhome development were recently found to be installed backwards when the homes were built (approx. 2020) which resulted in 0 usage & minimum water & sewer bills being generated. The meter installation was corrected. A new report from the billing software enables staff to catch high usage bills as well as low usage and the report will be generated after each meter reading (quarterly) in order for this not to occur again. Office staff, as well as the Water & Sewer Supervisor will review that report. Since the report was ran (end of March) five more homes were found with issues; three where the meter was installed backwards and two where residents were still using their private wells despite being connected to public water. Mr. Roberts (Chairman of S/W Authority) stated procedures have been put in place so that these situations don't occur in the future. The Authority Solicitor sent notice to the two property owners with private wells stating they must cease using their wells immediately. Staff will continue to monitor their usage.
 - **Terri Hebel, Stewartstown Food Pantry** was present to request a partial road closure of Broadway (between S. Main Street & the alley) on April 30th from 3pm-8:30pm in conjunction with the "Give Local York" Block Party event. Mr. Elwell believes the date for the Give Local York event is Friday, May 1st, not April 30th, but this can be confirmed with Mrs. Hebel, as she wasn't at the meeting at this point. Mr. Kurtz made a motion to approve the road closure of Broadway between S. Main & the alley after the date is confirmed. Mr. Burkins seconded. Motion carried with Mr. Elwell abstaining. When Mrs. Hebel arrived closer to 7pm, the event date was confirmed as Friday, May 1st. Mr. Kurtz amended his motion to approve the road closure of Broadway for Friday, May 1st between 3pm-8:30pm. Mr. Burkins amended his second. Motion carried with Mr. Elwell abstaining.

- **Dave Stampler, 45 High Street** was present to contribute input on the Memory Lane erosion that is included on the Engineer’s Report. Mr. Stampler also provided pictures of the area that continues to be washed out by stormwater.

4. **Solicitor’s Report**—Craig Sharnetzka reported:

- **Ordinance 2026-03, Prohibiting Parking on Kings Way**—Corrections were made to the draft since last meeting, and this ordinance has been advertised & is ready for adoption. It prohibits stopping, standing or parking on the West side of Kings Way at all times.

Ms. Almony made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-03; Mr. Elwell seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- **3 South Main Street/Theater Lot Bids**—One sealed bid had been received this morning & opened at tonight’s meeting. Bidder is Stewartstown Realty LLC (Solicitor Kurt Blake) with a bid of \$10,175. All required bid paperwork was included except a certified check or cashier’s check for 10% of the bid amount. Council could deny the bid as “non-conforming” or they could waive this deficiency and demand that the 10% be paid within 45 days or the bid will be thrown out.

As there had been some questions from another interested party regarding whether all delinquent taxes had been paid, Atty. Sharnetzka confirmed that the title for this property is free & clear with no liens and has been since the Borough purchased the lot in 2021. The County just hadn’t updated their records so there were still taxes showing due. All of that could be confirmed if Council would want to deny the non-conforming bid and wait until next month. Discussion was held. Atty. Sharnetzka could call the County to request they clean up the tax records, but he didn’t want to do their work for them & spend more money for the Borough. Rebidding would cost approx. \$400-500. We could also reach out to the bidder and request the 10% check within 45 days.

Mr. Burkins made a motion to rebid for next month in order to contact the County to clear their tax records to hopefully receive another bid that was said to be a higher amount; Mrs. Bloom seconded. Mr. Elwell abstained from voting as Stewartstown Realty is his landlord at 18 South Main Street, and he doesn’t want to give any false pretense that he stands to receive any financial gain from the sale of this lot. More discussion was held. There is no guarantee that the interested party who stated they plan to offer more money will do so now that the 1st bid of \$10,175 is known. There’s a possibility we could rebid it and get no bids at all. No vote was taken on this motion.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to accept the bid from Stewartstown Realty LLC in the amount of \$10,175 and to give them 72 hours to drop off the required 10% payment or the bid will be rejected. Ms. Almony seconded. A vote was taken resulting in a tie, 3 votes for (Roberts, Almony, Kurtz) and 3 votes against (Carl, Burkins, Bloom). Mayor Barnette issued the tie-breaking vote in favor. Motion carried.

Although Stewartstown Realty is also the landlord for Ms. Barnette’s business at 18 S. Main Street, she stated she, nor any family member stand to receive any financial gain from the sale of this lot.

- **Municipal Ballgame**—Municipal Night at the Ballpark will be held on Friday, May 15th. Those staff & Council members interested in attending, please RSVP by May 1st.

5. **Engineer’s Report**—Jason Brenneman reported:

- **2026 Street Projects**

- **E. Pennsylvania Avenue**—All project documents were forwarded to Shiloh Paving as they are COSTARS-approved for sanitary sewer & storm sewer. Jason is confident this project can be completed by the end of the 2026 paving season (10/31/26). A COSTARS proposal should be received by the May Council meeting.
- **Truck Restriction Study**—Jason & Ira discussed all the sites for sign installation & those signs/hardware have been ordered.
- **High Street/Memory Lane**—As previously discussed, any stone that had been laid at the bottom of Memory Lane continually gets washed out during heavy rains. With the base repair work planned for High Street, milling out the steep section of Memory Lane (on both sides, where washout is occurring) will also be proposed. New stone base, new base paving, new wearing course, along with a rolled curb up the embankment will be proposed so stormwater stays on the roadway, before making its way down to High Street inlets. To add storm sewer on Memory Lane to tie into High Street would be very expensive, as there is gas on one side of High Street, water on the other side & sewer in the middle. Jason said the benefit to do so is minimal, so we can address the erosion issue at this time. Bid opening for the High Street work (the labor portion) was held at James R. Holley’s office. Four bidders responded as follows:
 - Shiloh Paving--\$98,590

- Kinsley Construction--\$103,659
- Long's Construction--\$104,038
- Stewart & Tate--\$124,092

For the materials portion of the project, we received a COSTARS-approved proposal from York Materials Group at \$88.70/ton. This is based on the asphalt index in March, but with the rise of gas prices, that price has already increased. Based on the estimated tonnage needed (880 tons), the budget breakdown is:

Labor = \$98,590.00

Material = \$78,050.00 + 25%, taking into account an increase in the asphalt index = \$97,570

Total = \$196,160 which includes the Springwood patch

Budget = \$260,000 (includes High Street and Springwood patch)

There is some cushion in the budget, which is good with the fluctuation in the asphalt index.

After some more discussion, Mr. Elwell made a motion to accept all bids for the labor portion and to award the High Street project to the low bidder, Shiloh Paving with a bid of \$98,590. Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. Jason will obtain a cost estimate for Memory Lane for the May meeting & that could be done as a Change Order to the High Street project.

Mrs. Bloom made a motion to award the materials portion (est. quantity of 880 tons of 9.5mm wearing course) to York Materials Group at a cost of \$88.70/ton (delivered) subject to the asphalt index. Mr. Roberts seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

6. **Sewer & Water Supervisor Report**—Ira Walker, Jr. submitted his report. Expenses will go before the Sewer & Water Authority for action.
7. **President/Vice-President Report**—Ms. Almony/Mr. Burkins
 - **Truck Restriction Signs/Posts**—Since Council's motion the other month, more signs & posts were added for additional streets. \$1,500 was previously approved; revised order is for \$3,837.98. Mr. Burkins made a motion to approve the additional expense of \$2,337.98 for signage & posts. Mr. Elwell seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. (Of note, \$5,000 was budgeted for Streets, Signals & Signs for 2026).
8. **Treasurer's Report**—Stacy Myers reported:
 - **Fire Police requests**—Ms. Almony made a motion to approve the following requests/events. Mrs. Carl seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Shrewsbury Borough events**
 - **Red Lion Borough events**
 - **Stewartstown Borough/Eureka events**
 - **Hopewell Area Recreation & Park events**
 - **Glen Rock Borough events**
 - **Informational items**
 - 2026 Liquid Fuels allocation has been received in the amount of \$59,983. As of 3/19/26, the Liquid Fuels balance is \$200,515.10.
 - Kevin Eck from First Energy/Met-Ed visited the office recently to report that Met-Ed is planning an LED upgrade of all their streetlights by the end of 2029. Kevin is requesting that the 146 streetlights in the Borough be upgraded in early 2028. There will be different wattage & color options to choose from closer to time.
 - Mr. Elwell asked about the ¾-height utility poles & when they will possibly be removed. There are a couple on Main Street as well as one on High Street. Stacy will contact Kevin Eck for assistance and a possible timeframe.
9. **Mayor's/Police Report**—Mayor Barnette reported:
 - **America's 250th Birthday Celebration**—County Commissioner Julie Wheeler contacted Mayor Barnette regarding the County's donation of commemorative trees in honor of this celebration. She asked for a possible place in the Borough for the planting, which is to take place Saturday, April 11th. The county is requesting the hole be dug before the crews come through with the trees. Hopewell Area Rec & Parks may be the only option for the tree, as it will be a Sycamore that can grow to a height of 75-100 feet. Other locations in the Borough were discussed, but the Mayor will contact Rick @ HARP, although he would probably need to get approval from the Rec Board before giving an answer. Council said we could politely decline if an answer from HARP cannot be obtained in time for the planting.
 - **Police Commission meetings**—At the March meeting, the new School Resource Officer, Officer Slenker, was sworn in. He's doing very well and is acclimating to the area & the department before he will get time in the school in May. He will attend SRO school this summer.

- **New in-car cameras** will be needed within the next year, as the current equipment is becoming obsolete. The approximate cost for this will be \$70,000 but this is still in the discussion/budgeting stage.
10. **Executive Session**—At this time (8:10pm), Ms. Almony made a motion to recess to Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
Ms. Almony made a motion to reconvene the Council meeting at 8:32pm. Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. No action was taken in Executive Session.
Ms. Almony made a motion authorizing Jason Brenneman to respond to the emailed complaint regarding the Camelot swale; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
11. **Committee Discussion/Other business**
- Mrs. Bloom resigned from the Streets & Roads Committee due to personal reasons.
 - Mrs. Bloom also gave kudos to the crews on the Casella trucks as she recently watched them & said they do a fantastic job, especially with collecting large (heavy) trash items.
 - Ira Walker, Jr. wanted to touch on recent fires in the area, as there hasn't been a stretch of incidences like this for a while. There were rumors on social media that there's an arsonist setting the fires and he wanted to assure everyone that information is false.
12. **Adjournment**—With no further business before Council, Mr. Kurtz made a motion to adjourn @ 8:36pm. Mrs. Bloom seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary