

Stewartstown Borough Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 1st, 2026

Members present

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

Others present

Mayor Brittany Barnette
Craig Sharnetzka, Solicitor
Ira Walker, Jr., Water & Sewer Supvr.
Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary

Visitors

Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill
Keith Trahan
Jill Hamme
Dave Stampler

Brian Sweitzer
Tyler Robinson
Shannon Blake
Paul & Louise Roscosky

Felicia Markline
Kerry Baum, Jr.
Linda Miller

1. The meeting was called to order @ 6:30pm followed by the pledge to the flag. Tonight's meeting is also being held via Microsoft Teams.

At this time, Council President Almony announced that today marks 40 years that Ira Walker, Jr. has been an employee of Stewartstown Borough. Along with most of the sewer and water staff, Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill was in attendance tonight to celebrate this milestone. Senator Phillips-Hill presented Ira with a document recognizing not only his four decades of employment to Stewartstown Borough, but also his capacity as a volunteer firefighter (& former Chief) with Eureka Fire Company. The vital role he has played & continues to play is a true representation of the kind of person he is.

Next, Mayor Brittany Barnette presented Ira with a Proclamation, signed by her, that serves as a testament to his dedication to not only the residents of Stewartstown Borough, but also extends throughout Hopewell Township and beyond.

On behalf of Stewartstown Borough Council, residents and community, Council President Pamela Almony presented Ira with a plaque noting "40 Years of Service to Ira D. Walker, Jr." and thanked him for his many years of dedication and commitment. We're grateful for all he's done and continues to do for our town!

Brian Sweitzer, Shrewsbury Borough Manager also spoke on Ira's dedication and commitment to his job, the town of Stewartstown and its residents stating, "Ira cares about Stewartstown Borough 24/7/365 and not only the water and sewer department, but all of Stewartstown Borough, and you're very lucky to have him."

Ira thanked Council & the Authority, the longest tenure being Kenton Kurtz who hired Ira right out of high school in 1986. He appreciates everyone's support over the years and the friendships he's acquired along the way. He went on to say the current staff is the best he's ever had and that's what makes the job worthwhile and makes everything flow smoothly. He's proud to be a Borough employee and thanks everyone for the kind words!

2. **General Business**

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**—Mr. Elwell made a motion to approve the May 4th, 2026 Meeting Minutes; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- **Approval of Financial Statements**

- **General Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve General Fund bills & payroll (\$2,998.69) dated May 1st thru May 28th, 2026, totaling \$20,945.35. Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **Sewer Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve Sewer Fund bills & payroll (\$17,512.95) dated May 1st thru May 28th, 2026, totaling \$91,672.10. Mrs. Carl seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **Water Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve Water Fund bills & payroll (\$22,956.05) dated May 1st thru May 28th, 2026, totaling \$101,009.49. Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

3. **Public Comment/Visitors**—Dave Stampler, 45 High Street asked about the preconstruction meeting for the High Street paving project. He would like to be a part of the meeting with the contractor & Borough Engineer as his property along Memory Lane will be affected. The meeting hasn't been held yet, but office staff can contact him when it's scheduled.

4. **Solicitor's Report**—Atty. Sharnetzka reported:

- **Columbia Gas Cross Bore Program/Nondisclosure Agreement**—Columbia Gas had contracted with Hydromax, USA to inspect sewer pipes (for the Authority) and storm sewer inlets to verify there are no cross bores with the gas lines. Columbia Gas is willing to release the videos but requests the NDA be executed first. Craig reviewed the agreement and is amenable to Council signing it. The videos of the storm sewer inlets will be on record and will assist staff and/or future contractors to make repairs, corrections, etc.
- **Sale of 3 South Main Street**—Settlement took place on May 19th. Craig dropped off the payment of \$9,157.50 (\$10,175 minus the 10% down payment) at the Borough Office. The property is now owned by a private entity, and all the tax issues have been resolved and it's now back on the tax rolls.
- **Resolution 2026-05—Southern Police Commission Code of Ethics & By-Laws**—Mayor Barnette requested adoption of this resolution as Shrewsbury Borough adopted a similar one to be used as documentation of the code of ethics for those appointed to serve on the Police Commission as well as the by-laws that have been adopted and approved.
Ms. Almony made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-05; Mr. Elwell seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

5. **Engineer's Report**—Jason Brenneman wasn't present tonight but submitted the following items in his report:

- **2026 Streets**
 - **LSA Grant/E. Pennsylvania Ave**—Contractor is working on finalizing paperwork. Preliminary work starts July 6, possibly sooner.
 - **Repaving of High Street** (incl. Memory Lane washout)—Same contractor (Shiloh Paving) is doing this work as well as E. Pennsylvania, so High Street is proposed for late summer-early fall. Memory Lane wash out will be discussed at the preconstruction meeting (date TBD).
- **Storm Inlet/Pipe Inspection Proposal**—Columbia Gas/Hydromax USA Nondisclosure Agreement—Discussed above under Solicitor's Report. Mr. Burkins made a motion to authorize signing the NDA with Columbia Gas and Hydromax USA. Ms. Almony seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **George Street Townhouses**—Release of their surety is not approved due to the area not yet being cleaned up.

6. **Sewer & Water Supervisor Report**—Ira Walker, Jr. submitted his report & expenses. The expenses will go to the Sewer & Water Authority for action. Items for Council:

- 3 gallons of yellow paint & 1 gallon of red paint were ordered from Sherwin Williams at a cost of \$129.80. This will be used to paint the curbs. Mr. Kurtz made a motion to approve this purchase for curb painting. Ms. Almony seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- Of note, Tyler Robinson was able to replace corrosive wires inside the solar speed signs (the 2 that weren't working) and both are now working. Thank you, Tyler!
- Staff has been installing the new street signs and are down to the last 8-10 to install. Kudos to the team, the signs look great!
- Ira, once again, thanked the sewer & water staff, Borough Council, the Authority and all who were involved in his 40-year work celebration. He greatly appreciates it!

7. **President/Vice-President Report**—Ms. Almony/Mr. Burkins reported:

- **Apt. C window replacement**—Mr. Burkins investigated the broken window & said all 3 (living room, kitchen & bathroom) are very old, as are all of the windows in the building. Astute Services LLC (Kelly Gillispie) submitted a proposal for the 3 windows with various options to choose from. Mr. Burkins' recommendation is the Base Window Option for the 3 apartment windows at a total cost of \$4,900. Mr. Burkins suggested putting money in the 2027 Budget in order to replace Apt. D's windows, as they are old and one has a broken sash and the front office window which needs rehabbed. Kelly also submitted a proposal to replace the attic windows which are currently boarded up & the boards are rotting. To repair those, the total cost is \$375. Mr. Burkins recommended doing the attic window repair with the Apt. C window replacement. An insurance claim was filed for the window that was broken during the recent break-in, but only the living room window was damaged during that incident. The Borough has a \$2,500 deductible so this will be an out-of-pocket expense anyway.
Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve Option #2 for the three (3) Base Window Option with an upgrade to thicker/stronger tempered glass for a cost of \$4,900 + the Attic Option at a cost of \$375 for a total of \$5,275. Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **SRPD Budget Cap**—Shrewsbury Borough capped SRPD's 2027 budget in January 2026 and at their most recent meeting, New Freedom Borough did as well. New Freedom allowed for 5% increase per the Collective Bargaining Agreement but then capped it at that. Mayor Barnette said there's a lot that Southern Regional

staff & the new accountant are trying to get cleaned up from the 6 months when a different accounting staff was doing the books.

Brian Sweitzer from Shrewsbury was present tonight & said they voted to cap the 2027 rate at the 2026 rate of \$917,000 with no increase due to the concern of rising costs since Glen Rock Borough is no longer a member. They support the Police but just as a municipality must live by their budget, Shrewsbury wants SRPD to also live by the money that's given to them. In the next 3 years, SRPD will lose 3 officers (one being the Chief) who are retiring so that will help the budget and force them to reform the department and figure out how much manpower is actually needed. If there was an emergency expense, Brian said Shrewsbury would approve it, but the cap is related to the everyday budget/expenses.

A 10% increase every year is unsustainable. The IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) that was formed allows two-thirds of the members (Shrewsbury & New Freedom, in this case) to cap the budget regardless of Stewartstown's action. Stewartstown, even smaller than Shrewsbury Borough, supports the Police and want 24/7 coverage but have discussed implementing special taxes to support them should costs continue to increase every year. Mayor Barnette agreed with Brian that with 3 officers retiring, that will help the budget, as salaries and health benefits are the two highest budget expenditures. And there's a current House Bill, if passed, that may implement a fee to use State Police who, Mayor Barnette reported, are incredibly overwhelmed.

Mr. Burkins made a motion to cap 2027 at this year's budget + 4% increase per the Collective Bargaining Agreement; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

This tells Southern Regional Police Commission that this is what Stewartstown is willing to contribute for 2027.

8. **Treasurer's Report**—Stacy Myers reported:

- **Hamilton & Musser's proposal** to conduct the 2026, 2027 & 2028 audits was received. Proposed costs are \$16,500 (2026), \$16,900 (2027) and \$17,300 (2028). Borough staff has been pleased with Hamilton & Musser's work over the past 3 years and their timeliness in completing the audits.
Ms. Almony made a motion to accept Hamilton & Musser's audit proposal for 2026, 2027 & 2028. Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **13 Mill Street/Jordan Ilyes**—Jordan recently stopped at the office to touch base & to confirm that Council is still onboard with his mixed-use plan for the old furniture factory. He reported he was not awarded any grant money for sidewalk installation on Mill & Hill Streets, but he is currently working on getting the Land Development Plan approved/signed by Gordon Wisnom, Jr. and the Stewartstown Railroad.
He also expressed interest in revisiting the repayment arrangement for HARP's Recreation Fees that was approved in October 2025 which was for him to pay \$200,000 upfront and bond the remaining \$174,000 (approx.) to be payable over 5 years. Council is still onboard & agreeable to working with Jordan on his proposed project.
A checklist of "what comes next" can be discussed & created involving the Borough Engineer & possibly the Solicitor.
- **Doxopay link for website to allow ACH payments for FREE**—Doxo is already available to our customers as a payment option although their fee for credit cards is higher than the Borough's Invoice Cloud payment option. They now offer a free option for ACH payments via a link that can be added to our website. It's free for customers and free to the Borough. There are some logistics still to be worked out as far as linking those payments to our billing software, but Borough staff thinks it's a great idea.
Mrs. Carl made a motion to implement this free ACH payment link on our website for our customers. Mr. Kurtz seconded. Motion carried with Mrs. Bloom opposing.
- **York County Boroughs Association Dinner** will be held Thursday, June 25th @ 6:30pm at Rocky Ridge County Park. Those interested in attending, please let Stacy or Jillian know by June 18th.
- **Fire Police request** for Delta Borough & Peach Bottom Township's 2026 events—Ms. Almony made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

9. **Mayor/Police Report**—Mayor Barnette reported:

- At the May 6th Police Commission meeting, it was reported that the newest officer, Officer Slenker, is doing well. He worked in conjunction with another officer to stop a recent high-speed chase on Rt. 83 with stop sticks. The involved vehicle contained two adults & an infant.
- SPCA recently hired a Humane Officer who spoke at a Chief's Meeting about how they plan to work together with police.

10. **Committee Discussion/Other Business**—

- Ms. Almony read a Thank You note received from the Stewartstown Food Pantry to Council for allowing the street closure for the Give Local York event. Over \$31,000 was raised during the event and that will benefit organizations such as the Food Pantry, Mason Dixon Public Library, and H.O.P.E.
- Mrs. Carl stated she plans to send an email to those who have or may be interested in serving on the Economic Development Committee to get a meeting/discussion group scheduled.

11. **Adjournment**—With no further business before Council, Mr. Burkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 7:36pm. Ms. Almony seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary