

Stewartstown Borough Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 7, 2025

Members present

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

Others present

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

Visitors

Linda Miller
Kenton Kurtz
Louise Roscosky
Joyce Ryer
Erica Rearich
Michael Werdin

1. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00pm followed by the pledge to the flag.
2. **Mayor to swear in new Council member**—Mayor Barnette read the Oath of Office and swore in newest Borough Council member, Kenton Kurtz. Mr. Kurtz will fill the vacancy left by Joshua Butler and complete his term ending 12/31/2025.
3. **General Business**
 - **Approval of Meeting Minutes**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve the June 2nd, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Mrs. Carl seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Approval of Financial Statements**
 - **General Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve General Fund bills dated May 30th thru July 2nd, 2025, totaling \$151,994.73. Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Sewer Funds**—Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve Sewer Fund bills dated May 30th thru July 2nd, 2025, totaling \$89,033.47. Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Water Funds**—Mr. Elwell made a motion to approve Water Fund bills dated May 30th thru July 2nd, 2025, totaling \$62,110.53. Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
4. **Public Comment/Visitors**—Michael Werdin, candidate for New Freedom Council, brought his idea of creating a Neighborhood Watch program to Southern Regional Police patrolled municipalities. A former Los Angeles resident, Michael said a Neighborhood Watch program worked very well there while organizing the community to work with the police department to help reduce crime. Petty thefts such as breaking into cars, stealing items, petty thefts from businesses, etc. would be the target of the watch. Michael said SRPD was agreeable to the program & would appoint an officer to act as a liaison but they suggested he gauge interest of each municipality that SRPD patrols. Cost for each municipality would be minimal other than purchasing a few signs noting the Neighborhood Watch is in effect. A community meeting could be held where residents can attend to learn more about safety measures, get pointers, ask questions, etc. In addition to hopefully making communities safer, Michael said the program also helps to engage residents with each other. In CA, a “Project Safe Act” was enacted where certain homes were vetted as “safe houses” where children in danger, being followed, bullied, etc. could go to escape danger. Michael said he would be the Neighborhood Watch coordinator, but then each municipality would have a “Borough Captain” appointed to help coordinate meetings & organize a kickoff event. Block Captains may also be selected for patrols on certain streets/neighborhoods, and to get residents engaged. Michael feels this is a good way to aid SRPD by being extra eyes on the town and activity within it. Sometimes residents are afraid to get involved, but this is a good way to get them more comfortable with “if you see something, say something”.
Mayor Barnette stated, she heard at the Police Commission Meeting that SRPD would support the Neighborhood Watch Program, but they would not necessarily be “attached” to it, because they don’t have the manpower to do so. Michael agreed and said it would be a “community-run” program, but it would be helpful if an officer could attend the NWP meetings to make residents aware of what crimes are occurring, as some don’t know. Borough Council is amenable to such a program, but suggested Michael attend the upcoming Stewartstown Carnival to gauge interest from residents & possibly hand out information about it. He can report back to Council next month with his findings.

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

- **2025 Streets**—He provided Council with a layout of the status regarding E. Pennsylvania design & the LSA grant. He's gathering information & working with Craig to verify whether official easements (or simple agreements) are necessary for additional right-of-way.
- **LTAPS Truck Study**—When discussing truck traffic & proposed E. Pennsylvania work with LTAPS, they highly recommended working with those residents as they're the ones who drive & live on the street. Jason suggested an informal meeting with homeowners to allow Q & A. Jason will contact the Postmaster to discuss possible cluster mailboxes if additional ROW, sidewalks & mailboxes are in jeopardy due to the proposed road work.
- **Storm Inlet/Pipe Inspection Proposal**—waiting for Columbia Gas to complete their cross-bore work to evaluate what else is needed.
- **Salt Storage Shed**—GMB (WWTP Engineer) is working on building permit drawings & will be adding the shed to the LDP for the WWTP work.
- **Bridgeview Lot 3 Land Development Plan**—plan was submitted that's basically an extension of the Bridgeview development that involves 49 townhomes (at the end of Bridgeview). The townhomes would be on the Authority's public water & sewer system, but everything is located within Hopewell Township. Although the wetlands in the development are within the Borough, the developer does not plan to disturb any of that. Council would still like the plan to go through the approval process of going to Planning Commission then to Council for review/action.
Mrs. Bloom made a motion for the LDP to go through the full approval process of review with the developer paying all engineering fees incurred. Mr. Elwell seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

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

- **Refuse Contract**—the contract is now out for bid. Bids are due by 9am on Tuesday, July 29th with a bid opening (by the Refuse Committee) that day @ 10am. Haulers/bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. The Committee will then review the bids received, put together a bid layout and make a recommendation to Borough Council at their August 4th meeting.
- **Ordinance 2025-01**—Prohibiting Vehicles over 25ft. in length on Portion of Borough Roads to include:
 - Entire length of Broadway
 - South Hill Street from the entrance to Rutter's Farm Store to Church Street
 - East Pennsylvania Avenue from Main Street to Heather Drive
 - Mill Street from North Main Street to North Hill Street
 - Charles Avenue from North Main Street to High Street

Mr. Burkins made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-01; Ms. Almony seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. Jason Brenneman will work with Ira & staff on necessary signage for these streets.

- **Request from Todd Eyster (60 Church Street)**—Todd submitted a request to permit the inclusion of his property into Hopewell Township Ag Security Area. Hopewell Township has agreed to include the portion of his property located in the township & he is requesting the same from the portion of his property located in the borough. This will allow Todd to place the property into some type of restricted program where it cannot be developed in exchange for compensation.

The Borough does not have any ag security area & Council agreed to his request. Ms. Almony made a motion authorizing Stacy Myers to send the appropriate notification to the organizations for which Todd Eyster is seeking approval. Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

7. **Water & Sewer Supervisor Report**—Ira Walker, Jr. submitted his report. All expenses will be approved by the Sewer & Water Authority. Of note:

- Staff had been locating, marking, mapping, fixing and/or repairing water curb boxes, and have completed the water curb boxes last week. Next, they will be exercising/mapping the water main valves and hope to have that complete by end of the year.
- To date, staff has approx. 400 old meters left to replace.
- Newest employee, Kerry Baum, Jr. has passed his CDL driving exam! Congratulations to Kerry!

8. **President/Vice-President Report**—Ms. Almony reported:

- **Committee Charters**—the Personnel Committee drafted Charters for each council committee with an overview of job duties, responsibilities, expectations, etc. for each. The Charters were distributed last month for review so these could be adopted tonight. After review, Ms. Almony made a motion to accept & adopt the Committee Charters as presented; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- **Resignation from Sewer & Water Authority**—Ms. Almony made a motion to accept David O'Neill's resignation as of July 7th, 2025; Mrs. Bloom seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. The vacancy on the Authority was noted in the 3rd quarter Borough newsletter.
- **Letter of Interest for Sewer & Water Authority**—Ms. Almony made a motion to approve Jack Cunning's letter of interest to serve on the Sewer & Water Authority and to complete David O'Neill's term ending 12/31/2027, Mr. Elwell seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **Pay increase for Kerry Baum, Jr.**—Having obtained his CDL license on 6/23/2025, Ms. Almony made a motion to approve a \$1/hr. pay increase for Kerry, retroactive to the 6/23/2025 exam date; Mr. Roberts seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

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

- **Street sweeping**--Last month, Council approved up to \$1,000 for sweeping; however, New Freedom Borough (who will complete the sweeping again this year) submitted a proposal of \$110/hr. (for labor & equipment) and said they will do their best to keep the work at 16 hours total (as in 2022). This work can be paid for from Liquid Fuels.
Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve the additional \$760 cost proposed for a total of approx. \$1,760; Mr. Elwell seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **Fire Police request**—Delta Borough/Peach Bottom Township events—Ms. Almony made a motion to approve the requests for the noted events; Mr. Burkins seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **Susquehanna Tax Services**—Our tenants in Suite B would like to make the back office into two separate offices, giving them more space. They will pay for the permits and materials & will probably complete the work themselves. Mr. Kurtz made a motion authorizing the tenants in Suite B to move forward with the proposed work; Ms. Almony seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **Contractor payments for HARP's Playground Project**—SLC Excavating, LLC submitted three payment requests. HARP paid for the first request. The 2nd & 3rd requests are as follows:
 - Payment request #2 in the amount of \$116,412.64. Ann Yost from YSM Architects concurred with the work completed & the request for payment.
 - Payment request #3 in the amount of \$117,874.23. Ann Yost also concurs with the work completed for this request.

Mrs. Bloom made a motion to approve the above payments to be made to SLC Excavating, LLC; Mrs. Carl seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. The payments will be made and then Stacy will request reimbursement from the HARP grant funds they were awarded.

- **FYI—New Freedom Borough/UCC & Zoning Ordinance Agreement**—Of note, the hourly rate for Zoning Officer/Codes Enforcement will increase from \$65/hr. to \$75/hr. in 2026. Atty. Sharnetzka stated, if this work isn't contracted with a municipality, we must hire someone to do it, and while there are several in the area who may do it, it would probably cost a lot more than we're currently paying. For a municipality (such as NFB) to have someone in-house to conduct the codes & zoning inspections, is unusual.

10. **Mayor's/Police Report**—Mayor Barnette reported:

- Police Commission Meeting was held July 2nd. Our newest SRPD Officer, Officer Casteel responded to an "out of jurisdiction" call, a vehicular accident in which he initiated life-saving measures to the victim, who would have surely passed away if he hadn't done so. At the July 2nd meeting, Chief Boddington officially recognized the heroic measures of Officer Casteel who is doing a wonderful job in other aspects as well.
- License plate readers—There are three installed in the Shrewsbury area that have been very effective in tracking down criminals & apprehending stolen vehicles, weapons, etc.
- Officer Wahl, who has been certified as a bike patrol officer, has raised \$6,000 in donations for his own e-bike.
- The same thief who broke into Original Pizza & Bonkey's was apprehended at 300 Bailey Drive after breaking into China Wok.
- Fireworks continue to be a problem this time of year. SRPD encourages residents to call 911 if violations are seen/known. Vandalism & damage issues from fireworks were also reported at HARP.
- Please come out to the Carnival & support Eureka Volunteer Fire Company!
- Mason Dixon Library is holding a meeting tonight with Paul Smith Library to discuss YCL. Hopewell Township wants to bring the Power Point presentation (given by YCL) to the York County Commissioners, noting the fact that libraries & educational resources are being taken away from our youth. John O'Neill (from Hopewell Twp) is meeting with Commissioner Julie Wheeler tomorrow, although they're well aware of what's going on. YCL Board has directed all questions from other libraries to their solicitor. From the millions

of dollars YCL is awarded, only around \$70,000 from State & County funding is coming to Mason Dixon Library. Fundraisers like the Designer Bag Bingo (Fri, July 11th) need community support.

- Disruptive Code Ordinance violations were received and noted from 1 S. Main St, Apt. D. As permitted by the Ordinance, Borough staff will send a letter & copies of the violations to both the tenant and the property owner. As violations are received, Borough staff will track them in a spreadsheet.

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

- Jason Roberts reported that a company conducting power washing in the Bailey Springs development had been identified as using water from a hydrant. The man will be 1) issued a fine for unlawful use of the hydrant, and 2) be billed for water usage for the power washing, as calculated from the water meter that Borough staff gave him.
- Citing the Borough's Nuisance Ordinance, Mr. Roberts made a motion for Codes/Zoning to send a letter to 4 N. Main Street for the accumulation of trash and other items in the backyard. Mrs. Carl seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

The Nuisance Ordinance can also be cited for a “dangerous structure” at the same location, as there is a hole in the roof, along with other property decline noted. If this poses a hazard to neighboring properties, Codes/Zoning can send another letter after the Nuisance letter.

12. **Adjournment**—With no further business before Council, Ms. Almony made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 8:52pm. Mr. Roberts seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary