

Penbrook Borough Council Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2026
Council Meeting

1. Call to order
 - A. On April 6, 2026 Vice President Shaw called the Borough Council to order at 6:36pm followed by a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.
2. The roll was taken. All were present except for Burdine and Seaman. Newcomer and the Solicitor attended remotely and both the borough mgr and asst boro mgr were in attendance.
3. Citizen comments on agenda items: N/A
4. Consent Agenda
 - A. Minutes
 - Council Minutes from March 2, 2026
 - Special Council Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2026
 - Caucus Minutes from March 16, 2026
 - B. March 2026 Treasurer's Report
 - C. Approval of bills to be paid

Moore made a motion to approve the consent agenda as is. Lovejoy seconded. No discussion and the motion carried unanimously.
5. Reports
 - A. Mayor's report: Reviewed the monthly police stats.
 - B. Manager
 - a. Announced the hiring of Assistant Borough Mgr. Bailey Welch who started today and is in attendance
 - b. Briefed about meeting with Lori Yeich from DCNR about the Community Park grant and closing out the Little Valley Phase II and III.
 - c. Gave an update on the upcoming street sweeping project to be conducted by Susquehanna Twp.

C. Solicitor: Gave an explanation on the document associated with New Business item B which details the handoff from Borough Council to the Storm Water Authority and authority to engage with the County WREP program.

D. Fire Chief: Chief Murphy briefed Council on the monthly stats of FD activities

E. Committees

i. Codes – No report

ii. Public Safety – Moore reported that the committee met for the first time last month and started working on structure and objectives. They are looking for public participation.

iii. Parks and Recreation – Newcomer commented the recent porta-john incident at Little Valley. In years past the porta-john was only there during the Summer Program but community comments led us to provide one throughout the season as is done with Community Park. It remains to be seen if this will change if criminal mischief incidents continue to occur.

iv. Public Works – Shaw advised that the committee had its first meeting last month getting the new members up to speed on projects.

v. Finance and Administration – No report

vi. Community and Government – Moore said the committee is working on collaborating with the parks committee for clean-up events and working on snow angels and other community service initiatives.

vii. Technology – The committee received questionnaire responses from several vendors and will brief Council with recommendations at a future meeting.

viii. Authority – Dry highlighted the changes the Authority is putting forth regarding the fiscal year change to Jan 1 from July 1 and will be working on a limited budget for Q3 and Q4 '26. Also, billing will not go out until Jan 2027 and will be based on property impervious surface not overall sq./ft. A letter will be going out in the next several weeks to all property owners.

ix. Planning Commission – The Commission would like to have a draft of a Five-Year plan to Council by the end of the summer. They're also focusing on a program they're calling "Penbrook Properties with Potential" which involves taking blighted or open spaces and uses AI to reimagine the space for the community's benefit and consideration.

6. New Business

A. A discussion regarding the invoice submitted by the Fire Department for a Vengeant Blizzard Mini Pumper chassis. Council wanted to hear from the Fire Chief prior to approving the expense. Shaw asked why the purchase wasn't discussed at last year's budget meetings. Chief Murphy said a memo was provided to Council in the spring of 2025 and during the November 2025 Council meeting he told Council that the purchase was moving forward. No comments or questions by any elected officials in reference to those comments. Several questions were asked and answered regarding the nature of the apparatus, the proposed use, how it would be funded and estimated payments. The current \$81,000 expense is only for the chassis. The fully complete vehicle will cost approximately half a million dollars.

Shaw commented that the current fire protection budget is operating on a \$11,000 surplus but that is not enough to cover a loan payment on a half million dollar loan.

What's the plan to pay for it? Murphy said grants particularly from the State Fire Grant that they've been receiving between 15 and 20 thousand per year.

Murphy said having this additional apparatus will mitigate time and use on the engine which will help prolong both pieces. Also, the smaller unit will be beneficial for Penbrook's narrow streets.

Moore made a motion to pay the invoice. Dry seconded. The motion carried 5 to 1 with Shaw voting no.

B. A discussion and if necessary, a motion to approve or reject an Addendum to the Intergovernmental Agreement with Dauphin County Establishing WREP to assign rights and responsibilities of the Borough of Penbrook to the Penbrook Storm Water Authority. There were no further questions after the Solicitor's brief. Dry made a motion to approve and Stokes seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Citizen Comments

A. Jim Arbruster, 650 Motter St, made comments and provided photos to Council of his property boundaries and concerns of damage caused by the Harrisburg City trash trucks.

B. Stephen Garisto, 2531 Boas St, said he did not receive his newsletter in the mail. He was directed to get one from the lobby.

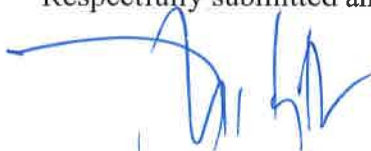
8. Council Comments

A. Moore said she received a request from a family in the Borough that is looking for volunteers to assist with getting a family member outside for some fresh air a couple times a week. For more information, please contact Councilwoman Moore or the Penbrook Borough Office.

B. Dry reminded everyone that the deadline for summer newsletter submissions is May 9 for a June 1 publish date.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm after a motion and second from Moore and Lovejoy.

Respectfully submitted and attested,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Hogarth', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Joseph Hogarth
Borough Manager and Municipal Secretary