MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

August 27, 2025

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Regular session of Borough Council convened at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Councilors Michael Matlos, Elizabeth Lape, Tim Sloss, Michael Zrenchak, David Sowa, Janice Matyasovsky, Chris Ponchak, Solicitor Matt Racunas, Mayor Larry Sikorski and Borough Engineer Lou Corrales.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**CHRISTINE GIBSON 3102 H STREET:** Ms. Gibson stated she contacted the Borough building to ascertain the regulations regarding front yard fencing of a property on H Street and was informed that while a solid fence is not permitted, a chain link fence is permissible. Mr. Zrenchak indicated that he would need to consult the ordinance, given the various stipulations that may apply. Mr. Bogdan remarked that Mr. Harvey, our building inspector, had thoroughly reviewed the situation and granted approval for the fence, a decision that Ms. Gibson finds quite surprising. Ms. Gibson inquired about the residence of the building inspector, Mr. Harvey, expressing concern regarding his vested interest in Liberty Borough. Mr. Bogdan and Mr. Zrenchak assured Ms. Gibson that Mr. Harvey is completely vested in Liberty Borough. Mr. Zrenchak assured Ms. Gibson that he will revisit the fence ordinance and speak with Mr. Harvey for clarity and will follow up with her accordingly.

**RODNEY NACCARATO 823 ELIZABETH STREET:** Mr. Zrenchak told Mr. Naccarato that a representative from the borough had recently visited his property in conjunction with Allegheny County's Low Volume Roads team to explore various options regarding his concerns, specifically regarding the complete closure of the ditch. In response to Mr. Naccarato's inquiry about the anticipated timeline for these actions, our engineer, Lou Corrales, conveyed that Allegheny County currently possesses limited grant funding this year, with the expectation of an increase in 2026. In the interim, we could investigate alternative grant opportunities and at least prepare the necessary drawings for this proposal. Furthermore, Mr. Naccarato expressed his desire for additional mosquito control measures. Mr. Matlos assured him that he would investigate this matter. Additionally, Mr. Naccarato sought clarification from Chief Marsico concerning the enforcement of parking regulations on the 800-900 block of Elizabeth Street. Chief Marsico told him that the enforcement action was a result of the Public Works Department's inability to maintain the grass in that area. Mr. Zrenchak promised to examine the parking ordinance further and pledged to provide a follow-up to Mr. Naccarato.

**BLIGHT COMMITTEE**: Amanda Rausch

Mrs. Rausch let everyone know the little free library remains at the US Steel Training Center waiting to be completed. Also, the Blight Committee will be participating in the Liberty Borough Fall Cleanup Day September 20, 2025. Mrs. Rausch also stated they are still looking into trash ordinances.

**PROPERTY:** Chris Ponchak

No Report.

**POLICE, FIRE and EMS:** Michael Zrenchak

Chris Ponchak read the Fire Department Report for July 2025 submitted by Fire Chief Corey Derr:

 Alarm system activation – no fire, unintentional 2

Alarm system sounded due to malfunction 1

 Assist police or other governmental agency 1

 Building fire 3

 Cover assignment, standby, move up 2

Dispatched and cancelled en route 3

Gas leak 1

Hazmat Release investigation w/no hazmat 1

 Total Incidents 14

Chief Ralph Marsico submitted the Police Report for July 2025.

 Accident/non-reportable 1

 Alarm 1

 Animal Complaint 5

 Animal Complaint/Dog bite report 1

 Assault Reports 1

 Assist Other Agency 16

 Attempt warrant service 1

 Burglar Alarm – Residence 1

 Childline/ Child welfare report 1

 Citizen complaint 1

 Civil Dispute 1

 Disorderly Conduct 1

 Domestic Disturbance 2

 EMS Call 1

 Fire Alarm – Natural Gas 1

 Follow Up Report 1

 Found Property 1

 Harassment 2

Health/Safety 9

Juvenile Disturbance 1

Local Ordinance Violations – Noise Complaint - Other 1

Local Ordinance Violations – Noise Complaint -

Loud Music 1

Lost/Stolen Plate 2

PFA Violation 1

 Repossessed Vehicle 1

 Road Hazard 1

 Suspicious Incident 1

 Suspicious Persons 1

 Suspicious Vehicle 1

 Traffic Post 3

 Traffic Stops 2

 Warrant Service 1

 Wires Down 1

 Total Incidents 66

Chief Marsico announced the new patrol truck was picked up today and he thanked Council for agreeing to purchase it for the police department.

**LEGISLATION:** Janice Matyasovsky

No Report.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** David Sowa

Mr. Sowa stated Fun To Be A Kid Day was a good turnout and thanked all who participated in helping. Mr. Sowa also thanked Brian Pritz from US Steel for donating the prizes again this year.

**Just on the agenda so not forgotten about:** Fall Clean Up Day September 20, 2025; Liberty Roadside Market September 27, 2025; Halloween, October 31, 2025; Light Up Night December 6, 2025.

**HEALTH & ORDINANCE**: Chris Ponchak

Mr. Ponchak stated the Chicken Ordinance is still being worked out and will be talked about in the workshop session, September 10, 2025.

**LIGHTS:** Michael Matlos

Steady burn light on Liberty Way has been fixed. Duquesne Light did not switch the shield around yet on the Glenn Avenue pole.

**FINANCE:** Michael Zrenchak

**Motion to Pay:**  Bills for Ratification in the amount of **$ 125,642.63** and List of Bills to Pay **$ 178,237.71.**

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

 **All in favor. Motion carries.**

**PERSONNEL:** Tim Sloss

No Report.

**STREETS AND SEWERS:** Tim Sloss

No Report.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** Larry Sikorski, Mayor

Police Report submitted by Chief Marsico

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** Mr. Racunas

No Report.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:** Lou Corrales

**Motion to adopt** the Concurring Resolution 2025-03 the Borough of Liberty authorizing the filing of an application for funds with the RAAC in the amount of $197,680.00 for inlet replacement.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Ponchak**

 **All in favor. Motion carries**

**Motion to pay** the invoice for El Grande Industries in the amount of $145,685.00.

**Motion: Mr. Ponchak Second: Mr. Sloss**

 **All in favor. Motion carries.**

**2025 GEDTF – Liberty Borough Storm Inlet Project**

* Scope: Replacement of 23 aging and deteriorated storm inlets to improve stormwater drainage, reduce flooding, and protect roadway integrity.
* Benefits: Meets current safety and environmental standards, improves public safety, and extends infrastructure lifespan.
* Status: Grant application submitted.

**Budget**:

* Construction – $176,500
* Engineering – $17,650
* Administration Fee – $3,530
Total Project Cost – $197,680

**CD 51 – Paving Project**

* Streets applied for: Spring Street, Memory Lane, Jeffrey Drive, Short Street
* Grant Award: $40,000 received
* Action Needed: Council discussion on how to proceed with project scope and matching funds.

**Paving – Glenn Avenue to Liberty Way**

* Status: Complete
* Contractor: El Grande Paving
* Contract Amount: $145,685.00
* Change Orders: None
* Upon payment, please copy the Engineer with both sides of the cancelled check.
* Glenn Engineering will then request reimbursement of $100,000.00 (grant amount) from Harrisburg.

**2024 Act 152**

* Liberty Borough Has been awarded $81,000 for the following properties
* 2720 Washington Blvd. 201 Latrobe St. 309 and 221 South Allegheny Dr.

**2024 LSA – Municipal Building Renovations**

* Application submitted for renovation of the Borough Building and EMS Building
* Requested Grant Amount: $368,550.00

**2024 GEDTF – 179 Community Building Improvements**

* Awarded Amount: $50,000
* Bids Opened: July 8, 2025
* Contractor Awarded: Plavchak Construction – $46,800.00
* Status: Contract documents and Notice to Proceed received
* Scheduled Start: First week of September 2025

**GTRP Park Grant – Lou Wunderley Park**

* Purpose: Parks, Recreation, or Trails improvements
* Status: Glenn Engineering has Submitted the grant application
* Requirement: 15% matching funds

**PA Small Water & Sewer Grant**

* Application Submitted: By April 30, 2025 deadline
* Project Scope:
	+ Replace concrete storm vault at Elizabeth Street
	+ Replace 603 lineal feet of 48” storm sewer pipe and manhole
* Maximum Allowable Project Cost: $500,000
* Construction – $424,700
* Engineering – $42,470
* Administration – $8,494
* Contingency – $21,235
Total Project Cost – $496,899
* Reimbursement: All above costs are eligible
* Match Requirement: 15% minimum
* Borough Commitment: $100,000.00 (20.2% match) to improve grant award chances

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No Report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Motion to adopt** an agreement with Compass Minerals America, Inc for rock salt for 2025-2026.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Ponchak**

 **All in favor. Motion carries.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Motion to accept** the typed minutes from the July 23, 2025, regular meeting.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mr. Sloss**

 **All in favor. Motion carries.**

Next meeting dates/times: Workshop Session Meeting – Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm, and the Regular Session Meeting -- Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

**Motion to adjourn**.

**Motion: Mr. Matlos Second: Mrs. Lape**

 **All in favor. Motion carries.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Rachael Waltonbaugh

Secretary/Treasurer