

PHOENIXVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

7:00 PM

MINUTES

(Minutes approved by Borough Council on October 14, 2025)

I. Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence

II. Roll Call – Borough Manager

Mr. Ewald, President	Present
Ms. Burckley, Vice President	Present
Mr. Carminito	Present
Ms. Dugan	Present
Mr. Kirkner	Present
Mr. Moore	Present
Mr. Strenfel	Present
Mr. Weiss	Present
Mayor Urscheler	Present
Mr. Krack, Borough Manager	Present
Ms. Getzfread, Asst. Borough Manager	Present
Chief Marshall, Police Chief	Present
Mr. Denlinger, Solicitor	Present

III. Public Comment

John McPhee, Business Manager and co-owner of Diving Cat Studios. He stated he is here tonight to support the creation of the Square at Bridge and Main. He provided a brief history of his work in the Borough including his involvement in the demolition of the former steel company property. He shared his experiences with the Inside Out and its boom for the businesses in town. He stated that he had the privilege of being on the committee working with the consultants to design the concept for the park space at Main and Bridge. Inside Out provides a public space, downtown, for about 60 days of the year. This would create an opportunity 365 days a year. There are lots of community parks that are neighborhood parks around the Borough, but there is nothing in the immediate area of the downtown for all of the thousands of people that have moved to the downtown of Phoenixville. He hopes that Council will move forward with it. Certainly, the opportunity to receive state and federal funding goes to those that have construction-ready projects.

Zach Hoffmann, owner of Bistro on Bridge. He expressed his support of the Square at Bridge and Main. He spoke about the different groups of people who enjoy the closure of Inside Out from the joy of kids in the morning, to runners and exercisers, people enjoying the coffee shops, lunch crowds and the events held downtown. He stated it was a cool

transformation if the downtown coming from the tough times of COVID and he is glad that Phoenixville continues to move forward with the concept of the Square at Bridge and Main. He stated he is in full support of the project and encourages the Council to support the motion later tonight.

Sally Mortiz, Resident. She stated she has a different perspective of proposed Square at Bridge and Main. She explained the lot is always full, she walked past it tonight and all 35 spaces were full. She has come downtown planning to just pick up takeout and has not been able to find a parking space anywhere. When there are events, that lot is used for all kinds of setups and for First Friday, but the other days, there's definitely a parking shortage in town, and if the Council takes away 35 spaces where can the Council the replace the lost parking spaces. She stated she sees more and more parking coming up to the residential areas, as far as 1st or 2nd Avenue, and it, it just seems like you'd be taking away a resource that once it's gone, may actually be a deterrent to people coming downtown when there aren't special events, but people just want to come downtown for dinner on a weeknight.

Sarah Howell, resident. She stated she is in support of the redevelopment of the parking lot. She shared the sociologist Ray Oldenburg says that third places are very important to our well-being, and it's something that is lacking in Phoenixville right now. Third places are the living rooms of our communities and residents need a place that they can go and gather that doesn't cost money, that doesn't require anything extra to be together. She expressed her love the bathrooms, the water fountains, the tables and the stages, and all the different ways that it allows all of us that just love this town and love being a part of what happens in downtown Phoenixville.

Craig Moritz, resident. He stated he is a happy resident of the Borough for the last 15 years. He shared his amazement of the redevelopment of the downtown area and the work that has been done to make it a more comfortable and livable place. He is impressed by how much park space, public areas and trails currently available in Phoenixville and it seems to him that the parking lot at Bridge and Main gives the Borough the best of both worlds. This is a space that can be utilized for many special events, however on Monday through Friday it provides the needed parking for the downtown. He expressed his concerns on the loss of revenue from the parking lot and the potential expense of 3 million dollars to redevelop the parking lot into the Square at Bridge and Main.

Patrick Sudol, resident. He stated he is here to express his support for the proposed park at Bridge and Main. He further stated the deed is clear the land was given to the Borough for open space and public recreation not for permanent parking. Residents have stated they want more green space downtown, a place for families, performance, fitness classes and community gatherings. This proposed park aligns with the finding of the Phoenixville Borough Comprehensive Plan. PXV Inside Out, arguably the busiest time of year the lot is already closed and inaccessible. He expressed a park there will strengthen our downtown, boost local businesses, and as we've seen every year or just tonight, it will create that kind of public space that inspires pride and brings people together.

Dori Sawyer, resident. She stated she lives on the north side of town, and she is frequently down on Bridge Street, especially when the street is closed during Inside Out. She expressed her love of the businesses and restaurants, and she thinks when the issue of parking is discussed it is always focused on visitors to Phoenixville. She believes the proposed park really provides a place for residents to go. She explained that she doesn't feel as if the residents have been overlooked, but she believes the residents deserve a nice space to go to on a Wednesday afternoon when it's really nice, a place where you can sit with your laptop and get some work done in a park downtown. She stated she has followed the proposals online, she has seen the deed for the property, and it does seem like the former owner who gifted this land intended for it to be for a recreational space. She feels that the Council should honor the intentions behind the gift by creating a nice space for residents and keeping our community beautiful and green for generations to come.

Katie Ortiz, resident. She voiced her support for the Phoenixville Square. The lot is utilized as a public space so frequently, and it frankly has so little impact as a parking lot. Since it's so small, this feels like a very natural transformation to make. The location as a parking lot also makes it unsafe for pedestrians and drivers as people move in and out, but the location is ideal for a community area, as the Council knows from the Christmas tree, from Blobfest and First Friday events. She thinks it's a wonderful idea, and she's gotten a lot of positive feedback about it when she mentions it to my friends and family. She understands that parking is a concern, especially as someone who used to live in an apartment with only street parking just one block away from Bridge Street. It was not fun with groceries, however the reason why so many people want to come and enjoy our town is because of the creation of attractions like the Square, and the Borough has prioritized walkability and community over cars. She noted that as the borough creates more community areas, there are also things that can be done to improve accessibility. She suggested adding additional handicapped parking spots that are available even when Bridge and Main Street are shut down and based on the improvements she's seen around town right now, she feels confident that handicap accessibility is as much a priority to the Council. Another option would be shuttles around town. There are plenty of people who live in the corners of Phoenixville and are really close but, it's just not walkable to them in the way that it is for her. So, the more opportunities for public transportation, the more other people can come down, enjoy the town that they live in, and free up parking spaces for people who live farther away

Paige DiFiore, resident. She stated she and her husband spend a lot of time downtown and they do often wish there was seating in green spaces so they could spend more time downtown. She supports the proposed park as she has been following the plans for a month, I think they're fantastic. This space is already utilized at major events that bring a lot of people into Phoenixville and a lot of business to Phoenixville, like Blobfest and Pride. She explained they have enjoyed them all and it would be nice if that area was built up and more functional, because right now it's just concrete, and the parking lot isn't even functional for most of these large events that she mentioned, which is when parking is most essential, and when people seem to complain about it the most. They've always been able to find parking, even if it means walking more or parking a bit further.

Obviously, that doesn't apply to those who have accessibility needs, but, a gathering space is a need downtown more so than parking, and more green spaces would benefit the community and encourage people to spend more time and money downtown. They really do love Phoenixville, and she wholeheartedly believes that this would be a fantastic addition to the community.

IV. Presentations – None.

V. Consent Agenda:

A. Approval of August 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

B. Items from HARB

1. Motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for signage at 22 Main Street.
2. Motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for signage at 321 Bridge Street.
3. Motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for renovations at 130-138 Bridge Street.

C. Items from Parks and Recreation Committee.

1. Motion to approve a Temporary Community Event Application for Movie in the Park at Reeves Park on Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
2. Motion to approve a Temporary Community Event Application for the Shoes 'N Brews 26.2 Mile Running Event using the Schuylkill River Trail under the Veteran's Memorial Gay Street Bridge on Sunday, October 5, 2025 from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. Conditioned upon receipt of valid Certificate of Insurance naming Borough as Additional Insured.
3. Motion to approve a Temporary Community Event Application for the SRHC – Phoenix Wheel Heritage Award Celebration at the Borough Hall Parking Lot on Friday, October 17, 2025 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Borough Hall Parking Lot to be closed for the event. Conditioned upon receipt of valid Certificate of Insurance naming Borough as Additional Insured.

E. Items from Finance Committee.

1. Motion to approve the 2025 pre-paid dated 7/1/2025 - 7/31/2025 in the amount of \$1,114,965.63.
2. Motion to approve the 2025 pre-paid Credit Card Statement dated 7/1/2025 - 7/31/2025 in the amount of \$46,782.89.
3. Motion to approve the 2025 pre-paid ACH dated 7/31/2025 in the amount of \$60,867.83.

4. Motion to approve Budget Increase 2025-19 from Sanitation Fund Balance in the amount of \$8,000.00 to Solid Waste (32 Yd Trash Truck Capital Item) due to truck price increase from tariffs increasing the cost of production.
5. Motion to approve Budget Increase 2025-20 from Parks Capital Improvement Fund in the amount of \$30,000.00 to Morris Street Park to replace the Tot Lot playground units due to safety concerns.
6. Motion to approve Budget Increase 2025-21 from General Fund Balance in the amount of \$74,089.00 to Boro Share – Fire Pension to create Pension fund for Phoenixville Fire Department.
7. Motion to approve Budget Transfer 2025-14 from Downtown 175th Projects in the amount of \$7,000.00 to Community Events for additional funds for Community Events.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

Motion Approved 8-0.

VI. Communications/Council Participation – None.

VII. Mayor’s Report

Mayor Urscheler thanked everyone joining in tonight and reported on the many events in town including PMYC’s first Community Day in conjunction with all of the youth sports league, Proactive Chester County in conjunction with the Phoenixville Police Department for an overdose awareness table set up downtown, as well as the upcoming Greenixville, WuFF Jam, Andre Thornton Day and the Mrs. Roper Romp on September 20, 2025. Mayor Urscheler thanked Jason Kelce and the team at Garage Beer for hosting the premier of the Garage Beer short movie at the Colonial Theatre.

Mr. Ewald stated that the Council met in Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss matters discussed were a matter of personnel related to the hiring of a new police officer, a matter of real estate related to 15 Water Street, a matter of personnel related to the ASCME negotiations, a matter of attorney-client privilege communication related to potential conflicts, and lastly, a matter of attorney-client privilege matters related to 400 Taylor Street.

VIII. Appointments

- A. Call for Residents interested in being appointed to various Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Ewald encouraged residents to continue to apply for openings on the various Boards and Commissions and stated openings can be found on the Borough's Website.

IX. New Business

- A. Motion to reject all Request for Proposals received for Arborist Consulting Services.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to reject all Request for Proposals received for Arborist Consulting Services. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

Motion Approved 8-0.

- B. Motion to accept Staff recommendation to award the 2026 chemical bids.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to accept Staff recommendation to award the 2026 chemical bids. Seconded by Mr. Strenfel.

Motion Approved 8-0.

- C. Motion to authorize a conditional offer of employment for Patrol Officer pending satisfactory completion of Medical Examination and Psychological Testing.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to authorize a conditional offer of employment to Kyle Berry pending satisfactory completion of Medical Examination and Psychological Testing. Seconded by Mr. Strenfel.

Motion Approved 8-0.

- D. Motion to award the design and engineering of the Square at Bridge and Main to Ground Reconsidered in the amount of \$302,563.00.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to award the design and engineering of the Square at Bridge and Main to Ground Reconsidered in the amount of \$302,563.00. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

On the Question:

Ms. Dugan expressed her concerns for the conversion of the parking lot to the Square at Bridge and Main. She explained the original cost for the concept was \$78,000 and at the last meeting of the Finance Committee the design and engineering of the project will cost \$302,563. She stated she appreciated everyone who came out tonight to share their thoughts on the proposed square, however she is still not going to support moving forward with the Square at Bridge and Main. She stated this is a major parking lot that people use to stop by places. She stated the closure of the lot will make it harder for individuals who don't walk well to go downtown because of the loss of parking close to the shops.

Mr. Moore stated he is still undecided. When the project was before the ITTS Committee he voted against the Square at Bridge and Main for a number of reasons, but he did like the concept. He stated his objections including the loss of income to the Parking Department and the parking study including Holy Ghost when there is no guarantee the parking there will be permanently available. He asked for clarification on what the \$305,000 will accomplish for the project and why it needs to be spent in order to go for the grant.

Mr. Krack explained that in the 17 years he has been working with the Council staff has been afforded the opportunity to fund and move forward with design and engineering of all of its projects. He stated with that information staff are able to go the funders with reasonable expectations of what the cost will be for a particular project, whether it be a road project, a park project or the construction of Borough Hall. Any project of the Borough has been completed with the design and engineering done in advance of the grant applications and can be used as the match money for the grant. He explained the request of \$302,000 is for the design and engineering of the project and there are a lot of underground details that need to be located and how they interact with the traffic signal at the Bridge and Main intersection. He stated if you have ever looked at the parking lot it is not flat there is a 36-inch grade change from the southwest corner to the northeast corner of the parking lot. That grade change is going to require some significant underground work as it relates to stormwater management to make the park function the way it needs to function. Historically design and engineering amounts to 14 to 15 percent of the cost of construction. In this case it is 10 percent of the cost of construction.

Mr. Moore asked if the \$302,000 will for the design and engineering will provide the borough with a shovel ready or close to shovel ready project.

Mr. Krack explained that the intention of staff is to get the borough in the position of a shovel ready project that is designed and engineered. He cited examples of shovel ready projects Fillmore Street that staff are actively looking to get funded and Mowere Road that had its design and engineering completed and was funded after many years. Staff's goal is to be cognizant of what the funder is looking for and that once the borough is awarded a grant, they can feel confident the project will be completed.

Mr. Moore stated he has concerns in losing the parking lot due to the accessibility needs and convenience of location it offers based on its location in the downtown. He explained he has had interactions with residents who are unable to come downtown without close parking since they are unable to walk, ride a bike or a scooter downtown. He feels the square is designed for a certain demographic of the Borough. On the other hand, he is still unclear on the history of the property being acquired and the deed requirements for the property.

Mr. Denlinger explained the deed includes the covenants running with the land

include, but are not limited to, the following. Real estate conveyed herein shall be used only as open space in the form of land for public recreational purposes.

Mr. Moore stated that the Borough has been in violation of the deed, and he asked when the property was conveyed to the borough.

Mr. Denlinger stated that the property was conveyed to the borough in 1986.

Mr. Moore stated that the closure of the Foundry was rough on the town and having the parking lot helped the downtown. He stated the borough has been given land in the past and currently like with the MDM Preserve, what if the Council ignored it or sold it what recourse would the grantor have? He asked what would happen if someone wants to buy the property from us to build a really nice sized hotel which a lot of people have been asking to be built in town. He stated the notion of a central meeting space is something he finds pretty interesting. He explained that he has always been supportive of PXV Inside Out and the Square at Bridge and Main would be the capstone to that. He understands this was a project brainstormed with contributions from the downtown merchants contributing their ideas. It has been proven that having a closed space downtown draws people in and generates community. He expressed his continued concerns on the loss of revenue in that lot even though other lots have gained revenue when the Bridge and Main Street lot is closed.

Mr. Weiss stated he wants his comments to be mostly facts and to veer away from conjecture or opinion but really anchoring to things that are researched, studied, or part of published articles, etc. He stated the first piece is that the borough already has sufficient parking. According to our parking study since 2017 the borough has added 975 parking spaces in the downtown. Right now, and that's 117 at Smithworks, 50 at Wheatland, 47 at the new Church Street parking lot, or the newer Church Street parking lot, then we're talking about taking away 36. So just for an order of magnitude. 36 parking spots that may go away, 1,000 that have been added in the last 8 years or so. The Church Street lot is one block away from the Bridge and Main lot, with 47 spaces, which more than would replace what would be, removed. And then peak parking utilization in the downtown is only 53% on weekdays, meaning that nearly half of all the parking spots remain empty even during the busiest Thursday evening hours. All of these facts are from our parking study. He addressed the concerns on the loss of revenue from the lot and he believes that people coming to town would not leave because they could park in Bridge and Main. The Smithworks parking lot has, according to our parking study, 94 to 117 empty spaces during our peak times. Less than a 5-minute walk, this lot is virtually empty, seeing 1-3% utilization on weekdays in particular, a little more on weekends, but still wildly underutilized and rarely filled. Even on the busiest Saturday nights, as part of our study, it found that there was 263 plus total spaces available downtown. He stated there's no shortage of people looking forward and demanding green space in their lives. Protection for existing green spaces and expansion to those community gathering areas.

Phoenixville is a community that wants to gather and wants to be together and thrives when they do. The square is a quality of life improvement a place to stop while they are downtown. He stated he found three studies indicated that pedestrians spend more money downtown than drivers. So, while drivers might make larger individual purchases, pedestrians visit more often. The studies cite that merchants consistently overestimate how many of their customers come by car versus walk and walkable downtowns and towns that have spaces to stop while walking, support two to three times more businesses per acre than car-oriented strips and strip malls. The last piece he shared is the stickiness factor for when people are walking to towns versus commuting in other ways, non- drivers tend to stick around downtown for 2-3 hours, whereas car-oriented areas and car-oriented destinations are more 20-30-minute visits.

Ms. Burckley shared her experiences living in the downtown. She stated she has had the luxury of being able to walk downtown to pick up take out or to visit with friends. She explained town has changed and she feels there is a need to educate the public on why the square is being created and where the added parking is located. Along with the changes in the downtown, societal needs and the ways consumers consume things. She believes that there is a need to continue to draw people to the downtown. Many have expressed to her that they don't always have the funds to come t town to dine but they would embrace the idea of a park where they cold read a book, meet with friends and possibly stop to make small purchases like a coffee or drink or even a small impulse purchase. The Council and Staff are continuing to think outside the box, she stated the fear brought on by this potential change are valid but when looking at the data and deed itself the Council needs to be good stewards of what has been given to the Borough.

Mr. Ewald stated there are other additions that have not been discussed widely as of yet but in the coming Spring of 2026 the Council and Staff are working toward the addition of 50 parking spaces at 395 Bridge Street. This lot will be 400 feet west of the Borough Hall building. He stated he thinks it is valuable to continue to look at other areas to add additional parking. He believes the borough has been creative and constructive to maximize parking. He pointed out that he doesn't of many other communities that have an actual Main Street bathroom available and is ADA designed. Lastly, he stated he had the luxury of meeting Neal Thorpe, the donor of this property and she was a powerhouse. She passed in 2018 at the age of 98, she was a huge enthusiast of both the Borough and Mont Clare, a long-time editor of the daily newspaper and the reason there is the Lock 60 Canal Park. He believes Ms. Thorpe had the foresight of what a town square could be for the borough and her inclusion of the property being used for open space was intentional on her part.

Mr. Kirkner provided background on the property it was originally a W.T. Grants which was a small department store that closed in the mid-1970's. He stated the property had been abandoned and had been various things after including a place for bingo and a farmer's market, but it has been struggling for about a decade then

a group of merchants got together, bought the property, transferred it to the Phoenixville Area Economic Development Corporation, which then transferred it to the borough. Bonnie August was the President of Borough Council, signed the deed in 1986. He acknowledged the deed does say it was for open space but the merchants got together to acquire the property with the intent to provide parking. He wanted to clarified nothing untoward was done by the Borough and in order to facilitate the transfer the language was put into the deed; the property has been a parking lot for the last 39 years. He agreed he can't argue there isn't enough parking to compensate for the loss of this parking lot and that it's a bad idea to make a park there, but he has concerns on operating a wheelchair up or down hill form the lots like Church Street or Smithworks Boulevard. He expressed his concerns with the expense of the project and the potential match funds needed for any grant to construct the square. Those funds would have to come from the General Fund and ultimately fall on the Borough's taxpayers.

Mr. Carminito stated the square has been discussed at various meetings starting back in March of 2023, committees have been working on this for the last two and a half years and if the project does come to fruition it will probably be another three to five years till it is complete. He believes in ten years that no one will look back on this project and say they really wish it was still 35 parking spaces. He stated the residents, business owners, and visitors of the borough will love the park they designed together as a community.

Mr. Strenfel stated in the beginning he was against the Square at Bridge and Main as it didn't make send to him, but after speaking with his colleagues and the Borough Staff the one thing he will never be able to get over is the content of the deed. As an attorney that's the point, right, of a will, and for anybody that is considering donating or gifting land in the future and to Mr. Kirkner's point, he's not saying our predecessors did anything wrong he would like to see the wishes of the donor followed and he believes this will be a good thing for the community.

Mr. Moore stated Mr. Kirkner did speak about the geography of the borough and because of it's location in a creek valley with hills up and down leading to just that one flat area downtown. He issues have always been the accessibility and convenience issue but he appreciates everyone insight on the project.

Mr. Ewald spoke about the concerns raised over the ADA designated parking spots. He stated the Parking Department, Police Department, and the Staff have worked to address the loss of accessible parking by adding spaces in other areas of the downtown. The departments are able to monitor the use of the spaces and if they are being utilized, adding or removing spaces as needed.

Motion Approved 6-2. Ms. Dugan and Mr. Kirkner voting No.

X. Public Hearings

XI. Resolutions/Ordinances

- A. Motion to adopt a Resolution adopting the formal Police Department Ride-Along Program Agreements, and authorize the Chief of Police to utilize and implement such Agreements.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to Motion to adopt a Resolution adopting the formal Police Department Ride-Along Program Agreements, and authorize the Chief of Police to utilize and implement such Agreements. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

Motion Approved 7-0. Mr. Strenfel out of the room.

- B. Motion to adopt a Resolution acknowledging Jon Ichter his two years of service on the Historical and Architectural Review Board.

Mr. Moore made a Motion to adopt a Resolution acknowledging Jon Ichter his two years of service on the Historical and Architectural Review Board. Seconded by Ms. Dugan.

Motion Approved 7-0. Mr. Strenfel out of the room.

Mr. Ewald read the Resolution aloud for the record.

- C. Motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for uniform, firefighter, and non-uniform pension plans.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for uniform, firefighter, and non-uniform pension plans. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

Motion Approved 7-0. Mr. Strenfel out of the room.

- D. Motion to adopt an Ordinance changing the name and location of a Borough Street.

Mr. Weiss made a Motion to adopt an Ordinance changing the name and location of a Borough Street. Seconded by Ms. Burckley.

Motion Approved 8-0.

- E. Motion to adopt an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 15 “Motor Vehicles”.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to adopt an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 15 “Motor Vehicles”. Seconded by Mr. Moore.

Motion Approved 8-0.

- F. Motion to adopt an Ordinance establishing the Borough of Phoenixville Firefighters Pension Plan.

Ms. Burekley made a Motion to adopt an Ordinance establishing the Borough of Phoenixville Firefighters Pension Plan. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

Motion Approved 8-0.

- G. Motion to adopt an Ordinance amendment repealing and replacing Chapter 1, “Administration and Government,” Part 7 “Pensions, Retirement And Social Security”.

Mr. Strenfel made a Motion to adopt an Ordinance amendment repealing and replacing Chapter 1, “Administration and Government,” Part 7 “Pensions, Retirement And Social Security”. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

Motion Approved 8-0.

XII. Reports of Committees, Boards, and Commissions

- A. Historical and Architectural Review Board – Ms. Dugan
- B. Planning Commission - Mr. Moore
- C. Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee – Mr. Kirkner

Mr. Kirkner reported that West Pikeland is going to have a referendum in November to vote on a 1.5 mil tax increase to fund the police force. Currently their tax is 1.55 mils so it will be doubling the taxes of their residents.

- D. Recreation Board – Ms. Dugan

Ms. Dugan reported on the upcoming programs of the Recreation Department including Movie Night Under the Stars, Fall Fest and Trunk or Treat, Parents Night Out, Young Rembrandts, Yoga, Basketball Training Academy, Wellness and Leadership, Shuffleboard, Pickleball and Open Jam a new music program being offered.

- E. Tree Advisory Commission – Mr. Carminito

Mr. Carminito reported the Commission has been discussing the fall plantings, selecting sites and species of trees, and they will be at the October First Friday to promote interest in Borough Shade Trees.

F. Human Relations Commission – Ms. Burckley

Ms. Burckley reported the Commission has had a lot of visitors at their meetings. The Commission has been engaging with the County and State HRC's as well as continuing to educate themselves on the Borough Ordinance for the Commission.

XIII. Council Action referred from:

A. Personnel and Public Safety Committee – Ms. Burckley

1. No action to report.

B. Parks and Recreation Committee – Mr. Moore

1. Motion to approve the change of location for the Firebird Festival from Veterans Park to Reservoir Park on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 10:30 pm. Parts of Dayton Street and Franklin Avenue based on Police and staff review and the Bridge & Main Parking Lot to have screen with live stream from 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Conditioned upon receipt of all fees and valid Certificate of Insurance naming Borough as Additional Insured.

Mr. Moore made a Motion to approve the change of location for the Firebird Festival from Veterans Park to Reservoir Park on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 10:30 pm. Parts of Dayton Street and Franklin Avenue based on Police and staff review and the Bridge & Main Parking Lot to have screen with live stream from 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Conditioned upon receipt of all fees and valid Certificate of Insurance naming Borough as Additional Insured. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

On the Question:

Ms. Getzfread explained Borough Staff met with the Firebird Committee to talk about the current location at Veterans Park and its logistical issues when it comes to safety if something were to arise because there is only one entrance and exit to the park. After a lengthy discussion about the options for the event at Veterans the possibility of moving the event to Reservoir Park where the fireworks are launched. This location provides multiple ways in and out for the event and from a safety perspective is a better location. The same safety precautions will be taken at this site that were in place at Veterans Field when it comes to an outer ring with barricade and another ring that keeps the viewers from getting too close to the fire as it burns.

Mr. Moore stated the Parks and Recreation Committee had substantive discussions about the changes. He asked about the lights on the field so it

won't be pitch black at the site, the vendor locations and if the shuttle busses will still run to the site.

Ms. Getzfread stated the route of the shuttle busses will be picked out with the Police Department so they are comfortable with the route and where the drop-off and pickup locations will be. Staff recommended having the vendors set up in the parking lot at Reservoir Park. This location allows the vendors to be closer to their vehicles and removes the need to drop off and find another parking spot. There are probably some vendors that may not be able to do that. If there are food trucks or something along those lines, there's usually support vehicles they need close by.

Mr. Kirkner asked about the neighbors of the location being notified of the event.

Marianne Khalihana, resident and Firebird Committee member. She stated they met with the residents at the gazebo in Reservoir Park, letters and email were sent and they have had discussions with the police to work to cordon off areas so that attendees can't trespass on private property. She stated they will continue to communicate with the neighbors and this is the 22nd or 23rd festival. It has been moved quite a few times and each move has been better than the last.

Ms. Burckley stated she wears multiple hats for this event and trusts the Staff and the emergency services personnel that this is a better location for the event. She expressed her pride on the Staff being able to come together on this and how they advocated for the borough, borough assets, but then also came, to the understanding that this is a community event, and they want to work with these organizers. She stated she appreciated the Staff's flexibility while still needing to set the expectations and boundaries.

Motion Approved 7-0-1. Ms. Burckley abstained due to conflict of interest.

C. Policy Committee – Mr. Carminito

1. Motion to schedule and advertise an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 21 "Streets and Sidewalks".

Mr. Carminito made a Motion to schedule and advertise an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 21 "Streets and Sidewalks". Seconded by Mr. Strenfel.

Motion Approved 8-0.

2. Motion to schedule and advertise an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 22 “SALDO”.

Mr. Carminito made a Motion to schedule and advertise an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 22 “SALDO”. Seconded by Mr. Strenfel.

Motion Approved 8-0.

3. Motion to schedule and advertise an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 27 “Zoning”.

Mr. Carminito made a Motion to schedule and advertise an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 27 “Zoning”. Seconded by Ms. Burckley.

Motion Approved 8-0.

D. Infrastructure/Technology/Transportation/Sustainability Committee – Mr. Weiss

1. No action to report.

E. Finance Committee – Ms. Dugan

1. No action to report.

XIV. Public Comment

Diana Cinzerpino, resident. She expressed her concerns with safe access to SR 113 from her home that she accesses from the back side on Dayton Street. She stated her street is one way with is not always followed by motorists. When she tries to exit Dayton Street on to SR 113 vehicles speeding up the hill make it dangerous and difficult exit Dayton Street. She has had her fence taken out by speeders and it is a constant concern for the residents. She also expressed concern with appropriate fencing around the Santa Ana Italian Club as there is a 10-foot hole on the site and she is afraid someone will be injured on the property. The state of the site is completed ignored and she is hoping something can be done about it. Lastly, she stated she thinks PXV Inside Out is great but for someone like her with mobility issues she can't participate as she can't access parking and she is unable to walk as the sidewalks are difficult for her to navigate to get downtown. She is opposed to the closing of Main Street as it causes issues for residents of the north side to get home from work.

Sally Fink, resident. She expressed her concerns with SR 113 she has almost been hit three times trying to pullout on the SR 113 in the morning. She had to contact the police about this issue. She has had to travel the wrong way and when she did get stopped the officer explained she could get into a head on collision. She is afraid of getting hit on her driver's side trying to exit Dayton Street as the vehicle come speeding over the hill and can't see her.

John McPhee, Business Manager of Diving Cat Studios. He stated that as he comes in and out of the borough from the west there is an abandoned industrial building and homes that are boarded up. He is aware the Council doesn't control the development process, however the developer years ago demoed the Bartow building and as of yet he has not completed the cleanup of the construction debris. He stated it is a disgusting eyesore and he is hoping something can be done to get the developer to finish the cleanup.

Katie Ortiz, resident. She stated she lives on the north side and she agrees that when Main Street is shutdown for First Friday it creates a lot of traffic issues. She explained that her husband was coming home from work and he forgot it was closed. Had he remembered he would have taken a different route home. She is hoping that detour signs or similar signage up by Reeves Park to indicate that Bridge Street would be closed. Having it set up for First Friday would also be extremely helpful for the residents of the north side. She reported there are quite a few sides of the sidewalk and the ramps leading onto some sidewalks that are in horrible shape. She walks with her son, who's in a stroller, and sometimes it takes her a couple minutes to get the wheels unstuck. But she thinks the most egregious one is, when you are crossing up North Main Street to the intersection of High Street at Vanderslice Street. That ramp leads basically into traffic as it is not angled towards where the rest of the sideway follows through that intersection, and so she has passed other parents with strollers, since it's such a highly residential area up there, where they're trying to look both ways and also make sure they're not walking with our little ones directly into traffic.

Alice Saragian, resident. She thanked the Council for the many good and beneficial projects being done in Phoenixville and beautifying the area. She is here this evening to follow up from the August Council meeting where she expressed her concern for the Pride Flag being flown at Borough Hall. She is asking the Council to consider flying the American Peacetime Flag. The peacetime flag is the symbol of unity, hope, and peace.

Craig Morintz, resident. He expressed his concerns with parking being provided by a religious organization. He finds it troublesome and that it is not a good plan. These monies are collected and taxes are not paid on the fees collected. He feels it should be something taken into consideration by the Council.

XV. Communications/Council Participation

Ms. Burckley reported that she was able to participate with other members of the Civil Service Commission for the testing for firefighters. She stated it was a great experience and the first steps to moving towards the goal of expanding the Fire Department.

XVI. Staff Reports are in the packets.

- A. Manager
- B. Police
- C. Fire

- D. Planning and Codes
- E. Public Works
- F. Finance
- G. Human Resources
- H. Recreation

XVII. Adjournment

9:01 pm. Ms. Burckley made a Motion to Adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

E. Jean Krack
Borough Manager

Transcribed by: Jennifer Logan
Administrative Assistant
September 2025