

PHOENIXVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

7:00 PM

MINUTES

(Minutes approved by Borough Council on January 13, 2026)

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	Excused
Mr. Weiss	Arrived 7:09pm
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

None

IV. Presentations

Promotion of Officer Michael Kopil to Corporal.

Chief Marshall introduced Officer Michael Kopil and provided a brief biography of his accomplishments.

Mayor Urscheler swore in Officer Kopil as Corporal with the Phoenixville Police Department.

Presentation of the Phoenixville Police Department’s Grand Cordon Award for actions taken on October 31, 2025, to capture an escaped felon.

Chief Marshall introduced Seargeant Kyle Place, Corporal Anthony Gray, Corporal Kopil and Officer Dry of the Third Platoon and provided the background on their apprehension of an escapee from the custody of the East Pikeland Police Department.

Chief Marshall stated Corporal Gray has been awarded the Chief's Commendation for his efforts during this incident.

Mayor Urscheler and Lieutenant Patrick Mark presented the Third Platoon with their Grand Cordon Awards.

V. Consent Agenda:

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

B. Items from HARB

1. Motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for signage at 215 Bridge Street.

C. Items from Parks and Recreation Committee.

1. Motion to approve a Temporary Community Event Application for the Pride Fest Chester County 2026 in the 100 and 200 Blocks of Bridge Street on Saturday, June 20, 2026, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. 100 and 200 Blocks of Bridge Street between Gay Street and Starr Street, Main Street between Bridge Street and Church Street, and the Bridge and Main Street Parking Lot to be closed from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Conditioned upon receipt of valid Certificate of Insurance, naming the Borough of Phoenixville as Additional Insured.
2. Motion to approve a Temporary Community Event Application for the Blobfest 2026 on Friday, July 10, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Saturday, July 11, 2026, from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm. 200 Block of Bridge Street to be closed on Friday from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm between Gay Street and Main Street. 100 and 200 Blocks of Bridge Street between Gay Street and Starr Street to be closed Saturday, July 11 from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Bridge and Main Street Parking Lot to be closed on Saturday July 11 from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Conditioned upon receipt of valid Certificate of Insurance, naming the Borough of Phoenixville as Additional Insured.

D. Items from Finance Committee.

1. Motion to approve the 2025 pre-paid dated 10/1/2025 - 10/31/2025 in the amount of \$4,000,469.62.
2. Motion to approve the 2025 pre-paid Credit Card Statement dated 10/1/2025 - 10/31/2025 in the amount of \$115,944.37.

3. Motion to approve the 2025 pre-paid ACH dated 10/31/2025 in the amount of \$63,020.08.
4. Motion to adopt a Resolution eliminating member payments to the Police Pension Plan Fund for the Calendar Year 2026.
5. Motion to approve Budget Increase 2025-23 from Wastewater Fund Balance in the amount of \$65,759 to Sewer Treatment (Bridge Street Sanitary Upgrades) for the Bridge Street Sanitary Sewer.
6. Motion to approve Budget Increase 2025-24 from General Fund Balance in the amount of \$9,600 to General Capital Fund (Traffic Signal Plan Modifications) for Traffic Signal Plan Modifications at Bridge Street/Gay Street and Bridge Street/Main Street.
7. Motion to approve Budget Increase 2025-25 from General Fund Balance in the amount of \$13,200 to General Capital Fund (ADA Ramp-Main & Vanderslice Streets) to remove and replace the ADA ramps at Vanderslice and North Main.
8. Motion to approve Budget Increase 2025-26 from General Fund Balance in the amount of \$20,200 to General Capital Fund (Traffic Calming Bump Outs) to install a traffic calming bump-out and crosswalk on Bridge Street.
9. Motion to approve Budget Increase 2025-27 from Restricted General Fund Balance in the amount of \$10,000 to Fire Protection (Vehicle Maintenance) to repair the Ladder Truck.
10. Motion to approve Budget Transfer 2025-19 from Police Protection (Education Reimbursement) in the amount of \$17,000.00 to Police Protection (Small Equipment Expense) to purchase three (3) handheld parking ticket writers.
11. Motion to approve the request from the Borough Tax Collector to increase the Cert and Duplicate fees from \$10 to \$15 each.

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

Motion Approved 7-0.

VI. Communications/Council Participation

Mr. Kirkner stated that this is his last meeting after 20 years of serving on Borough Council. He stated it has been a privilege to serve with all of the Council members and commended Mr. Ewald for a great job as Council President. He stated the Borough has a

great team with their Borough Manager, Assistant Borough Manager, Solicitor and Public Works Director and he wished them all success going forward. He thanked the residents of the North Ward for first electing him in 1997 and reelecting him four more times with a four-year hiatus in the middle of his terms. He stated he loves the North Ward and its residents, and it has been an honor to represent them.

Mr. Carminito stated this is his last meeting as a member of the Council. He is surprised how quickly four years have gone by. He stated it has truly been fun to be a part of Council and having a front-row seat to all the great work the Council has done in the last four years. He thanked his fellow Council members, staff members and the public for their hard work and engagement. He wished the newly elected Council members the best of luck and he looks forward to seeing them step into their new roles.

VII. 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.

VIII. New Business

- A. Motion to promote a Patrol Officer Michael Kopil to Corporal.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to promote a Patrol Officer Michael Kopil to Corporal. Seconded by Mr. Weiss

Motion Approved 7-0.

- B. Motion to schedule and advertise the 2026 meetings of Borough Council and various Boards, Commissions, and Committees.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to schedule and advertise the 2026 meetings of Borough Council and various Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

Motion Approved 7-0.

- C. Motion to approve the 2026 General Fund and Enterprise Fund Budgets.

Ms. Dugan made a Motion to approve the 2026 General Fund and Enterprise Fund Budgets. Seconded by Ms. Burckley.

On the Question:

Mr. Kirkner stated he would like to note that in the Finance meeting, he did vote against this, but he's going to vote for it this time for reasons he will explain later on.

Motion Approved 7-0.

- D. Motion to approve the one-year extension of the Conditional Use Decision and Order for a drive-through restaurant at 1000 Nutt Road, dated May 14, 2024, to May 13, 2026, subject to any further extension provided by law in connection with an active land development submission.

Mr. Moore made a Motion to approve the one-year extension of the Conditional Use Decision and Order for a drive-through restaurant at 1000 Nutt Road, dated May 14, 2024, to May 13, 2026, subject to any further extension provided by law in connection with an active land development submission. Seconded by Ms. Burckley.

On the Question:

Mr. Denlinger explained a Conditional Use Hearing was held, actually two of them, one on April 9th, 2024, and one on May 14th, 2024, at which time the Council approved a decision and order that granted the Conditional Use. Pursuant to the Borough Ordinances Conditional Use decisions are valid for one year. Technically, that decision would have expired in May of this year. The applicant for that project the submitted a land development application in October of this year. The way the law works is when you have an active conditional use approval, if you file a land development application, the validity of that conditional use decision then follows the timeline of a land development. They basically missed their window by about three months, and when they were asked for, an extension rather than just granting them an extension to October of this year, he stated he suggested the year the one-year extension.

Motion Approved 7-0.

- E. Motion to approve Budget Increase 2025-28 from Restricted General Fund Balance/VRP in the amount of \$250,000 to General Capital Fund to purchase Quint fire apparatus and further authorizes Borough Council President, the Borough Solicitor, and Borough Manager to finalize and execute any and all documents and agreements necessary to complete such purchase.

Ms. Dugan made a Motion to approve Budget Increase 2025-28 from Restricted General Fund Balance/VRP in the amount of \$250,000 to General Capital Fund to purchase a Quint fire apparatus and further authorizes Borough Council President, the Borough Solicitor, and Borough Manager to finalize and execute any and all documents and agreements necessary to complete such purchase. Seconded by Ms. Burckley.

Motion Approved 7-0.

- F. Motion to authorize the Borough to enter into a three (3) year extension amendment to the (Water Agreement) with Aqua PA LLC, that: (i) sets an initial water purchase rate at \$5.00/1000 gallons, starting date 1/1/2026; (ii) increases the water purchase rate to \$7.00/1000 gallons at the earlier of either the effective date of Aqua's next rate case or 3/1/2027, for the remainder of the agreement; (iii) requires a minimum water purchase of 100,000 gallons per day; and (iv) allows for Aqua Pa to opt out of the Agreement any time after 1/1/2027 with 180 days' prior written notice; subject to the approval of the agreement by the Borough's special utility counsel; and further authorizing the Borough Council President, Borough Manager, and Borough Solicitor to prepare and execute any further agreements and documents necessary to effect such an agreement.

Mr. Moore made a Motion to authorize the Borough to enter into a three (3) year extension amendment to the (Water Agreement) with Aqua PA LLC, that: (i) sets an initial water purchase rate at \$5.00/1000 gallons, starting date 1/1/2026; (ii) increases the water purchase rate to \$7.00/1000 gallons at the earlier of either the effective date of Aqua's next rate case or 3/1/2027, for the remainder of the agreement; (iii) requires a minimum water purchase of 100,000 gallons per day; and (iv) allows for Aqua Pa to opt out of the Agreement any time after 1/1/2027 with 180 days' prior written notice; subject to the approval of the agreement by the Borough's special utility counsel; and further authorizing the Borough Council President, Borough Manager, and Borough Solicitor to prepare and execute any further agreements and documents necessary to effect such an agreement. Seconded by Ms. Burckley.

Motion Approved 7-0.

IX. Public Hearings

X. Resolutions/Ordinances

- A. Motion to adopt an Ordinance for the 2026 Tax Levy.

Ms. Dugan made a Motion to adopt an Ordinance for the 2026 Tax Levy. Seconded by Ms. Burckley.

On the Question:

Mr. Denlinger explained for this item and the next two they were scheduled to be advertised with the Pottstown Mercury on November 24, 2025, and they were sent to the Pottstown Mercury and Chester County Law Library for public inspection on November 21, 2025.

Mr. Kirkner stated he sees that the rate has come down a little bit since our last Finance meeting. He explained that the 2026 rate is now 8.67 mils total and it was 8.47 mils in 2025, that's a 2.3% increase. He stated his line is a 2.8%, which is a Social Security cost of living increase this year. He stated he voted against this in the Finance meeting, but tonight he will be voting for it, because the increase got under his line of 2.8%.

Mr. Ewald stated a month ago, the Borough did advertise this as a 15% increase, due to the nature of the Pennsylvania Borough Code and all its wisdom. The proposed budget has to be advertised before all of the details come in for all of our various assessments and rateables. There's always that adjustment period but, that's only half the story, because he believes the Borough staff and all of our department heads have done an amazing job this year to whittle this down to the absolute minimum tax increase. So, at 2.3%, that is, to Mr. Kirkner's point below the cost-of-living increase, and when you factor in all of the baked-in increases of healthcare and CBA increases, he thinks this is exceptional work by staff.

Ms. Burckley stated she wanted to echo the sentiments of Mr. Ewald and thanked the staff and her colleagues on Council. Sometimes the Council member have had some heated discussions, asked some questions, and said what if? At the end of the day, she appreciates people challenging things and also advocating for our residents. She thinks the Council members all want the same goals and maybe the Council members ask different questions or consider different things.

Motion Approved 7-0.

- B. 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. Weiss.

Motion Approved 7-0.

- C. Motion to adopt an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 1 "Administration and Government".

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to adopt an Ordinance amendment to Chapter 1 "Administration and Government". Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

On the Question:

Mr. Denlinger explained the background on the Ordinance. He stated this updates the right-to-know provisions of our ordinance to allow the Borough to adopt a right-to-know policy by resolution. The right to know law allows government agencies to adopt policies consistent with the right-to-know law, which supplement and clarify the Borough procedures related thereto without such a policy, the Borough is required to engage in interpretive analysis of certain correspondence, and that leads to potential liability for the Borough. By establishing a policy, it avoids having to take those actions. As you can see, depending on your decision on this ordinance, the next item on the agenda is a resolution that would adopt such a policy.

Motion Approved 7-0.

- D. Motion to adopt a Resolution setting forth the Policy for responding to Right to Know Law requested submitted to the Borough.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to adopt a Resolution setting forth the Policy for responding to Right to Know Law requested submitted to the Borough. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

On the Question:

Ms. Burckley explained for the public this policy is not being established to take away anybody's right to request information, but it was alarming, she thinks, for all of the Council as we had discussion about this just some of the costs that the Borough incurs, the time that staff put into requests and the time that our solicitor puts into requests, which is a cost to taxpayers.

Mr. Ewald stated it doesn't thwart anybody's rights to the public information.

Motion Approved 7-0.

- E. Motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the sale of a 2008 Emergency-One HP-100 Ladder Truck.

Ms. Burckley made a Motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the sale of a 2008 Emergency-One HP-100 Ladder Truck. Seconded by Mr. Weiss.

On the Question:

Mr. Moore asked for confirmation that the sale price of the vehicle will effectively balance out the amount we are just authorized to purchase the other truck.

Mr. Ewald confirmed this is correct.

Mr. Moore asked for confirmation that the department purchasing the vehicle is firm on this amount and they won't suddenly say they don't have the funds for the purchase or anything like that.

Mr. Ewald stated there is a letter of intent from the purchasing agency for the purchase on January 1, 2026 and for the quint the Borough is looking to purchase it appears to be a direct financial swap.

Mr. Denlinger clarified this resolution does not identify any particular governmental agency. He understands there is a letter of intent but, in case that falls through, this resolution allows the Borough to contact other governmental agencies to see if they'd be interested in purchasing for the price equal or greater than \$250,000 and when there is an agreement of sale, staff will have to come back to Council for a follow-up resolution.

Motion Approved 7-0.

XI. 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 the Regional Planning Committee sent a review letter on the Toll Brothers Bennett property project in West Pikeland. 47 single-family homes on something like 187 acres, that's the kind of density not seen in the borough. There were a number of recommendations made to Tolls Brothers to provide for trail connectivity.

D. Recreation Board – Ms. Dugan

Ms. Dugan reported on the programs at the Recreation Department including Parent's Night Out, Snapology, Watercolor painting workshops and yoga for all ages.

E. Tree Advisory Commission – Mr. Carminito

Mr. Carminito reported there are volunteer pruning's still happening and the commission will meet again in February of 2026.

F. Human Relations Commission – Ms. Burckley

Ms. Burckley reported the Human Relations Commission has really worked to get

their name out in the public, in a positive way. They had noticed they didn't get any complaints and wanted to let the community know that they're a resource and they are continuing to look at inclusivity. The HRC has been working with some community businesses to offer alternative celebrations to Christmas including a Samba Party at Café Com Laite and a Kwanzaa celebration at Forever Changes.

XII. Mayor's Report

Mayor Urscheler thanked the Public Works Departments, Parks and Recreation Department and all the departments who have above and beyond to ensure the borough can celebrate the holidays in a truly splendid fashion. He wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season and he looks forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

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 Staff's recommendation to reduce fees associated with the Temporary Community Event Application for the Blobfest 2026

Mr. Moore made a Motion to approve Staff's recommendation to reduce fees associated with the Temporary Community Event Application for the Blobfest 2026. Seconded by Ms. Burckley.

On the Question:

Mr. Weiss stated he has qualms about granting waivers for fees associated with Temporary Community Events and he would like to find a policy driven solution rather than granting waivers.

Mr. Krack explained that staff looked at what could be done to reduce the cost to the organizers and not waiving them completely. Staff looked at what was truly needed for an event that has been running for years so a recommendation was made to reduce the fees not to waive them.

Ms. Dugan stated she is in support of the reduction in fees of certain things like when the Council waives fees for Boy Scouts who don't require anything to raise a flag, but something like this, as much she totally respects and loves the Colonial and the Blobfest it's hard to waive them. Mr. Krack's explanation of reducing the fees is appreciated.

Mr. Ewald stated that many of the fees that are being reduced or eliminated are ones that are already serviced by the street closure.

Ms. Burckley stated she appreciates the comments from Mr. Weiss and Ms. Dugan and she acknowledged the Borough Staff for all they have done in support of events and they have done a really great job looking at every possible way to support the non-profit community and organizations.

Motion Approved 7-0.

C. Policy Committee – Mr. Carminito

1. No action to report.

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

Dr. Saneck asked about the Right to Know changes and if an application is submitted the same way as before and he asked if the Aqua agreement is an extension of an existing agreement.

Mr. Denlinger explained the Right to Know submission is the same and encouraged Dr. Saneck to use the for provided by the state and that the agreement with Aqua is an extension of the existing agreement. He reminded the public that public comment is for comments and it is not a question and answer period.

XV. Communications/Council Participation

Ms. Dugan addressed Mr. Kirkner on his contributions to the Borough of Phoenixville over his five terms on council. She stated she began her time on Council already respecting his experience and the legacy of people like John Messina. She stated she was privileged to have worked with Leo Scoda as our mayor, and she was hoping to live up to the expectations of this borough and the great representation of the Council members that came before me. Mr. Kirkner, you've always had the knowledge of the history of our town and can relate to the long-time residents who have continually been so connected to our community. You are among the founders of our revitalization efforts that let us down the path to becoming a nationally recognized town in the magazine Travel and Leisure. From our days in the hopelessly outdated Old Borough Hall to today's Rec Center and

Firehouse, your name will always be on the capital projects you endorsed. You're the only remaining council member who voted to give us Mr. Krack, who helped put the vision into effect. Your work has changed the path of P-Ville for all of us. We are now a destination. You, sir, graciously became my mentor.

As a mentor Ms. Dugan states he was the one she called for almost everything, and you helped get me through those early days when Steve Nease was our Finance Director, and when she had freshman questions like about the \$600 expense for Gatorade. You have guided us all, as you have continued to provide us with the background to keep this town about our friends and neighbors, despite the evolution of time. There is no one with the institutional knowledge you alone possess from being here for all these years, and your absence will leave a void in our connectivity to our roots. Thank you for your dedication to us, the Borough of Phoenixville. You have left an indelible mark on our town, and your guidance, leadership, and you will be sorely missed.

Mr. Ewald recognized Mr. Carminito for his service to the Borough. He stated that over the last four years Mr. Carminito's he has appreciated all of the conversations, projects, and everything we've worked to do. You've been a steady member of the Council, and you possess a sound mind. He stated all of the discussions have always been rooted in trying to figure out the best things for the borough, so he does appreciate everything you've put in. He stated he was disappointed that you were leaving us and while he is happy to have Ms. Vogel and Ms. McGhee join the Council in January, he is still sad to see Mr. Carminito and Mr. Kirkner leaving Borough Council.

Mr. Ewald recognized Mr. Kirkner for his service. He stated he has served as our historian and, in memoriam, author, as needed. It's been an absolute honor to serve with you. Mr. Kirkner stated you've provided a steady and humble voice to the discussions. He stated that your arguments have always been rooted in the genuine belief of the borough. As Ms. Dugan said, you've been a mentor to many of us. He's always appreciated the stories; especially about how heinous Old Borough Hall was and your time as a newspaper reporter. On behalf of everyone present he thanked Mr. Kirkner for all his years of service and all he has accomplished over his multiple careers.

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

7:53pm. Mr. Kirkner made a Motion to Adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Burckley.

E. Jean Krack
Borough Manager

Transcribed by: Jennifer Logan
Administrative Assistant
December 2025