

AUBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL
AUGUST 6, 2025 MINUTES

The monthly meeting of Auburn Borough Council was held on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 7:00 P.M., in the Community Center, at 451 Pearson Street. In attendance: President John Eckert, Vice-President Doug Naftzinger, and Councilmembers Jim Fox, Liz Shaner, and Jesse Spencer. Also present: Solicitor Stanley Burke, Engineer Chip Pohronezny, and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Fessler. Mayor Frank Cataldi was unable to attend this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Eckert who opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

June 2025 Minutes and June/July Financial Reports

(Note: The July 2025 meeting was cancelled)

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Jesse, to accept the June minutes and all financial reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Approval to Pay Bills

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to approve payment of check #16736 through #16809, dated July 1st through August 6th, as attached to the August agenda. The motion also includes payment of the regular monthly invoices after they are reviewed, approved, and signed by President Eckert or Vice-President Naftzinger. Motion carried. The complete check register and end of month reports are included with the minutes.

Recognition of Guests

Guests attending this meeting were: Aaron Brommer, Rich Krebs, John Fessler, Rick Brown and his guest. The meeting was open to the guests for discussion.

- Rick Brown, whose parents reside in a duplex at 204 N. 2nd Street, said they are having a problem with bed bugs in their home coming from 206 N. 2nd Street. He said his parents fumigated at least three times but the bugs keep coming back making it hard for them to return to their home. Rick asked if there is anything the borough can do to help. Chip said that someone from his firm tried to gain access to the home but was denied entry and there is nothing more they can do. The property maintenance code only allows them to deal with rental units not privately owned residences. He suggested they file a civil complaint at the County Courthouse.
- It was also reported that the owner of 206 N. 2nd Street has had a dumpster in front of his home for several weeks. He did not get a permit from the Borough and therefore the company will be asked to remove it as soon as possible.

REPORTS

Animal Control – Kyle Schwenk

No report submitted

Mayor – Frank Cataldi

No report submitted

Jim asked if a notice letter can be sent to the owner of 646 Bear Creek Street regarding the high grass and weeds on the property. Note: The letter was sent on 8/7/25.

Safety Report – Jesse Spencer

No report

Fire & Ambulance

The Fire Company responded to (12) calls for the month of June. Seven in South Manheim, one in Wayne Township, two in West Brunswick, and two in Auburn. In the month of July they responded to (12) calls. Six in South Manheim, three in West Brunswick, two in Auburn, and one in Orwigsburg.

The Ambulance responded to (20) calls in June. Six in Auburn, four in West Brunswick, four in South Manheim, two in Wayne Township, one in Sch. Haven, three in Orwigsburg, and one refusal. In July they responded to a total of (30) calls. Eight in Auburn, five in West Brunswick, four in South Manheim, five in Hamburg, one in Bethel, six in Orwigsburg, and one in Shoemakersville.

The ambulance report noted that they cannot continue to serve the community unless they get more volunteers. For the past few years they have been able to struggle through to continue to be there for emergencies. At the present time they only have a few EMT's available-all on a part-time basis. They need more EMT's, 1st Responders and Drivers.

A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Doug, to accept these reports. Motion carried. The full reports are on file.

SEO/Engineer – Chip Pohronezny

--Two UCC permits were issued for the period from May 16th through July 19th.

--Warrants have been issued for the owners of 243 Orchard Street and 426 Washington Street.

--The owner of 124 North 3rd Street was informed that permits must be pulled for completed electrical work.

--SDE responded to a complaint of a bed bug issue. The owner denied access to Code Enforcement.

A motion was made by Jim, 2nd by Liz, to accept this report. Motion carried. The full report is on file.

Tax Collector – Marlene Naftzinger

--June total collected Real Estate= \$966.47 and Per Capita= \$159.20

--July total collected Real Estate= \$878.80 and Per Capita= \$ -0-

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Jesse, to accept these reports. Motion carried. The full report is on file.

Sanitation – Melissa Schwenk

--June total deposited \$ -0-

--July total deposited \$11,500.00 and Delinquent Accounts \$5,410.00

A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Jim, to accept this report. Motion carried.

Municipal Authority

May and June minutes received and sent to Council on 6/30 and 7/30

Streets & Roads – John Eckert

Nothing new to report.

Solicitor – Stanley Burke

--Seven liens were placed on properties with delinquent trash accounts. Stan noted that he has seven more liens to file at the Courthouse in August. He also noted that there was an issue with a recent settlement and fees owed for trash. The matter has been resolved and a check for the past due amount has been received.

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Jesse, to accept this report. Motion carried.

Blue Mt. Recreation Commission – Liz Shaner

--All up-to-date minutes and financial reports have been received.

SCOG

No report

Emergency Management – Eddie Schwenk

No report

OLD BUSINESS

--Abandoned property at 518 Bear Creek Street on Commissioner's list for judicial sale. Council was informed that part of this property is damaging the fence at 530 Bear Creek Street. The fence cannot be replaced until the trailer is actually removed.

--Comcast to schedule a meeting to discuss the franchise agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

--Several drainage issues were discussed:

Gushing water during heavy rain at Mill & Bear Creek Street

Standing water on shoulder in front of 736 Bear Creek Street

Drainage problem at 136 Pine Street

These issues will be looked into and discussed at the September meeting.

--A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Jim, to re-appoint Kimberly Eckert to another five year term on the Municipal Authority. Motion carried.

--Council unanimously agreed to not charge the Auburn Church of God a yearly trash fee for their youth center in the church below the VFW.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

A work session will be held, if needed, at 6:00 p.m. before the meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Doug, to adjourn the August meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Brenda J. Fessler
Secretary-Treasurer

