

AUBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 5, 2025 MINUTES

The monthly meeting of Auburn Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 7:00 P.M., in the Auburn Municipal Building at 451 Pearson Street. In attendance: President John Eckert, Vice-President Doug Naftzinger, and Council-Member Liz Shaner. Also present: Solicitor Stanley Burke, Engineer Chip Pohronezny, and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Fessler. Council-Members Melissa Schwenk and Jesse Spencer, as well as Mayor Frank Cataldi were unable to attend this meeting.

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

January 2025 Minutes and Financial Reports

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to accept the January 2025 minutes and reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Approval to Pay Bills

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to approve payment of check #16504 through #16513 as attached to the February agenda. The motion also includes payment of the regular monthly February invoices after they are reviewed, approved, and signed by President Eckert or Vice-President Naftzinger. Motion carried. The complete February check register is included with the February minutes.

Recognition of Guests

The guests attending this meeting were Rich Krebs, Daniel Webber, Aaron Brommer, and John Fessler.

--Rich Krebs asked what permits are needed for a 4 ft. retaining wall. He noted that the wall will not be placed close to his property line. Chip suggested that he call the code enforcement official at SDE to clarify if a permit is needed for this work.

Complaints/Complaint Forms

--No complaints or forms received during the month of January

REPORTS

Animal Control – Kyle Schwenk

No report

Mayor – Frank Cataldi

No report

Safety – Jesse Spencer

--Brenda will contact PPL to report a street light out at 4th & Market Street

Fire & Ambulance

--The Auburn Fire Company responded to 13 calls for the month of December 2024. One in Auburn, six in South Manheim, three in West Brunswick, one in East Brunswick, one in Orwigsburg, and one in Wayne Township.

--The Auburn Ambulance responded to 19 calls for the month of January 2025. Three in Auburn, five in West Brunswick, two in South Manheim, eight in Hamburg, and one in Schuylkill Haven.

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to accept the reports as submitted. Motion carried. The full reports are on file.

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SEO/Engineer – Chip Pohronezny

--1 permit issued to install roof mounted solar panel system
--No update for 243 Orchard St (warrant issued)
--In process of clean up at 221 Orchard St
--No update for 426 Washington St (citation filed)
--Owner of 124 N. Third St. will be contacted for permit compliance
--Chip reminded Council to look into any road projects that may be needed this year
The need to seal coat some of the streets was discussed as well as repairs to an inlet next to 531 Bear Creek Street. Council agreed to look at these areas and discuss any proposed projects at the next meeting.

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

Tax Collector – Marlene Naftzinger

-- 2024 Year Ending Report:

(25 Delinquent) Real Estate Not Collected = \$4,171.45 + \$417.15 Penalty

(233 Delinquent Per Capita Not Collected = \$2,330.00 + \$233.00 Penalty

A motion was made by Liz, 2nd by Doug, to accept this report. Motion carried.
The full detailed reports are on file.

Sanitation – Melissa Schwenk

--January 2025 total collected = \$13,755.00

--Council agreed to have Melissa send certified letters to delinquent accounts notifying them that Council will be moving forward with liens and sheriff sales to collect on past due garbage bills.

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

Municipal Authority

--All minutes received up to July 2024

Streets & Roads – John Eckert

--John will be taking the orange truck to Bob Fisher's in Reading for an oil change. It will also be due for inspection.

--The cinders have been blocking up on the new truck. The road crew will try to fix the problem or take it out for repair.

--Some residents are putting their ashes in large buckets making it difficult for the crew to lift them, especially when they get wet. John said they can and should use the backhoe to lift them on to the truck.

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

Solicitor – Stanley Burke

No report

Blue Mt. Recreation Commission – Liz Shaner

--The minutes and financial reports from December 2024 are available for review.

SCOG

No report

Emergency Management – Eddie Schwenk

No report

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OLD BUSINESS

- Abandoned property on Bear Creek Street – Judicial sale in April 2025
- In need of a citizen from the Borough to serve on the Blue Mt. Rec. Board
- No contact from Comcast regarding the franchise agreement
- Frank Cataldi to discuss the purchase of the 1992 truck with the Authority members
- Council unanimously gave their approval to the draft welcome letter. Copies will be made and available at the office.
- Old garage to be checked for leaks in the spring

NEW BUSINESS

- Council agreed to order one load of rock salt through CoStars for the 2025/2026 season
- A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to approve the placement of a personalized handicapped sign at 141 Orchard Street. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Liz, to hire Kimberly Eckert as the new cleaning person for the municipal building. She will be a 1099 employee and will be paid \$125.00 per month. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5th, 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 Liz, 2nd by Doug, to adjourn the February 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Brenda J. Fessler
Secretary-Treasurer

