

AUBURN BOROUGH COUNCIL
MAY 7, 2025 MINUTES

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

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

April 2025 Minutes and Financial Reports

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

Approval to Pay Bills

A motion was made by Doug, 2nd by Jesse, to approve payment of check #16641 through #16669, as attached to the May 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

A list of guests attending this meeting is included with the minutes on file at the office.

- Several guests expressed their concern regarding a recent rumor that Council was planning to amend the animal ordinance to ban chickens. President Eckert said that this rumor is “fake news” and the Borough had no plan to amend the current ordinance. He asked that residents should adhere to the ordinance and clean up after the chickens on a regular basis, keep them in an enclosed area, and no roosters.
- Paul Wessner complained that his neighbor placed a large rock in an area on Mill Street next to his driveway which looks to be on the Borough’s right-of-way. Council agreed to look into the matter and take further action if it is on the right-of-way.
- John Hinchey said he feels that the same residents have a fence placed two feet from the edge of the road which impedes traffic. Doug suggested that Council look into placing a 2-way mirror to better navigate the sharp turn.
- Hinchey also voiced concern that another neighbor is allowing individuals to dump millings, wood, etc. on her property. Doug agreed to discuss the issue with the property owner.
- Hinchey also asked Council to look into trimming trees on Mill Street. Doug agreed to get an estimate from a local tree service to remove the over-hanging branches. John noted that the Borough can’t go on private property and they must stay on just the Borough portion of the street.

Complaints/Complaint Forms

--After the office received several complaints, Mayor Cataldi agreed to inform his neighbor at 330 Orchard Street that the Borough has a strict no burning ordinance.

May 7, 2025 Minutes (Page 2)

--Two written complaints were received from Bill Kimmel regarding a resident parking in the alley and at times blocking access to his driveway. Council agreed that he should take pictures with a date and time stamp of each occurrence and submit them as evidence.

--The other complaint received informed Council that he believes a business was operated by the same person but he knows that the resident has never paid a separate water, sewer, or trash bill. Council agreed that no action will be taken as there is no proof that this person is still in business.

REPORTS

Animal Control – Kyle Schwenk

No report

Mayor – Frank Cataldi

--Mayor Cataldi reminded Council and residents that he will not address any complaints unless a form is filled out and signed. He said that citizens cannot use the Mayor's office to strong arm people and asked that they stop contacting him via cell phone to complain about their neighbors.

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

Safety – Jesse Spencer

No report

Fire & Ambulance

--The Fire Company responded to (8) calls in April. Two in South Manheim, two in Wayne Twp., one in West Brunswick, two in Auburn, and one in Landingville..

--The Ambulance responded to (28) calls in April. Seven in Auburn, four in West Brunswick, six in South Manheim, six in Hamburg, one in Port Clinton, two in Orwigsburg, one in Deer Lake, and one in Pottsville.

--The fire and ambulance association sent a thank you card for the Borough's recent donation to purchase tires for their emergency vehicles.

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

The full reports are on file.

SEO/Engineer – Chip Pohronezny

--A copy of the monthly report was distributed to Council-members.

--One UCC permit was issued for a patio and porch addition at 728 Mill Street.

--Doug asked the status of the NOV issued to 426 Washington Street. SDE reported that Mayor Cataldi was to follow up on citations with the District Magistrate.

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

The full report is on file.

Tax Collector – Marlene Naftzinger

--April 2025 total collected- Real Estate =\$47,091.89 and Per Capita \$2,254.40.

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

The full report is on file.

Sanitation – Melissa Schwenk

--April 2025 total collected = \$9,005.00

--Council authorized the secretary to send certified letters to a total of 26 delinquent garbage customers as submitted.

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

May 2025 Minutes Page (3)

Municipal Authority

--March minutes received, scanned, and emailed to Council-members

Streets & Roads – John Eckert

No report

Solicitor – Stanley Burke

No report

Blue Mt. Recreation – Liz Shaner

--The minutes and financial reports from February were received.

--Jackie Schaeffer expressed some interest in filling the citizen's seat on the Blue Mt. Recreation board. Liz to follow up with Jackie.

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

SCOG

No report

Emergency Management – Eddie Schwenk

No report

OLD BUSINESS

--Bear Creek Street abandoned property judicial sale scheduled for October 2025

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

--The secretary was authorized to place an ad for bids for the 1992 Chevy truck to be opened at the June meeting.

--A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Liz, to approve the cost for a new roof on the little garage roof on Third and Pearson Street, not to exceed \$6,500.00. Motion carried. The roof work will be completed by JDJ Property Services, Auburn.

--Ethics statement needed from Stan and Liz

NEW BUSINESS

--The 2024 audit report has been completed with no issues. Copies were distributed to all Council members.

--The secretary was asked to amend the original AMA agreement to include use of the 2000 Chevy truck.

--Council unanimously agreed that we will not be re-issuing cat tags at this time as there has been very little interest in the program.

--Kim Eckert, a representative from the Memorial Park Association, asked that Council consider a donation to the park to help pay for a new roof on the main building as well as mulch for the playground. (roof cost-\$21,300 and mulch-\$2,300) She pointed out that the park is used in some form by almost everyone in the Borough and benefits the entire town. A motion was made by Jesse, 2nd by Jim, to donate \$12,000 to the park to help with these expenses. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4, 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 Liz, to adjourn the May meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Brenda J. Fessler, Secretary-Treasurer

