

**Borough Council Meeting  
Minutes – May 21, 2025**

**DISTRIBUTED**  
W6-1

**Call to Order** – Mrs. Dekar called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and Miss Meyer offered the meeting prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call** – The following members of the Borough Council were present; James Daly, Dan Wayman, Derrick Hall, Jessica Meyer, and Jessie Dekar. Excused: Cori Belles. Also present; Henry Farley, Mayor; Bruce Hoffman, Assistant Police Chief; Robert Repasky, Assistant Fire Chief; Daniel Reynolds, Police Chief; and David Jarrett, Borough Manager.

**Citizens to be Heard** – There were none.

**Presentation** – Playground Improvement Project - Lori Unger, President of Futurescapes and Friends of Valley Playland (FVPL) board member addressed the Borough Council regarding a proposal to rehabilitate the playground area on the First Citizens Community Bank (FCCB) property on West Lockhart Street. Mrs. Unger explained that FCCB approached FVPL in 2024 to discuss the possibility of the organization take over ownership of the playground area and develop into a park with similar amenities to their facility in Athens Borough. Mrs. Unger stated that FCCB is interested in gifting the property to FVPL however the organization does not own property, and she asked if the Borough would accept the property as a gift. Mrs. Unger reviewed the type of equipment that is being proposed for the new park and that the facility would be transformed into a safer area that is more inclusive for the community and she stated that FCCB will commit \$5,000 per year for two (2) years for maintenance of the park if the Borough took over ownership.

Katie Smith, Economic Development Program Manager with Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRDPC) explained that she is providing assistance to FVPL to find grant funding for the project from PA-DCNR and PA DCED Local Share Account program. Miss Smith provided an overview of the Borough's community profile and explained that the location of the park is centrally located within close proximity to Guthrie, schools, and the downtown. Miss Smith explained ADA compliance is a requirement for grant funds and that the proposed rehabilitation project would address a major gap in ADA compliant facilities in the area.

Mrs. Dekar stated that she feels the project is a good idea and she asked what the group would need for the project to move forward. Mrs. Unger stated that the Borough taking over ownership of the property would be needed. Miss Meyer stated that the Borough is currently looking at all their parks and that the proposed project would fit in with that objective.

Mayor Farley stated that the park area was originally created in conjunction with a zoning decision when the bank was constructed and that a review of the decision should be completed before the Borough assumes ownership of the property.

Mr. Jarrett asked if it would be possible for transferring the property to the Borough to be contingent upon receiving the grant funds, and Miss Smith stated that ownership would need to be resolved before a grant(s) was submitted.

Miss Meyer asked if fundraising activities would be coordinated to purchase the equipment, and Mrs. Unger stated that fundraising activities would be similar to the efforts for the recent rehabilitation of the Valley Playland Park in Athens Borough. Mrs. Unger explained that FVPL have established good working relationships with area businesses and Bradford County Commissioners office that will be beneficial for fundraising activities.

Mayor Farley stated that parking would need to be addressed because the streets around the FCCB property are posted as Residential Parking only and the parking lots near the property are private property.

Mr. Wayman stated that he was concerned with the increase in liability if the Borough took over the park, and Miss Meyer suggested that the existing equipment could be removed in advance of the new equipment begin installed.

Mrs. Unger stated that Valley Playland project was funded after three (3) attempts and she was confident that the project would be funded although it could take some time.

Mrs. Dekar stated that the proposed project is a good idea and that the Borough and FVPL group will need to work on the logistics of the project including parking.

**Elected & Appointed Officials** – Mrs. Dekar explained that the discussion regarding purchase of playground equipment will be pulled from tonight's agenda and discussed at the June Workshop meeting. Miss Meyer asked if downtown parking could be added to the agenda for the June Workshop meeting.

**Correspondence Summary** – There were no questions or comments.

**Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Miss Meyer to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2025 Borough Council meeting and May 14, 2025 Borough Council Workshop meeting. **Under the question:** Mr. Wayman requested that the minutes of the May 14<sup>th</sup> Borough Council meeting be amended to reflect that he was asked to leave the Executive Session. There were no objections. Motion Carries.

**Approval of Bills List & Supplemental Bills List – May 15 – May 21, 2025** – A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Miss Meyer to approve the bills list and supplemental bills list. Under the question: There were none. **Roll Call; Mr. Daly, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.**

**Consent Agenda** – Mrs. Dekar explained that items of business and matters listed for approval under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be enacted by one motion and one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired by a Council Member, that item is to be identified and removed from the Consent Agenda, and will be considered separately at the appropriate place on the Agenda.

- a. Approve Park Use Request – Howard Elmer Park – August 10, 2025 – Mt. Zion Church
- b. Approve PennDot Bridge Lighting Agreement – West Packer Avenue Bridge
- c. Approve Park Use Request – Howard Elmer Park – Various Dates – Sayre Public Library
- d. Approve Road Closure Request – W Lockhart St. & S Hopkins St. – SASD Graduation
- e. Approve Park Use Request – Riverfront Park – Valley Arts4All – May 2-3, 2026
- f. Approve Camera System Improvements – Teledair Communications - \$9,900.00
- g. Approve ADA Crosswalk Repairs – West Lockhart & Hospital Place - JD Ward - \$6,200.00
- h. Approve Park Use Request – Howard Elmer Park – June 2, 2025 - Foundations Learning Center Graduation Ceremony
- i. Approve advertisement of Ordinance Amendment Chapter 173–Business Incubator District
- j. Adoption of Resolution 2025-06 – Flood Protection System Improvement Project Grant

A motion was made by Miss Meyer and seconded by Mr. Daly to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda. **Under the question:** Mrs. Dekar asked if additional bids will be sought for the crosswalk repair project, and Mr. Jarrett explained that the amount of the project doesn't require more than one bid and that JD Ward originally installed the the crosswalk as well as several other ADA crosswalks in the Borough. **Roll Call; Mr. Daly, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.**

**Vote to re-classify Patrol Officer Carter Pries from Patrol Officer I to Patrol Officer II effective June 1, 2025 as recommended by the Police Chief in accordance with Article 602 in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.** A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Miss Meyer to re-classify Patrol Officer Carter Pries from Patrol Officer I to Patrol Officer II effective June 1, 2025 as recommended by the Police Chief in accordance with Article 602 in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call; Mr. Daly, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.**

**Vote to re-classify Patrol Officer Briar Jenkins from Patrol Officer I to Patrol Officer II effective June 1, 2025 as recommended by the Police Chief in accordance with Article 602 in the Collective Bargaining Agreement.** A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Hall to re-classify Patrol Officer Briar Jenkins from Patrol Officer I to Patrol Officer II effective June 1, 2025 as recommended by the Police Chief in

accordance with Article 602 in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call; Mr. Daly, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.**

**Vote to request the Civil Service Commission prepare a list of qualified candidates for the position of Patrol Officer-Probationary.** A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Hall to request the Civil Service Commission prepare a list of qualified candidates for the position of Patrol Officer-Probationary. Under the question: Mrs. Dekar asked if there are any candidates left on the most current Civil Service list, and Chief Reynolds stated that the only candidate remaining on the current list was recently hired by another Police Department. Mrs. Dekar also asked if the Borough Council needed to vote on the resignation of Patrol Officer Michael Oulouhojian, and Mr. Jarrett stated that the Borough Council could accept the resignation at the June Borough Council meeting. **Roll Call; Mr. Daly, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.**

**Vote to award Bid Alternate #1 for the 2025 Paving Project to Bishop Brothers Construction in the amount of \$81,438.07.** A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Miss Meyer to award Bid Alternate #1 for the 2025 Paving Project to Bishop Brothers Construction in the amount of \$81,438.07. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call; Mr. Daly, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.**

**Vote to reject all bids for Bid Alternate #2 for the 2025 Paving Project.** A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Mr. Hall to reject all bids for Bid Alternate #2 for the 2025 Paving Project. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call; Mr. Daly, Mr. Hall, Mr. Wayman, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES.**

**Vote to accept the resignation of Casey Shiposh from the position of Patrol Officer effective May 21, 2025.** A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Miss Meyer to accept the resignation of Casey Shiposh from the position of Patrol Officer effective May 21, 2025. **Under the question:** There were none. **Roll Call; Mr. Daly, Mr. Hall, Miss Meyer, and Mrs. Dekar; YES. Mr. Wayman; Abstain.**

**Adjourn** – A motion was made by Mr. Daly and seconded by Miss Meyer to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm. There were no objections.