

Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting
Borough Hall, 113 S. Main St., Mercersburg, PA
September 14, 2026
MINUTES

Attending: Council President Kelani Craig, Council Vice-President Jacob Morgan, Mayor Michael Pedersen, Member Tom Heefner, Member Dusty Stoner, Member Don Palesky, Member Anthony Frisby, Borough Manager Matthew Moxley, Administrative Professional Angela Alleman

Absent: Member Tobey Banks

Guest(s)/Press:

See sign in sheets.

Council President Craig started the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Justin Smith - Addressed Council regarding accountability, civil liberties, and responsible leadership. He supported the Council reevaluating the Flock license plate reader camera proposal and requested that any future consideration include information regarding data collection, retention, access, sharing, costs, safeguards, and public oversight. Mr. Smith requested written documentation supporting the MMP&W Fire Chief's budget request, including staffing, call volume, overtime, proposed administrative positions, job descriptions, performance measures, costs, and anticipated public benefit. He also requested that efficiency, revenue options, and cost reductions be considered when evaluating additional funding. Regarding MMP&W, Mr. Smith requested a complete financial report showing funding requested and received from each participating municipality, calls and service hours, the funding formula, payroll and overtime costs, reserves, ambulance collections, and under-reimbursed out-of-area coverage. Mr. Smith also raised concerns regarding restrictions placed on a citizen's language during the previous public comment period and emphasized the importance of protecting constitutionally protected speech through clear, viewpoint-neutral rules. Mr. Smith expressed concerns about assigning the Borough Manager as Code Enforcement Officer, citing potential conflicts and accountability issues. He recommended clear duties, procedures, training, documentation, notice requirements, and appeal rights for code enforcement. Mr. Smith stated that his comments were intended to encourage transparency, responsible leadership, and public trust.

Andi Frey - Thanked Council for reconsidering the Flock license plate reader camera proposal and the Mercersburg Moose for rescinding the funding. She also suggested considering a second public comment period at the end of meetings to allow residents to address matters discussed during the meeting. Ms. Frey announced plans to participate in Mercersburg Town Fest with a flower truck fundraiser benefiting the Mercersburg welcome sign and invited Council members to participate.

MINUTES

MOTION: To approve August 24, 2026 Meeting Minutes was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURER'S/BILLS PAYABLE REPORT

MOTION: To approve August 2026 Treasure's Report was made by Heefner, seconded by Palesky, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve August 2026 Bills Payable Report was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pedersen reported on the successful 9/11 Remembrance Run and thanked Andi Frey for organizing the event and Officer Matthews for assisting the runners. He also reported attending the Greencastle 9/11 Walk and discussed a friendly wager with the Greencastle Mayor following the JB vs. Greencastle game. He also reported that the Borough is currently short on crossing guards, with additional interviews scheduled. He also relayed a resident complaint regarding a vehicle parked in front of a fire hydrant on Linden Avenue and noted that the Borough has no ordinance establishing preferential parking restrictions for specific groups. The Mayor questioned the increased use of painted curbs and additional signage throughout town and expressed concern about maintaining the character of the Borough. He also inquired about the Pennsylvania flag at Borough Hall. Staff explained that the flag had torn and is being replaced. He also shared that Borough Trick or Treat will be held on October 31, 2026.

POLICE REPORT

Member copy available upon request.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Not scheduled to be present.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Moxley reported that the Borough may consider expanding GWorks to include HR and payroll functions. He also suggested replacing printed meeting packets with tablets to reduce paper, toner, and copying costs. Staff will obtain quotes for seven to eight tablets and provide a comparison of current printing costs and potential savings at the next meeting. Tablets would remain at Borough Hall for use by Council and the various authorities/commissions. Manager Moxley also reported that the Borough is exploring a new phone system through TelePlus due to ongoing issues with the current system. TelePlus will provide updated pricing and options, including service for the Park Avenue Water Treatment Plant. Manager Moxley reported that staff is considering a four-day, 10-hour work schedule for the Borough Office to better accommodate residents who are unable to visit during traditional business hours. The proposed schedule would extend office hours to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with the office closed on Fridays.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Act 537 - No meeting

Communications – Don Palesky reported on the upcoming Town Hall Meeting and Bulk Trash Day

Finance – Jacob Morgan reported that the Proposed 2027 Borough budget is still in the early planning stage

Fire Board – Dusty Stoner encouraged residents to ask questions and become informed about the operating costs and needs of MMP&W

HARB – Items in New Business

Personnel – No update

Planning – No meeting

Property/Streets – No update
Steering Committee – No meeting
Zoning Hearing Board - No meeting

BUSINESS ITEMS

MOTION: To approve 2027 Public Works Department proposed clothing budget was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Public Works dress code revision was made by Heefner, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 33-26 Amending and Adopting the Mercersburg Employee Manual was made by Heefner, seconded by Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Langan Financial Group Investment Advisory Agreement was made by Heefner, seconded by Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

Members reviewed the CPW Equipment quote for a pressure washer. It was determined that Public Works staff should obtain three quotes and secure approval from both the Water and Sewer Authorities, as the purchase will be shared, before bringing the matter back to Council.

MOTION: To approve the Borough of Chambersburg Fire Police request was made by Morgan, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve HARB Application #2026-07-01 - 29 N. Main St. - Window Replacements following the conditional approval by the HARB Committee requiring TruScene screens, fully divided light (FDL) for both the 1st and 2nd floor windows; black with the bottom of the exterior sash grey product be painted black and shutters to be addressed in a subsequent HARB application when homeowner initiates this project, was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve HARB Application #2026-09-02 - 35 S. Main St. - Window Replacements was made by Stoner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve HARB Application #2026-09-03 - 122 S. Main St. - Fence Installation following the conditional approval by the HARB Committee requiring the fence to be black iron, along the front of the property, height limited to 4', design insets will be of restrained/tasteful design was made by Heefner, seconded by Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve HARB Application #2026-09-01 - 15 N. Main St. - Exterior Light Replacements was made by Stoner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Members were presented with a letter from the Franklin County Conservation District requesting support.

MOTION: To enter Executive Session at 8:31PM was made by Morgan, seconded by Palesky, all ayes, motion carried.

Regular meeting session resumed at 8:44PM.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:44PM was made by Heefner, seconded by Morgan, all ayes, motion carried.

Date: 9/28/2026

Motion: *Heefner*

Seconded: *Stoner*


Borough Manager



