Mercersburg Borough Council Meeting
Borough Hall, 113 S. Main St., Mercersburg, PA
October 12, 2026
MINUTES

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

Absent: Council President Kelani Craig

Guest(s)/Press:

See sign in sheets.

Council Vice-President Jacob Morgan started the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jason Cotton - Addressed Council regarding access to the mobile home at 12 West Fairview, located at the rear of his property at 232 Linden Avenue. He stated that the mobile home has historically been accessed by an alley connecting to West Fairview and that deeds reference the alley/right-of-way. Mr. Cotton reported that the current owners of 10 West Fairview are disputing the access and that recent survey markers may interfere with access to 12 West Fairview. He noted that the matter was previously discussed with the Streets Committee and requested Council's assistance in resolving the access issue.

Mr. Cotton also reported that the Lion's Club is preparing to begin several projects and asked whether a Land Use Permit is required to begin the process with the Borough.

Justin Smith - Thanked the Council for adding a second public-comment period later in the meeting. He noted that new information or questions may arise during discussion and said an additional opportunity to comment would allow constituents to address those matters promptly.

Chuck Miller - Inquired about Proposed Ordinance 10-16 Regulations on Rental Properties.

The October 12, 2026 Meeting agenda was amended to add New Business Item G. Authorize Legal Services Agreement with Knox Law - Franklin County Tax Reassessments

MINUTES

MOTION: To approve September 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes was made by Heefner, seconded by Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURER'S/BILLS PAYABLE REPORT

The September 2026 Treasurer's Report was tabled until the next meeting.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Pedersen reported that Town Fest was a success despite the windy weather and expressed appreciation to Andy Frey, Tobey Banks, Don Palesky, and Jacob Morgan for their assistance. Andy Frey was also recognized for donating proceeds from a flower sale toward the town sign project, which will require additional funding. The mayor reported speaking with residents regarding water, trash, weeds, nuisance concerns, and rental properties. Weed and nuisance concerns were also referred to Borough Manager Moxley for follow-up.

The mayor discussed concerns regarding the alley connecting Constitution Avenue and East Seminary, including vehicle damage, large vehicles entering from Constitution Avenue, limited space for vehicles to pass, and drivers traveling through the alley without stopping before entering East Seminary. The mayor suggested considering designation of the alley as one-way to improve safety and reduce damage. The mayor also reported that the Police Chief is expected to return to regular duty next week and has continued handling some administrative matters and attending Town Fest during his absence.

He also reminded residents that Borough Trick-or-Treat will be held on Saturday, October 31, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and the Halloween Parade will be held on Monday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m.

POLICE REPORT

Member copy available upon request.

Member Dusty Stoner suggested that Officer Matthews be commended for the good work he is doing. Other members expressed agreement with the commendation.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Not Scheduled to be present

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Moxley provided an update on a proposed TelePlus VoIP phone system to replace the Borough's outdated telephone service. The system would use the existing internet connection, allow employees to receive Borough calls through a mobile application without exposing personal numbers, and consolidate services currently provided by multiple vendors. The proposed system is expected to reduce costs and provide more responsive local support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Act 537 - No meeting
Communications – Member Palesky reminded everyone about Bulk Trash Day and Fall Leaf Pick-Up.
Finance – Member Morgan reported that the 2027 Proposed Borough Budget will be ready to advertise for public comment at the November Council meeting.
Fire Board – No meeting
HARB – No meeting
Personnel – No meeting
Planning – No meeting.

Property/Streets – Items to be discussed in New Business.
Steering Committee - No meeting
Zoning Hearing Board - No meeting

OLD BUSINESS

MOTION: To approve the purchase of a power washer to be split with MWA/MSA was made by Heefner, seconded by Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

Members expressed appreciation to Kilian Agha for his help in getting the Pennsylvania Flag rehung in front of Borough Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION: To approve adding a second public comment period at the conclusion of meeting agendas was made by Palesky, seconded by Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve Salzmann Hughes 2027 rate increase was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To authorize staff to contact Salzmann Hughes to complete an Abstract of Title for property located at W. Fairview Avenue/Linden Avenue, as recommended by the Property/Streets Committee at its October 7, 2026 meeting was made by Palesky, seconded by Banks, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve McIntire HVAC Maintenance Plan Invoice # 17232, as recommended by the Property/Streets Committee at its October 7, 2026, Meeting was made by Stoner, seconded by Banks, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve TelePlus Phone System purchase as recommended by the Property/Streets Committee at its October 7, 2026 meeting was made by Stoner, seconded by Palesky, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To approve purchase of one Samsung Galaxy Tab S10 Lite and one Lenova Yoga Tab to experiment which is best for meeting use, the other one to be utilized in the office, as recommended by the Property/Streets Committee at its October 7, 2026 meeting was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: To authorize and direct the Borough Manager to execute a legal services agreement with Knox Law, to serve as special counsel to the Borough regarding the need for countywide reassessment and further authorize and direct the Borough Manager to execute any documents deemed necessary by such special counsel to compel a countywide reassessment was made by Stoner, seconded by Heefner, all ayes, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Members received information regarding the Rotary Club Santa's Toy Box donation request and the Borough Fall Leaf Pick-Up schedule.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:51PM was made by Heefner, seconded by Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.

Date: *11/9/2026* **Motion**: *Heefner* **Seconded**: *Morgan*

Borough Manager

SEAL