

BOROUGH OF HATBORO COUNCIL

COMMITTEE MEETING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: President Reichner called the September 28, 2026, Committee meeting to order at 7:00PM.

PRESENT: President Reichner, Vice President Jacobus, Councilperson Hendrickson, Councilperson McCuen, Councilperson Myers, Councilperson Shay, Councilperson Smith, Mayor Schultz, Manager Hegele, Assistant Secretary DeRenzis, Detective Dilks, Fire Marshal Valesky, Solicitor Geiser, Engineer MacNair, and Library Representative Kennedy were present.

ABSENT: Chief Ruegg and Fire Company President Croak were excused.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Detective Dilks led the pledge of allegiance.

INVOCATION: Mayor Schultz delivered the invocation.

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING KEITH CLEGHORN: President Reichner held a moment of silence in honor of Geri Weideman. Mayor Schultz delivered the following remarks; *Keith was born in Kentucky, and raised in Hatboro, growing up on East Moreland Avenue. In 2001, Keith joined Hatboro Public Works as a laborer, a position he proudly held until his passing. Keith raised his family in the Borough that he loved and served throughout his life. He was a devoted son, husband, father, uncle, friend, and a dedicated employee in the Borough of Hatboro. Known for his strong work ethic and commitment to his community, Keith could often be seen driving Unit 10, the Borough's trash truck, through the streets of Hatboro. When he wasn't behind the wheel, he was always ready to take on whatever task was needed, serving the Borough with pride and dedication. Keith was known not only for his hard work, but also his positive spirit. He always had a smile on his face, even when courageously battling his illness. His kindness, determination, and unwavering commitment left a lasting impression on everyone who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside him. Keith is survived by his mother, his children, and his extended family, as well as many friends and coworkers whose lives he touched throughout the years. Rest in peace Keith, your service dedication, and smile will always be remembered.*

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING GERI WEIDEMAN: President Reichner held a moment of silence in honor of Geri Weideman. Mayor Schultz delivered the following remarks: *Geri Weideman was born to Anne and Stuart Weideman, and she and her sister Carol grew up with her parents in a small town of Bucks County. After High School, Geri graduated from nursing school with an RN. She held numerous positions throughout her career in the medical field. Geri secured her MBA from Temple University to further her medical career and increase her contributions to her community. She was very active in this Hatboro community, serving as the Chair of the Zoning Hearing Board. Geri and her partner Luann Kline of 40 years resided in Hatboro, they were avid golfers and took multiple trips towards Geri's goal of playing all of the courses in Pennsylvania. Geri also had a passion for gardening and enjoyed the bounty of her labor. After retiring, she continued golfing*

and joined the ladies' league, and she continued to do volunteer work in her local community. She will be missed by those who have had the privilege of knowing her kindness and supportive ways.

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Reichner reviewed the public comment policy for addressing Council, time allotment, etc.

Gary Blickley 46 Harding Avenue- Mr. Blickley addressed Council regarding the minutes from the previous meeting, specifically the discussion concerning the micro-school's use of additional classrooms at the Pennypack Community Center. Mr. Blickley referenced the last paragraph on page 14 and the first sentence on page 15 of the previous meeting minutes, which indicated that no additional rooms were available to the micro school without payment in accordance with the Borough's fee schedule. Mr. Blickley stated that he believed this information was inaccurate and that the micro-school had access to at least three additional rooms under the terms of its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Mr. Blickley indicated that he had emailed Council members and the Mayor regarding the matter and had received a response that, in his opinion, reiterated information he already knew without addressing his request to correct the public record. Mr. Blickley stated that the public should be informed that the micro-school had access to approximately six rooms in total, rather than only the three classrooms identified in previous discussions. He expressed concern that this information was not accurately reflected in the meeting minutes or recent social media discussions and requested that the public record be corrected.

Councilman Smith asked Mr. Blickley when the email had been sent, stating that he had not received it and that he checked his email daily.

Councilwoman Jacobus asked Mr. Blickley whether he had used the correct email addresses.

Councilman Smith reiterated that he checked his email every day.

Mr. Blickley stated that one Council member had received the email and that he had sent it to the other members as well.

Councilwoman Jacobus asked Mr. Blickley to resend the email, indicating that she also checked her email regularly.

Mr. Blickley reiterated his request that the public record be corrected so that the public was receiving accurate information.

Councilwoman Jacobus explained that she wanted to verify whether Council had actually received the email.

Mr. Blickley stated that information being reported on social media, including during the preceding weekend, was inaccurate and that the public was not properly informed.

Councilwoman Jacobus asked whether the information Mr. Blickley was referring to had been posted on the Borough's official social media page.

Mr. Blickley stated that he was unsure whether the information had appeared on the Borough's official page.

Councilwoman Jacobus questioned how the information could be accurate if it had not been posted on an official Borough page. Councilwoman Jacobus clarified that she was attempting to establish whether the information had appeared on the Borough's page since Mr. Blickley stated it as a fact.

Mr. Blickley questioned if that mattered, as when individuals speak, they are speaking on behalf of the Borough. Mr. Blickley stated it was the Borough Manager.

Councilwoman Jacobus further asked Mr. Blickley to clarify the specific question or statement at issue, explaining that she had not been aware of the social media exchange he was referencing.

Mr. Blickley stated it was in regard to reflecting information for the micro school and that they only have access to three rooms. He stated that was incorrect, they have access to six.

Councilwoman McCuen clarified that the micro-school had rented three classrooms and could request access to additional rooms, similar to other Borough residents or organizations requesting space within the Pennypack Community Center.

Mr. Blickley stated that's exactly what was said in the last meeting and the minutes reflect that. He stated that the MOU reflects that they have access to additional space at no additional charge, which means it's their space.

Councilwoman McCuen explained that the micro-school could request use of another room for a specific period, such as one hour during classroom time, provided the request was made in advance. She stated they are not given unrestricted access; they can request access.

Mr. Blickley began responding regarding the distinction between requesting a room for a limited period and having unrestricted access. Mr. Blickley continued to question the distinction between the leased classrooms and access to other areas of the building.

Councilwoman McCuen reiterated that the micro school does not have unrestricted access, they must request use of the additional rooms. She stated the micro school leased and paid for three rooms under the agreement, anything else would require approval.

Councilwoman Jacobus again requested that Mr. Blickley resend his email.

Mike Sherman 141 Academy Road- Mr. Sherman asked what measures, if any, the Borough was taking to manage or reduce the local deer population. He indicated that he would appreciate being directed to previous meeting minutes or other information if the Borough had already discussed the issue.

Council President Reichner stated that she did not believe the Borough was currently undertaking any deer population control measures.

Mr. Sherman expressed surprise that no measures were currently in place.

Councilman Myers advised that hunting was not permitted within Borough limits.

Mr. Sherman clarified that he was not suggesting hunting as a means of population control. Instead, he was referring to nonlethal methods, such as deer birth control. He expressed concern that the local deer population would continue to grow due to the absence of natural predators. He also commented on the difficulties that deer presented for residents maintaining gardens.

Councilman Myers acknowledged Mr. Sherman's concerns and stated that he experienced similar issues with deer entering his own garden. He indicated that he had taken additional measures to protect his plants. Councilman Myers reiterated that the Borough did not currently have a deer population management program.

Council President Reichner suggested that the issue could be referred to the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) for discussion and consideration of possible recommendations.

Mr. Sherman expressed appreciation for the suggestion and reiterated his interest in nonlethal population control methods, including darts with birth control administered to does. He thanked Council for considering his concerns.

RECOGNITION FOR LIFESAVING – STEVE PIMM:

Council President Reichner recognized Borough resident Steve Pimm for his actions in rescuing an 11-year-old girl from drowning at the Borough pool on August 24, 2026.

Council President Reichner stated that some pool members could always be counted on to have extra sunscreen or goggles available, while other members, such as Mr. Pimm, went above and beyond when an emergency occurred. Mr. Pimm had been at the pool with his children during the early evening hours and was taking a telephone call when the lifeguards activated their emergency response using a triple whistle.

Council President Reichner stated that Mr. Pimm, who was standing on the pool deck only a few feet from the child, immediately recognized the emergency. Although the lifeguards were following established protocols and responding appropriately, Mr. Pimm was closer to the child and was able to act more quickly. Mr. Pimm immediately jumped into the pool, despite having electronic devices in his pockets, and removed the child from the water before she submerged.

Council President Reichner noted that she had personally witnessed the incident while sitting nearby on the grass. She stated that the lifeguards and Pool Manager Cindy were also responding to the emergency and preparing to take control of the situation. Mr. Pimm returned to his family following the rescue and checked his water-logged electronic devices as if he hadn't just saved a life.

Council President Reichner noted that Mr. Pimm was employed as a police officer with the Upper Dublin Police Department and was accustomed to responding to emergencies in his professional capacity. However, she emphasized that his willingness to act immediately while off duty demonstrated his continued commitment to protecting others.

On behalf of the Borough of Hatboro, Council President Reichner expressed gratitude and appreciation for Mr. Pimm's bravery, quick response, and actions in saving the child's life.

Pool Manager Cindy expressed gratitude for the assistance provided during the emergency and described the incident as frightening. She stated a newer lifeguard who was on duty and still gaining experience and she was grateful for Mr. Pimm's assistance.

Council President Reichner reiterated that the emergency unfolded very quickly and that the lifeguards and pool staff responded appropriately. She emphasized that having Mr. Pimm nearby and able to act immediately had been especially fortunate.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PROTHONOTARY PRESENTATION (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE):

Montgomery County Prothonotary's Office – Protection From Abuse Initiatives

The Montgomery County Prothonotary, accompanied by Outreach Director Ann Cordell, provided a presentation regarding the responsibilities of the Prothonotary's Office and initiatives designed to assist survivors of domestic violence.

The Prothonotary explained that the office processes civil court filings, including Protection From Abuse (PFA) petitions, and receives approximately 30–50 PFA petitions weekly. He outlined the process for obtaining a PFA order and discussed the challenges survivors face when navigating the court system.

The presentation highlighted two initiatives implemented by Montgomery County to improve access to services:

- Hope Card Program: Montgomery County provides individuals who receive final PFA orders with a wallet-sized card containing essential information from their protection order and contact information for community resources, including Laurel House, the Women's Center of Montgomery County, and Victim Services Center.
- Online PFA Petitions: Montgomery County became the second county in Pennsylvania to allow individuals to complete the initial PFA petition online, reducing the amount of time applicants must spend at the courthouse. Applicants must still appear in person for subsequent portions of the process.

The Prothonotary also discussed ongoing efforts to simplify the state's 28-page PFA application and emphasized the importance of public awareness, trauma-informed services, and coordination with law enforcement and community organizations.

During the discussion following the presentation, Council members expressed interest in making informational materials available to residents at Borough facilities and local businesses. The Prothonotary confirmed that brochures and other materials were available in multiple languages and could be provided to the Borough.

Council also discussed distributing information through the Borough's social media platforms and encouraging local businesses to display resource information.

Councilman Alex Myers requested clarification regarding available assistance for individuals experiencing domestic violence, including emergency assistance, victim services, and legal referrals. The Prothonotary explained the services offered by local organizations and identified available emergency, advocacy, and legal resources.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (JACOBUS/MCCUEN)

ENTERPRISE FIRE COMPANY EXPENDITURE LIST: Vice President Jacobus stated the Borough is in receipt of the Enterprise Fire Company Expenditure List for the month of August 2026 in the amount of \$24,723.46. Vice President Jacobus indicated this item was moved to the voting meeting portion of the agenda for consideration.

PARKING TOWN HALL UPDATE: Manager Hegele reported that the Borough held a parking town hall meeting on September 14, 2026, for residents of Broad Street, South Linden, Loller, Moreboro, Manor, Oakdale, Warren, Springdale, Wilson, Wood, Pershing, Rorer, South Penn Street, North Penn Street, Park Avenue, and Drexel Road. She explained that although the meeting was primarily intended for residents of the identified streets, residents from other areas also attended and asked questions. Manager Hegele stated that the meeting was well attended and provided residents with an opportunity to share their experiences and concerns regarding parking conditions. She noted that Borough staff and members of the Parking Commission received valuable feedback, including concerns and suggestions that had not previously been considered. Manager Hegele thanked the Parking Commission and the Borough Fire Marshal for their work preparing the presentation, documenting parking conditions, and collecting information regarding the affected streets. She recognized Parking Commission Chair Dolores Forget and members Dolores Roberto, Jackie Jones, Vickie Widmaier, and Kelly Kennedy for their work and dedication. She noted that several members reside in the neighborhoods affected by the parking concerns. Manager Hegele explained that a display board used during the town hall meeting was available in the meeting room. The board identified the affected streets and included photographs showing parking congestion, particularly during events occurring in the Borough. She stated that the photographs demonstrated some of the challenges faced by fire and emergency medical services personnel when attempting to navigate narrow residential streets where vehicles are parked on both sides. Manager Hegele advised that the Parking Commission was scheduled to meet the following evening to review the information and feedback received during the town hall. She stated that the presentation had been uploaded to a dedicated page on the Borough's website and that residents who were unable to attend had been encouraged to review the materials and submit comments or questions. Manager Hegele noted that additional correspondence had been received since the meeting and that she had already shared some of the comments with the Parking Commission. She intended to provide the remaining feedback at the Commission's upcoming meeting. She explained that the next steps would include discussions with the Chief of Police to obtain input regarding parking conditions and concerns observed by officers during their daily patrols. Manager Hegele also indicated that the Borough would meet with Fire Department representatives to obtain their perspective regarding emergency vehicle access. She referenced an upcoming Public Safety Committee meeting with the Fire Department and expressed hope that some of the parking concerns could be discussed during that meeting. The Borough would also consult with the Borough Engineer to evaluate potential solutions. Manager Hegele acknowledged that residents expressed differing opinions regarding potential parking restrictions, with some residents opposing limitations on parking along their streets. She noted that suggestions involving possible zoning changes had also been raised and would require further consideration. She emphasized that any proposed parking changes would be brought before Borough Council for public discussion. Depending on the recommendations, amendments to the Borough's existing parking ordinance might be necessary before changes could be implemented. Manager Hegele explained that the process would require careful consideration and would not be completed immediately. She reminded residents to remain mindful of emergency vehicle access when parking along Borough streets. She stated that emergency responders have experienced difficulty navigating several of the affected streets due to vehicles parked opposite one another. Manager Hegele referenced an incident on Loller Road in which an ambulance was unable to proceed down the roadway due to parked vehicles. Because the responding ambulance crew was unfamiliar with the neighborhood, assistance from the Police Department was needed to navigate the area. She explained that local emergency responders familiar with the Borough's road network may know alternative routes, while ambulances responding from outside the Borough may not have the same knowledge. Manager Hegele encouraged residents to consider whether sufficient roadway width remains for a fire truck or ambulance when parking across from another vehicle. She acknowledged that residents face parking challenges due to households having multiple vehicles and limited driveway space. Manager Hegele stated that although the Borough could not resolve every

household's parking limitation, it had a responsibility to ensure that emergency responders could safely access residences when called for assistance. She again thanked the residents who participated in the town hall meeting and the Parking Commission members who helped prepare for the meeting, including hand-delivering informational flyers to residents on the affected streets. Manager Hegele encouraged residents to continue submitting concerns, updates, and suggestions directly to her or to members of the Parking Commission.

FLOOD GATE DISCUSSION: Councilwoman Jacobus introduced the topic of potentially installing floodgates at locations throughout the Borough that are prone to flooding. She explained that following recent flash flooding events, the Borough had received inquiries from residents and others regarding the possibility of installing permanent floodgates to prevent motorists from entering flooded roadways. Councilwoman Jacobus stated that the purpose of the discussion was to determine whether Council had sufficient interest in the proposal to authorize Borough staff to research potential locations, installation costs, and funding sources.

Manager Hegele asked whether Council wished to discuss the proposal at that time.

President Reichner stated she was aware that Upper Moreland Township had them but was unsure of their cost and their necessity in Hatboro.

Councilwoman Jacobus asked if there were specific places that were called about.

Manager Hegele acknowledged that Norwyn Road had been discussed but questioned whether it would be a practical location for a floodgate. She stated after discussing with the Chief, it seemed unlikely that the equipment would be able to be installed on a resident's front lawn. She stated that Norwyn Road was a recurring flooding location due to its low elevation and proximity to flood-prone areas. She suggested that installing gates elsewhere might allow emergency personnel to devote more resources to addressing flooding on Norwyn Road.

Manager Hegele identified York Road and Warminster Road as additional locations discussed, noting that Upper Moreland Township already had floodgates in nearby areas. She explained that Borough staff had not conducted further research because they wanted to determine Council's interest before dedicating staff time to the project.

Councilwoman Jacobus expressed support for researching the proposal, particularly because residents had raised concerns and certain roads were known to experience recurring flooding.

Detective Dilks identified Norwyn Road as a recurring flooding location, as well as Monument Avenue and Pine Tree Lane area. He stated the entrance to Station Park from Byberry Road is another common area, and is used as a cut through for traffic. He expressed concern that many of the locations requiring floodgates would be residential roads, which could present challenges regarding where the equipment could be installed.

Councilwoman Shay asked Detective Dilks if he believed the Borough did a good job of getting out there and getting the barricades out ahead of these things.

Detective Dilks explained that Borough police officers were familiar with locations prone to flooding and actively monitored those areas during storms. He stated that officers attempted to identify rising water conditions early so that barricades could be installed before roads became impassable. Detective Dilks explained that officers typically contacted Public Works when barricades were needed and that Public Works personnel responded to assist. He stated that these efforts successfully prevented many incidents and noted that

permanent floodgates could potentially reduce the amount of time officers spent placing barricades, allowing them to respond to other emergencies.

Councilman Myers expressed concern about the physical placement of floodgates in residential neighborhoods. He noted that each flooded section of roadway would generally require two gates, one on either side of the affected area. Councilman Myers questioned where those gates could be installed without creating problems for nearby residents and observed that the residential locations under discussion were different from the larger roadways where floodgates had already been installed.

Council President Reichner asked whether the floodgates under consideration required someone to physically lower them rather than operating automatically.

Detective Dilks stated that he did not have experience operating the floodgates.

Fire Marshal Valesky confirmed that those gates were manually operated and secured with locks. She explained that responding agencies, including police, fire, and emergency medical services, shared access to the keys. She stated when flooding occurs, personnel coordinate with the Police Department to determine when the gates should be lowered. Responders unlock the gate, lower it across the roadway, and secure it again to prevent unauthorized individuals from tampering with or reopening the barrier. Once the roadway is safe, personnel return to unlock and raise the gate.

Council President Reichner asked the Fire Marshal whether she believed floodgates were necessary in Hatboro.

Fire Marshal Valesky stated she had originally suggested exploring the installation of floodgates and she believed Hatboro could potentially coordinate with Upper Moreland Township to identify appropriate locations and possibly share costs. She stated that floodgates don't necessarily need to be installed directly in front of residential properties. She explained that Lower Moreland Township had placed certain gates farther from the actual flooding location, closing larger sections of roadway to prevent motorists from entering dangerous conditions. Fire Marshal Valesky referenced the floodgates in Lower Moreland on Philmont Avenue where they are positioned further out and close an extended portion of the roadway. She explained that recent storms had produced significant flooding in areas along the Hatboro and Upper Moreland Township boundaries. She identified areas near Blair Mill Road, Monument Avenue, Pine Tree Lane, and Norwyn Road as locations where Upper Moreland emergency responders had repeatedly been dispatched for vehicles entering floodwaters. She stated that photographs from recent incidents showed vehicles nearly or completely submerged after motorists attempted to drive through flooded roadways. Fire Marshal Valesky explained that Upper Moreland emergency responders sometimes became overwhelmed during major storms, preventing barricades from being installed quickly enough. She suggested that Hatboro explore whether coordinating with Upper Moreland Township could improve floodgate placement, reduce duplicated efforts, and provide opportunities for shared funding.

Councilwoman Jacobus stated that the Fire Marshal's concerns reinforced the need to investigate the proposal. She expressed support for moving forward with researching available options.

Councilman Myers suggested that the Borough consider whether alternatives to traditional floodgates were available. He reiterated his concerns regarding the installation of large gates in residential areas and asked whether other types of barriers or systems could serve the same purpose.

Manager Hegele stated that, based on Council's expressed interest, Borough staff would begin researching the proposal. She explained that staff would investigate installation costs, alternative systems, and potential locations. Manager Hegele stated that she would consult with the Chief of Police to identify intersections and roadway sections that warranted consideration. She also indicated that she would contact her counterpart in Upper Moreland Township to discuss existing floodgate installations and possible opportunities for coordination.

Councilman Myers suggested that an automated or remotely operated system might help address some of the challenges associated with manually deploying barricades. He observed that one of the principal concerns appeared to be the time required for personnel to respond and physically close affected roadways before motorists entered floodwaters.

Manager Hegele agreed that deploying temporary barricades during severe weather could be challenging for Public Works personnel. She explained that during flooding events accompanied by strong winds, temporary barricades could be blown out of position and require sandbags to keep them in place. Manager Hegele also noted that some motorists disregarded road closures and physically moved barricades to continue traveling through affected areas.

Council President Reichner asked the Borough Engineer whether the proposed floodgate installation could potentially be incorporated into the Borough's MS4 permit requirements.

Engineer MacNair responded that she did not believe the project would qualify under the Borough's MS4 requirements.

Mark Hanisco 120 Summit Avenue- Mr. Hansico asked whether the Borough could pursue grant funding for the project, noting that floodgates could improve public safety and quality of life. He suggested that rather than relying solely on the capital budget, the Borough should investigate available grants.

Manager Hegele explained that placing a project in the capital budget did not necessarily mean it would be funded through Borough tax revenue. She stated that the capital budget included potential funding sources for proposed projects and that grants would be among the first options considered for floodgate installation. Manager Hegele stated that she believed Upper Moreland and Lower Moreland Townships had obtained grant funding for their floodgate installations.

PENNDOT LANE DIETING: Vice President Jacobus stated that the Borough as received notification from PennDOT that they are considering a lane diet on South York Road. She stated that Chief Ruegg approached the Manager and Public Safety Committee after hearing from PennDOT that they completed a study of South York Road after the Borough reaching out and are proposing lane dieting for traffic coming north into the Borough from Warminster Road to Horsham Road. She noted that since a portion of the area included is in Upper Moreland Township, Manager Hegele reached out to Manager Stasio and both are working with Chief Ruegg on a public presentation at a later date. She stated that residents will be updated as more information becomes available.

Gary Blickley 46 Harding Avenue- Mr. Blickley asked what risk assessment, flood incident statistics, and required studies would support installing gates, comparing the discussion with earlier concerns about the costs of studies for speed humps. He said Council should examine frequency, financial impact, and the expected benefit of floodgates before committing resources, even if grants might be available.

Councilwoman Shay explained that Council was only authorizing preliminary exploration and pricing, with more conversations and decisions to follow.

Manager Hegele said grant applications would almost certainly require documented incidents or other statistics to establish need and that such information would be assembled during the investigation.

Merrie Keller 110 W. Monument Avenue- Ms. Keller asked how PennDOT could reduce lane width between Warminster and Horsham Roads when the roadway already seemed too narrow to accommodate a bicycle lane.

Council President Reichner explained that PennDOT had presented a proposal and that it was being coordinated with the Police Chiefs and representatives of both municipalities. Council President Reichner reiterated that meetings and a public review would occur before roadwork or final action.

Manager Hegele said both municipalities would need to approve changes to the PennDOT-controlled roadway. She explained that Upper Moreland was reviewing the proposal and that public meetings, or a combined meeting, would be advertised. Plans would be published once PennDOT authorized release. She said the proposal currently involved only northbound traffic.

Ms. Keller asked if reducing the road width was indeed under consideration.

Manager Hegele confirmed that it was proposed. She said the Borough would publicize the meeting and plans when cleared by PennDOT and would hand-deliver notices to residents along the affected portion of York Road from Newington north to Horsham Road.

Council President Reichner explained that the study had been prompted by residents of York Road, Crooked Billet, and the surrounding area concerned about traffic crashes. She emphasized that PennDOT controlled the roadway and would direct the technical proposal.

2026 FIRE RELIEF FUNDING: Vice President Jacobus stated that each year, the Borough of Hatboro receives Volunteer Fire Relief Funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She stated that these funds support the Volunteer Fire Relief Association of Enterprise Fire Company. She added that this year, the Borough received \$59,545.46 and that per the State's requirements, these funds must be transferred to the Enterprise Fire Company Relief Association within 60 days of receipt. Vice President Jacobus noted that Council will need to acknowledge receipt of these funds and authorize payment of the funds to Enterprise's Relief Association. Vice President Jacobus stated that this item was moved to the voting meeting portion of the agenda for consideration.

SALE OF 2013 POLICE INTERCEPTOR: Vice President Jacobus stated Borough Council previously authorized the sale of a 2013 Ford Police Interceptor on Municibid. She stated that this vehicle was replaced by a new police vehicle earlier this year and that Chief Ruegg listed the vehicle on Municibid with the winning bid being \$3,900.00. She stated that Borough Staff are asking Council to authorize the sale of the vehicle for this amount. Vice President Jacobus stated that this item was moved to the voting meeting portion of the agenda for consideration.

FINANCE/GRANTS COMMITTEE (SMITH/SHAY):

UNION LIBRARY EXPENDITURE LIST: Councilman Smith stated that the Borough is in receipt of the Union Library Expenditure List for the months of July and August. He indicated that the library did not submit a list for the August meeting, so they are submitting two lists for this month. Councilman Smith indicated that the July 2026 expenditure list is in the amount of \$24,457.00 and the August expenditure list is in the amount of

\$26,485.00. Councilman Smith indicated this item was moved to the voting meeting portion of the agenda for consideration.

COPIER LEASE: Councilman Smith stated that the lease for the copier is just about up and the copier the Borough has is not in good shape. He stated Manager Hegele worked with KDI to get a new 60-month lease on a new machine. He stated the new lease is at a lower price than what the Borough is currently paying. He stated the number of images and print are at a better rate as well. He stated it would be a 60-month lease for 57 payments, which is about \$35 a month savings, but for the overall lease \$1,137. Councilman Smith indicated this item was moved to the voting meeting portion of the agenda for consideration.

MAIN STREET MATTERS GRANT RESOLUTION: Councilman Smith stated the paperwork was submitted and the most the Borough can be awarded is \$40,000. He stated it is a 25% match, so the most the Borough would need to contribute would be \$10,000.

Manager Hegele stated that the Borough applied for a business feasibility planning grant, as approved at the last meeting. She stated part of the record from DCED requires a resolution from Borough Council. She stated this item is to approve the resolution so that can be sent, along with a support letter from State Representative Guent. Councilman Smith indicated this item was moved to the voting meeting portion of the agenda for consideration.

Gary Blickey 46 Harding Avenue- Mr. Blickey asked whether the potential \$10,000 match was already budgeted annually or would represent a new expense in a future budget.

Manager Hegele stated that approximately \$56,000 had been included in the current year's budget for Main Street-related purposes. She explained that, when preparing the 2027 budget, staff would ask Council to set aside an appropriate amount for the grant match and that Council could determine whether to fund anything additional.

Councilman Smith began clarifying whether the specific new match had been budgeted.

Council President Reichner explained that the grant application required the Borough to demonstrate that it had sufficient funds available for the entire project before the grant would be considered. She reiterated that money had been budgeted and suggested that the relevant line item might be reduced in the coming budget year to reflect the required match.

2026 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT: Councilman Smith introduced the Local Share Account grant opportunity and noted that the application deadline was October 30th. He explained that a broad range of capital improvement projects could be eligible, potentially including floodgates. He emphasized the need to identify potential projects promptly so staff could prepare applications before the deadline.

Manager Hegele identified several staff suggestions, including floodgates, a new fire truck for Enterprise Fire Company, and additional HVAC improvements at Pennypack Community Center. She asked Council for other project ideas. She reported that the Borough had submitted three LSA applications in the previous round and had obtained funding for all three, totaling nearly \$1 million. She explained that applications carried a \$100 fee each and that multiple applications were permitted. She encouraged Council to suggest projects while staff still had time to evaluate eligibility, costs, and required October resolutions.

Council President Reichner asked whether stormwater projects could be considered for LSA funding and whether an award might support the Borough's future MS4 permit obligations.

Manager Hegele stated that staff would have to examine specific eligibility requirements. She cited the Borough's recently funded street sweeper as a project justified in part by stormwater management and MS4 obligations but noted that other equipment, such as trash and recycling trucks, might fall under different requirements. She also referenced recent resident concerns about stormwater conditions on Springdale and Lincoln.

Council President Reichner emphasized that the next MS4 permit requirements were not open yet for the next year and said she did not want stormwater needs overlooked while Council considered grants that might be awarded after the new permit period began.

Councilman Myers suggested two energy-efficiency projects: replacing windows at Borough Hall and revisiting an earlier proposal for solar panels and a green or white roof at the Public Works facility. He suggested updating previous cost estimates rather than developing the proposals from scratch.

Councilwoman Jacobus identified the new fire truck as her preferred grant priority.

Councilwoman Shay strongly supported including Borough Hall's windows, noting that replacement had been discussed for years and could reduce energy losses and future expenses. She said she considered the windows a high priority.

Manager Hegele reiterated that the Borough could apply for more than one project.

Councilman Smith observed that the \$100 application fee was a relatively small investment for an opportunity to obtain grant funding.

Council President Reichner asked whether members agreed that the fire truck should be a priority.

Councilwoman Jacobus responded that the fire truck should unquestionably be the first priority.

Councilman Smith supported replacing the Borough Hall windows and briefly suggested including painting or repair work around them because the wood appeared deteriorated.

Manager Hegele clarified that painting alone would not remedy the deteriorated windows. She stated that staff already possessed proposals for the windows and could update them for an application. She expressed concern that the October 30th deadline and limited staff capacity would make a floodgate application impractical because the Borough had not yet studied possible installations or developed pricing. She suggested staff could investigate stormwater projects and revisit solar improvements at Public Works.

Council President Reichner suggested pursuing the fire truck, Borough Hall windows, and potentially solar or roof-related improvements.

Councilwoman Shay asked whether Pennypack's roof needed attention before any solar installation could be considered and questioned whether it made more sense to address that roof first.

Manager Hegele clarified that the solar proposal under discussion was for the Public Works building, not Pennypack Community Center.

Councilman Myers briefly explained the difference between a planted green roof and a reflective white roof in connection with the earlier energy-efficiency proposal.

Councilman Smith asked whether a previous estimate existed for repairs to Borough Hall's upper belfry or tower.

Manager Hegele stated that an estimate had been obtained but warned that work at Borough Hall's historic structure required additional review and specialized methods. She said staff needed to determine whether the proposed LSA grant would fund improvements to a historic building and noted that historic windows were significantly more expensive than typical replacements.

Councilman Smith observed that the grant guidance appeared to include construction, rehabilitation, and renovation, while acknowledging that historic-preservation requirements might complicate the application.

Manager Hegele confirmed that work on a historic building involves additional rules.

Merrie Keller 110 W. Monument Avenue- Ms. Keller questioned if the LSA grant for a barrier system included a local match.

Manager Hegele clarified that LSA awards were fully funded and required no match.

Ms. Keller asked how much the barrier system would cost the Borough.

Manager Hegele explained that the barriers had not yet been purchased because the Borough was still completing award documents and contracts. She stated that staff could not proceed with the purchase until required approvals were obtained and that Council would publicly consider the purchase even though grant funds would cover it.

Ms. Keller asked whether an award of approximately \$379,990 would cover the full system.

Manager Hegele stated that costs could not yet be confirmed, and that the Borough might have to adjust the number of barriers purchased to remain within the available grant amount. She explained that updated pricing would be presented to Council when authorization to proceed was obtained.

Ms. Keller then asked about the grant-funded street sweeper.

Manager Hegele stated that updated sweeper prices had recently been received but that purchases would still require the formal grant and Council approval process.

Ms. Keller asked Council to clarify for the copier lease, for a 60-month contract, where did \$1,139 come from.

Councilman Smith stated the \$1,139 is what the three months of payments would have been, which is why it's a 60-month lease with 57 months of payments.

Ms. Keller questioned how much it was monthly.

President Reichner stated it is \$379 monthly as opposed to the \$401 per month it is currently.

Gary Blickley 46 Harding Avenue- Mr. Blickley expressed concern that Council was identifying grant projects before completing its capital-budget prioritization. He said the Borough had not comprehensively addressed a capital budget since 2018 and argued that Council should first determine which capital needs were most urgent, then select grant applications that aligned with those needs. He cited essential building equipment as an example of a higher priority than solar or green-roof projects. He also referenced the prior year's 18-percent tax increase and maintained that grants should be used strategically to control future tax burdens.

Manager Hegele advised that the capital-budget presentation would occur later in the report and that Councilman Smith had placed it last.

Councilman Smith defended the order of the report, explaining that he had intended to address shorter items first and reserve the capital budget for the end because it was likely to generate the longest discussion. He questioned whether Mr. Blickley had raised similar tax concerns at school board meetings.

Mr. Blickley responded that school district taxes were not relevant to the immediate discussion about the Borough's capital plan and grant priorities.

Councilman Smith stated that broader costs, including the school tax levy and changing fuel prices, also affected taxpayers and municipal finances.

Mr. Blickley disputed the comparison and maintained that the Borough should establish capital priorities before choosing grant projects.

Council President Reichner clarified that the proposed fire truck and Borough Hall windows were already among the items identified in the capital budget, so the grant discussion was not unrelated to the budget planning process.

Abby Laurich 110 N. Linden Avenue- Ms. Laurich stated that she would like to attend school board meetings but that the Borough's monthly meeting conflicted with the school board meeting taking place that evening.

Councilman Smith stated that the issue of meeting schedules would be addressed later.

Council President Reichner noted that the school board held two meetings per month and suggested residents might attend one school board meeting and the Borough's meeting.

STATION AT HATBORO FINANCIAL SECURITY RELEASE #3: Councilman Smith reported that the Borough Engineer had approved Station at Hatboro financial security release number three for \$8,725 from the construction escrow. He stated that the remaining construction escrow would total \$209,194.60, including approximately \$4,950 for construction items and \$204,244.60 for contingency. Councilman Smith indicated this item was moved to the voting meeting portion of the agenda for consideration.

CAPITAL BUDGET WORKSHOP UPDATE: Councilman Smith explained that Borough staff would present the capital budget update that evening. He said the Finance Committee expected to meet around the first week of October, followed by a public budget workshop for Council and residents to discuss proposed expenditures and provide feedback. He reiterated that the budget presentation was the reason he had reserved the item for the end of his report.

Councilwoman Shay asked whether Council intended to select the public workshop date before proceeding.

Council President Reichner asked whether members preferred to view the budget first or establish a date first.

Councilman Smith indicated that either sequence was acceptable and that selecting a date should be relatively quick.

Council President Reichner asked which dates were available.

Manager Hegele identified October 12, 15, 19, 20, 21, and 22 as available dates, noting that no other Borough public meetings or required departmental meetings conflicted with those dates and that staff were available.

Council President Reichner proposed **Wednesday, October 21**, noting that choosing the 12th could conflict with an opportunity for residents to attend the school board meeting.

Manager Hegele stated that the meeting would be formally advertised and promoted through the Borough's social media accounts.

Councilwoman Shay asked whether the budget workshop would begin at 6:00 p.m.

Manager Hegele confirmed that Borough budget workshops customarily began at 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Jacobus restated the selected workshop date as Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., and requested that it be publicized.

Manager Hegele introduced the capital-budget update and reminded Council that a workshop had been held in June, the first such workshop since 2018. She explained that a capital budget is a multiyear financial plan identifying anticipated needs, project descriptions and justifications, estimated costs, likely funding sources, and future operating and maintenance impacts. Staff were proposing a five-year plan for 2027 through 2031. She stressed that advance planning protects the Borough's finances and supports continuity of services. Manager Hegele stated that staff needed Council to distinguish immediate needs from longer-term projects and to identify the items members wished to prioritize for 2027. This direction would assist preparation of the annual operating budget and sinking-fund millage, particularly where proposed projects or equipment involved financing or lease payments. She explained that Council could revisit priorities in later years but that the immediate need was a realistic list of 2027 projects. Manager Hegele reported that the Borough's insurance provider had inspected Borough facilities, parks, and other assets since the June workshop and identified deficiencies or recommended improvements. Staff had included these matters in the draft capital document so Council could see the full range of needs. She clarified that smaller safety equipment, including AEDs and eyewash stations, might ultimately be moved to the operating budget rather than treated as capital expenses. Staff had also gathered or updated project estimates and revised the document's organization in response to Council's request that departments and facilities be shown separately, including Police, Public Works, Pennypack, Second Alarmers, Parks, Stormwater, Fire, and Emergency Management. Manager Hegele reviewed the information requested from department heads for each project: a title, description, justification, alignment with Borough needs, approximate cost, anticipated timing, and possible funding sources. She emphasized that figures shown were estimates, not final bids or binding expenditures. Inclusion in the capital plan would not itself authorize a purchase, borrowing, grant expenditure, or contract. Each actual expenditure or debt obligation would still need to return to Council for public consideration and approval. Manager Hegele outlined potential funding mechanisms, including general-fund reserves, dedicated savings, grants, low-interest municipal loan programs, bank loans, and municipal bonds. She identified possible grant sources such as DCED, DCNR, DEP, the State Museum Commission, federal appropriations, and other state and local programs. She noted that DCNR typically supported parks and recreation, DEP had funded recycling equipment, and historic-building work could require grant programs intended for historic structures. She discussed low-interest lending, including PennVEST for eligible stormwater work, and explained that commercial borrowing generally required a competitive solicitation rather than selecting a bank informally. Manager Hegele described the complexity of major grants, particularly Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) awards, which can require substantial documentation, professional input, outside grant-administration review, and staff time. She referred to the extensive effort associated with the firehouse project and Borough Hall HVAC grant administration, noting that the Borough remained severely short staffed. She cautioned that major applications might require additional assistance from the engineer or outside professionals. She also explained that municipal bonds carry financing and administrative costs and that a formal capital plan is important when pursuing borrowing. Manager Hegele stated that staff monitored potential grants through the Borough Engineer, legislators, municipal organizations, the County Consortium, and other municipalities. She

reiterated that the department requests were intended to reflect practical needs rather than an unrestricted wish list and that public and Council feedback would remain important as the plan was developed.

CAPITAL BUDGET POLICE DISCUSSION: Manager Hegele stated that staff had met with Chief Ruegg to review and schedule the Police Department's anticipated capital needs. She reported a five-year estimated capital total of \$877,523, with approximately \$200,162 initially shown for 2027. She noted that some items, including copier and computer costs, would be paid through the sinking fund under existing arrangements. She explained that the replacement radio project would also serve the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management and that the Borough hoped to coordinate with Montgomery County's radio procurement and financing arrangements.

Detective Dilks stated that the County was expected to finalize relevant radio financing details in the coming weeks and referred to a possible zero-percent loan arrangement.

Manager Hegele explained that any radio purchase or financing would ultimately return to Council for a separate decision after equipment quantities, costs, and terms were known. She also discussed a projected \$100,000 K-9 vehicle expense and suggested that the timing could potentially be deferred because the existing K-9 was expected to remain in service for approximately two more years. She proposed moving the vehicle-related item to a later year, noting that the spreadsheet was being edited during the meeting.

Councilman Myers asked whether the proposed K-9 expenditure was for the current dog or for continuation of the K-9 program with another dog.

Detective Dilks clarified that the item concerned a vehicle rather than purchasing a dog. The detective explained that the roughly \$100,000 allowance was an estimate for the specialized vehicle and outfitting, including heat-safety systems and other protections required for transporting a police K-9.

Councilman Smith questioned why the worksheet included approximately \$5,000 annually for computers over several years, stating that it appeared to be a significant amount.

Manager Hegele stated that the Borough was already committed to a multi-year computer lease approved in the preceding December. She explained that equipment and lease expenses were distributed among departmental worksheets, while some Public Works workstations were included with administrative computers. She referenced the technology vendor agreement and reiterated that the numbers in the capital document were rounded planning estimates, not exact invoices.

Councilman Myers asked whether the parking-enforcement item included ParkMobile implementation.

Manager Hegele replied that ParkMobile had little or no direct implementation or signage cost to the Borough and was not included in that estimated capital item.

CAPITAL BUDGET PUBLIC WORKS DISCUSSION: Manager Hegele reported that the capital plan included \$200,000 annually for five years for the Borough's road-paving program, supported through highway aid funds. She also identified curb replacement and related paving needs on Madison and Earl. She explained that the Engineer had not yet prepared a firm estimate for the curbs and that the Borough intended to seek a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in 2027. If successful, she expected work involving affected property owners, easements, and curb replacement to push street paving into 2028. Manager Hegele explained that the condition of the existing curbs prevented the Borough from using liquid-fuels funds for resurfacing Madison because the new pavement would not be expected to reach its useful life without curb improvements. She said the County had indicated the neighborhood could be a strong CDBG candidate, although the Borough had missed the previous application deadline.

Council President Reichner asked whether the cost shown for the Windsor, Lancaster, and Meadowbrook intersection improvements was the amount from a previous grant application.

Manager Hegele stated it was.

Council President Reichner stated that line could come down.

Manager Hegele stated that it could be reduced and provide updated quotes.

Council President Reichner recalled that the original proposal involved an island, additional landscaping or park space, and expanded sidewalk areas to reduce the wide-open intersection. She explained that discussions with the Police Chief subsequently led toward less costly pavement markings and parking restrictions. She noted that the earlier grant had been returned and supported reducing the capital estimate while retaining attention to the intersection.

Manager Hegele stated that the updated work might be inexpensive enough for Public Works to complete in-house and could therefore be removed from the capital plan and funded through the operating budget's street-maintenance line instead.

Councilwoman Shay returned to the LSA grant discussion and asked whether, if a trash or recycling truck were ineligible for that grant, the Borough could instead apply for one of the small dump trucks shown in the Public Works plan.

Manager Hegele confirmed that staff could consider a dump truck for the LSA application and asked that the worksheet be updated to reflect the possibility. She explained that the trucks would also need plows and spreaders and could serve as frontline snow-removal vehicles on the Borough's narrower streets. She noted that Council could stage two purchases in different years.

Councilwoman Shay asked whether the LSA grant could cover two dump trucks.

Manager Hegele stated that funding for one truck was more likely.

Councilwoman Shay indicated that obtaining grant funding for even one truck would help reduce the Borough's costs.

Councilman Myers asked whether upgrades to the Public Works facility's LED lighting could be incorporated into an LSA grant proposal.

Manager Hegele indicated that she believed the lighting work might qualify.

Councilman Myers asked whether highway aid or liquid-fuels funding might be available for equipment.

Manager Hegele explained that some equipment could qualify for highway aid, but staff would first need to evaluate the fund balance, the ongoing \$200,000 annual paving plan, and the uncertainty of future gas-tax allocations.

Council President Reichner asked whether Public Works currently had an eyewash station.

Manager Hegele stated that a small eyewash supply was available but did not meet the insurer's current recommendations for a dedicated station.

Councilwoman Shay asked whether the Borough could continue repairing its existing fueling pumps instead of replacing them.

Detective Dilks reported that the pumps frequently became unusable during summer heat, apparently because of vapor locking. He stated that police vehicles were normally topped off daily in case of emergencies and that officers sometimes had to travel to Upper Moreland to obtain fuel. He recalled similar recurring problems since he joined the department in 2017 despite previous repairs.

Manager Hegele agreed that the pumps had failed repeatedly during hot weather and noted that Public Works personnel had attempted repairs. She said the problems affected police cars, refuse and recycling vehicles, the Fire Marshal, and other municipal or emergency-service vehicles. She explained that alternative fueling was especially difficult for the Borough's larger trucks and noted that the Fire Company also used the municipal pumps and reimbursed the Borough.

Council President Reichner returned to the eyewash issue and asked whether a grant could be obtained so that employees would not remain without a suitable station.

Manager Hegele explained that the draft budget included eyewash stations for both Public Works and the pool. She suggested using risk-control or workers' compensation funds made available through the Borough's insurance arrangements. Insurance figures and available reimbursements were still being determined; decisions about applying those resources would come before Council during the budget process. Manager Hegele stated that the smaller safety purchases, including AEDs and eyewash stations, would likely be moved to the operating budget. She explained that the Borough had already submitted for reimbursement for required reflective clothing for Public Works employees and, if funding allowed, would prioritize the Public Works eyewash station before a pool station. She emphasized that existing emergency eyewash materials were available to employees but no longer satisfied the insurer's current standard. Manager Hegele explained that some AEDs also needed replacement because of age or expected useful life, and she noted that community donations had helped the Borough obtain AEDs in the past. She returned to the fuel pumps and said she recommended replacement because the system was decades old and increasingly costly to maintain. She stated that the Public Works foreman believed new pumps would correct the recurring failures but might be able to extend the old pumps' service temporarily if funds were unavailable.

Councilwoman McCuen asked whether staff were confident that replacement, rather than repair, would resolve the fueling issue.

Manager Hegele said the foreman had provided that assurance. She again emphasized that the fuel pumps supported multiple essential Borough services and requested that Council include at least one pump-related item in the 2027 plan.

Councilman Smith asked whether the repair allowance would be removed if Council proceeded with replacement.

Manager Hegele confirmed that replacing the pumps would eliminate the separate repair project.

Councilwoman Shay expressed concern that the Borough was already facing increasing operating costs and said she strongly wished to avoid another tax increase. Although she recognized the disadvantages of continued repairs, she preferred extending the pumps' life if practical rather than committing to a replacement in 2027.

Manager Hegele acknowledged that prioritization was Council's decision but cautioned that purchasing fuel from commercial stations could be more expensive than using the municipal system. She said the increased fuel costs should be considered when comparing repair and replacement options.

Council President Reichner suggested retaining the pump replacement estimate in the proposed 2027 plan so that Council could evaluate feasibility and remove it later if necessary. She noted that doing so would make it easier to adjust the budget downward if replacement proved unaffordable.

Manager Hegele indicated that the worksheet would carry both a roughly \$75,000 replacement scenario and a roughly \$10,000 repair scenario for consideration, with the appropriate approach to be determined.

Councilwoman McCuen asked whether the Borough had records showing what fuel-system failures had cost during the summer, including additional trips to other fueling locations. She said that Council needed to compare those continuing costs with the upfront cost of replacement, just as it would with energy savings from replacing deteriorated windows.

Manager Hegele stated that Public Works employees completed job orders and that staff could gather records and documentation to help Council make an informed decision. She emphasized that any future pump purchase would still require a separate public discussion and authorization.

Council President Reichner asked whether a small dump truck should be specifically scheduled for 2027 or merely considered for a grant application.

Manager Hegele stated that Council could schedule one truck in 2027 and another in a later year if desired.

Gary Blickley 46 Harding Avenue- Mr. Blickley referred to the fleet-management information discussed during the June workshop and questioned how equipment-replacement needs were being evaluated across the entire five-year period. He said he believed a capital plan should show expected vehicle life cycles rather than simply responding to immediate equipment failures.

Manager Hegele responded that Council had been provided a complete fleet inventory after the June meeting, including the year, make, and model of Borough vehicles. She explained that staff already maintained this information for insurance purposes.

Mr. Blickley replied that the public had not been provided with the same information and maintained that a five-year capital plan should identify which vehicles were approaching the end of their service lives and when replacement would likely be needed.

Manager Hegele explained that new Public Works equipment generally replaced existing equipment rather than expanding the fleet and that unneeded vehicles were sold, similar to the earlier police vehicle sale. She added that older police cars were sometimes reassigned to other Borough employees before eventual disposal.

Councilman Smith commented that the Borough generally did not purchase replacement trucks until existing vehicles were approaching failure or could no longer serve their purpose.

Manager Hegele agreed and praised Public Works employees for maintaining equipment carefully, resulting in vehicles remaining useful for 20 years or more. She noted that Borough vehicles, including trash trucks, were regularly cleaned and maintained.

Mr. Blickley clarified that he was not questioning employees' maintenance efforts but continued to stress the importance of planning for each vehicle's eventual replacement.

Manager Hegele reiterated that some vehicles were used for many years and reassigned where appropriate. She stated that replacement of the trash truck was a future need, not an immediate 2027 requirement, and that the Borough was accumulating refuse-fee funds to help pay for it. She likewise indicated that the recycling truck was a later-year need and that the Borough would seek DEP recycling grants as it had done for earlier trucks.

Manager Hegele indicated that the Fire Marshal vehicle was a good example, it was a used police car with 250,000 miles on it before the vehicle she has now was purchased with 70,000 miles on it, so the Borough does circulate out vehicles as much as possible.

Sue Shannon 5 Edward Road- Ms. Shannon asked whether the Borough had recently confirmed that DEP continued to fund recycling trucks. Ms. Shannon said earlier conversations with DEP had suggested that the relevant grant program was focusing more on food waste.

Manager Hegele replied that staff remained in regular contact with DEP regarding the Borough's recycling program and that recycling vehicles continued to be considered for relevant grants. She mentioned that an older Borough recycling truck had previously been sold to another municipality after replacement.

Manager Hegele reviewed the tentative 2027 Public Works priorities: ongoing paving, a pickup truck, a small dump truck, and consideration of a stump grinder. She stated that the newly grant-funded street sweeper had been moved into the current-year plan; some safety items would shift to operating expenses; and the intersection improvement would be revised or moved to street maintenance. She explained that a stump grinder was estimated at approximately \$15,000 and would reduce the need to hire contractors when the Borough removed large tree stumps.

Council President Reichner asked how much the Borough usually paid to hire a stump-removal contractor.

Manager Hegele stated that the cost depended on stump size and that contracted removal could range from approximately \$250 to nearly \$1,000. Smaller stumps could sometimes be handled by Borough personnel.

Council President Reichner suggested moving the grinder from 2027 to 2028 because the existing contractor costs appeared manageable relative to the purchase price.

Manager Hegele agreed that the grinder could be deferred.

CAPITAL BUDGET BOROUGH HALL DISCUSSION: Manager Hegele reported that both Borough Hall restrooms needed improvements and suggested funding at least one restroom renovation in 2027. She said Public Works could likely perform much of the work in-house, reducing the cost primarily to materials. She also identified the Borough Hall roof as needing attention and recommended that Council consider it among the nearer-term building priorities. Manager Hegele reiterated that the Borough Hall windows were candidates for a grant application. She also raised concerns about the quality of sound during meetings and the Borough's ability to televise or broadcast proceedings. She noted that the room had been rearranged because attendees in the back previously had difficulty hearing and recommended that sound and meeting-video improvements remain in the 2027 plan. Manager Hegele stated that the Borough continued to need a program to digitize older records. She recommended again pursuing a grant through the State Museum Commission to support that work. She explained that staff were increasingly storing and managing records electronically but that a larger digitization effort had not yet been completed. She also reviewed the copier and existing computer lease obligations, noting that the computers included several Public Works workstations.

Councilwoman Jacobus questioned a much higher computer expense displayed in a future-year column, asking why it increased so significantly.

Manager Hegele initially referred to rising computer prices but then recognized that the larger figure in the 2029 column was incorrect. Manager Hegele identified exterior stucco and painting as future needs but said those projects could be delayed. Because Borough Hall is a historic building, the work would require a qualified historic-building contractor rather than ordinary Public Works maintenance.

Council President Reichner asked whether the clock tower or bell tower would interfere with replacing the roof.

Manager Hegele stated that the available report indicated the tower work should not affect the roof project.

Councilwoman Shay asked whether grant money was typically available for roof replacement.

Manager Hegele replied that roof replacement generally did not qualify for grants of the type being discussed. She also noted a standard postage-machine lease and a longer-term need to replace Borough Hall's elevator, which was no longer in service. She explained that the upper floor was not open to the public and stated that keeping public activity on the accessible lower level allowed the building to continue functioning without an elevator under the current circumstances.

Councilwoman Jacobus commented that the elevator situation appeared likely to remain unchanged for the foreseeable future.

Councilman Smith asked whether the proposed elevator cost represented a full replacement or repair of components.

Manager Hegele confirmed that the elevator would require complete replacement.

Councilman Smith returned to the restroom work and asked which restroom was in worse condition, suggesting that greater use of the women's restroom might justify moving it ahead of the men's restroom.

Manager Hegele indicated that she would discuss the issue with Public Works before selecting the order of repairs. She noted that the men's restroom had serious plumbing concerns and that the building's older pipes could make it necessary to address that restroom first.

Council President Reichner asked whether microphones and video equipment had already been upgraded during earlier improvements to the meeting room.

Assistant Secretary Derenzis confirmed that some audio and video improvements had been completed around 2019–2020 but explained that the work had represented only an initial phase of a broader plan. Additional expansion, including possible community-channel and online-broadcast capabilities, had been contemplated for later work.

Manager Hegele reiterated her recommendation to improve the room's sound system and provide meeting television or streaming capability, noting that many other municipalities already offered such access.

CAPITAL BUDGET STORMWATER DISCUSSION: Manager Hegele explained that staff had included an allowance of \$400,000 over five years, or \$80,000 annually, for miscellaneous stormwater problems that arise throughout the Borough. She cited ongoing concerns on Springdale and Lincoln, and a problem addressed on Jacksonville earlier in the year. She hoped Council would consider setting aside a consistent amount rather than having to find funding only after problems developed.

Council President Reichner remarked that these recurring needs illustrated why she had repeatedly raised stormwater funding during the earlier grant discussions.

Manager Hegele pointed to a separate placeholder for future MS4 unfunded mandates. She explained that the Borough did not yet know what new requirements the Commonwealth would impose or how much compliance might cost. She added that the capital document included multiple stormwater projects and grant requests, some funded and others not, to preserve a record of issues raised by residents and keep them available for consideration when funding opportunities arose.

Council President Reichner asked whether partnering with neighboring municipalities on stormwater projects could improve grant competitiveness. She specifically mentioned the Little League area and projects near municipal boundaries, where improved stormwater conditions might benefit both Hatboro and an adjoining township.

Manager Hegele said she could contact officials in Horsham Township about the Little League issue, although the property under discussion was located in Horsham. She noted that joint applications and letters of support from neighboring municipalities were often viewed favorably and cited an earlier instance in which Hatboro supported an Upper Moreland application for a project near the Borough line. She said staff would review existing unpursued grant opportunities and their deadlines.

Council President Reichner suggested prioritizing projects with the strongest possibilities for municipal collaboration, including the Little League property and Pennypack Creek corridor. She said cooperative applications involving Horsham or Upper Moreland might have a better chance of obtaining funding.

Manager Hegele agreed that stormwater would remain a continuing concern. She cited a recent resident report of flooding behind Eaton Park as an example of a problem that might not be visible unless someone lived adjacent to the affected area. She emphasized that listing such matters in the capital document would help staff track them and respond when appropriate grants were available. She reminded Council that future applications would still require its authorization.

Councilman Myers mentioned PennVEST as another possible way to fund stormwater work, suggesting that multiple projects might be considered together.

CAPITAL BUDGET PENNYPACK DISCUSSION: Manager Hegele explained that Pennypack had been separated into its own capital worksheet after Council's June workshop. She identified a range of facility needs, including roof replacement, repairs or replacement of the main restrooms near the gym, air conditioning, potential solar improvements, and other maintenance. She noted that Pennypack had received new heating equipment but remained without air conditioning. Manager Hegele reported that an earlier water-line problem had prompted consideration of paying Aqua to relocate Pennypack's water connection to the front of the facility rather than running through nearby residential backyards toward Lehman Avenue. Because the utility was expected to replace water mains in the neighborhood during 2027, she recommended moving the connection project into the 2027 column. Manager Hegele also described floodproofing measures, including flood-resistant doors at vulnerable entrances, which might be grant-eligible. She explained that staff currently prepared sandbags when water levels threatened the building but had not needed to use them during the current year. She identified minor repairs to the modular building as deferrable. She suggested removing parking-lot striping from capital because Public Works was expected to handle it as regular maintenance, possibly during the current year. Manager Hegele stated that Pennypack had received a PECO-related grant for LED lighting upgrades and that staff needed to complete the project.

Council President Reichner asked whether air conditioning at Pennypack could qualify for additional grant funding or reimbursement if the building served as a community cooling or warming center.

Manager Hegele explained that emergency-support organizations or the County might provide supplies such as water during a cooling-center operation but would not ordinarily reimburse the Borough for providing the space. She said the Borough could potentially seek PECO energy-efficiency rebates for air conditioning, as it had pursued rebates for the new heating equipment. Manager Hegele also identified possible expansion of meadow areas and the addition of trails in the Pennypack outdoor plan. She noted that meadow projects could support stormwater management and that earlier outdoor-planning discussions had contemplated trails near

soccer fields and a connection toward Spring Avenue. She said these were longer-term possibilities rather than projects requiring immediate 2027 expenditures.

Councilwoman Hendrickson asked what repairs were needed to the art-room floor.

Manager Hegele stated that the former school district had kept a kiln in a rear corner of the room and that the floor now sloped significantly there. She explained that the Borough's insurance provider wanted the condition corrected.

Councilman Myers suggested that expanding the meadow and adjusting soccer-field use could create an opportunity for a wetland or basin that would address stormwater concerns, potentially making the project eligible for a grant.

Manager Hegele agreed that a meadow or related stormwater project might qualify for grant funding. She reiterated that staff had incorporated projects from the outdoor plan into the capital document for future consideration. She said the art-room floor, however, needed attention in 2027 because the insurer was expected to reinspect the facility and would want evidence of repairs.

Council President Reichner asked whether Public Works could repair the art-room floor.

Manager Hegele stated that Public Works personnel were expected to be able to repair the art-room floor and related flooring in the hallway.

Council President Reichner stated that she did not want the Borough to complete meadow expansions intended to earn MS4 stormwater credits before the next permit requirements were known. She preferred to wait so that eligible work could be incorporated into the new permit period.

Manager Hegele agreed that waiting for clarification of new MS4 mandates could be beneficial, especially given the Borough's limited available credits.

Councilman Myers questioned the practicality of a solar project at Pennypack, given the roof and tree-cover conditions.

Manager Hegele explained that solar had been kept in the document for transparency and that she had received conflicting professional opinions about whether surrounding trees made the project feasible.

Manager Hegele returned to the question of whether Council wanted staff to pursue an LSA application for Pennypack air conditioning.

Council President Reichner reviewed the projects being discussed for LSA grants, including the fire truck, Borough Hall windows, and possible Public Works solar work.

Councilman Myers proposed placing Pennypack air conditioning ahead of the Public Works energy-efficiency project if Council were limiting itself to three applications.

Councilwoman Shay asked that the vehicle application also remain under consideration. She recalled the possibility of substituting a small dump truck if a trash truck proved ineligible, and she sought to confirm the list of possible projects.

Council President Reichner restated the tentative group of applications as a fire truck, Borough Hall windows, Pennypack air conditioning, and a trash truck or dump truck depending on eligibility.

Councilwoman Shay suggested continuing through the remaining capital needs before closing the list in case another higher-priority project arose.

Manager Hegele strongly recommended keeping the fire truck on the list regardless of other projects because the need had been recognized for several years.

Councilwoman Jacobus asked the age of the newest Enterprise Fire Company apparatus.

Fire Marshal Valesky responded that the newest fire truck was from 2010.

CAPITAL BUDGET SECOND ALARMERS DISCUSSION: Manager Hegele reported that Second Alarmers had no major capital request in the current worksheet. She acknowledged that its representative, Ken, was present for questions. She explained that recent facility needs had been addressed through the operating budget or by Borough Public Works personnel, who had extended the service life of existing equipment.

Chief Davidson stated that the facility had completed substantial improvements during the year and did not have a significant remaining capital request. He noted that the garage-door problem continued to be discussed with a vendor but did not anticipate a large expenditure. Chief Davidson explained that the garage-door opener had been replaced several years earlier and that the door itself was subsequently replaced. He said the door had since begun slowly lowering after being raised and that different garage-door companies disagreed about whether the existing opener was adequate. Because the descending door sometimes caused the ambulance to contact it while backing, additional panels had been purchased as replacements.

CAPITAL BUDGET CRESSBROOK, POOL, & PARKS DISCUSSION: Manager Hegele explained that the worksheet for the Cressbrook property, house, and tannery was largely blank because discussions regarding a potential lease with Millbrook were not finalized. She said the worksheet would remain a work in progress. She noted that the Cressbrook barn and associated restrooms were included under Parks and Recreation because the Borough used the facilities.

Manager Hegele then reviewed major pool needs. She identified continuing maintenance and replacement of pool equipment, including probes and a filtration system, and stated that certain smaller components could be paid from pool operating proceeds rather than through capital funding. She described the pool bathhouse as requiring significant improvement. She also warned that growing attendance placed additional demands on the aging filtration system and credited Foreman Young with keeping it operational. Manager Hegele said the already grant-funded replacement slide would return to Council for consideration after the Borough received the necessary grant documents and updated vendor information. She identified 2029 as an estimated year for pool liner replacement and 2030 for the cover. Manager Hegele recommended pursuing another feasibility study before making major pool investments. She explained that a previous feasibility-study grant or award had not resulted in a completed study within the required period.

Council President Reichner expressed concern that completing a feasibility study could identify required pool upgrades that the Borough would then have to undertake.

Manager Hegele stated that feasibility studies were generally usable for a limited period, approximately two years, and suggested that a 2027 application might support work during 2028 and 2029. She maintained that obtaining an updated evaluation would be helpful before pursuing major pool renovations.

Council President Reichner asked whether Council needed to vote on the feasibility study that evening.

Manager Hegele replied that it did not because the applicable grant opportunity was not yet open. She also stated that the eyewash station identified for the pool would be moved out of capital and that a Pennypack lighting item duplicated elsewhere in the workbook should be removed.

Manager Hegele explained that the ADA playground grant for Memorial Park remained in the capital plan because the grant was available through 2030.

President Reichner asked what was preventing the ADA playground project from moving forward and why it had not yet been undertaken.

Manager Hegele explained that the Borough lacked sufficient funding for its portion of the project.

Council President Reichner asked whether the funding required a match and how much the Borough would be responsible for contributing.

Manager Hegele asked whether Councilman Myers recalled the original matching requirement, explaining that the grant had been obtained several years earlier and that she did not recall the figure precisely.

Councilman Myers stated that the original playground grant dated to around 2019 and that the previous cost estimate was now substantially outdated. He warned that the grant amount would likely pay for only part of the necessary site preparation or play-surface material at current prices.

Manager Hegele added that the HUD-funded project would require additional engineering and site studies.

Council President Reichner asked whether the Borough had already spent money on engineering and expressed concern that additional studies and new estimates could increase the Borough's contribution despite the 2030 grant deadline.

Manager Hegele explained that HUD imposed specific requirements beyond preliminary engineering work and that the Borough would need to determine the allowable project scope.

Councilman Myers added that the project would have to account for the floodplain and site constraints.

Council President Reichner asked whether the Borough could use the existing grant to complete only essential or foundational portions of the playground and then add to the project as future grants became available, rather than losing the existing funding.

Manager Hegele stated that the Borough would need approval from HUD before changing the project scope. She said staff could contact the Borough's designated HUD representative to learn whether a phased approach would be permitted and warned that the grant requirements could limit stopping and restarting a project.

Councilman Myers suggested updating the project pricing and approaching Representative Dean for additional federal support sufficient to cover the increased cost.

Manager Hegele agreed that staff could investigate that possibility as well.

Council President Reichner stated that she did not want to return the playground grant and was open to either approach if it would allow the Borough to move forward.

Councilman Myers said the existing concept and estimates could be updated and suggested that a new authorization might be required to request additional funding.

Manager Hegele stated that updated pricing would be useful regardless of the funding approach. She noted that a resident had recently requested additional improvements at Memorial Park, making this an appropriate time to examine related play structures and needs.

Council President Reichner asked whether existing play equipment could be replaced on a like-for-like basis or whether additional restrictions applied.

Manager Hegele stated that she would review the grant agreement and applicable requirements before giving a definitive answer.

Manager Hegele reported that the Cressbrook barn and restroom facilities were currently in good working order and did not require capital funding. She then identified repairs or replacement of the basketball courts at Eaton Park as a concern raised by the Borough's insurer. She stated that the worksheet carried an estimate of approximately \$50,000 for replacement, but that staff would investigate whether repairs or paving could be combined with other scheduled contractor work.

President Reichner stated that the basketball courts should remain a priority because they were used frequently and were an important park amenity.

Manager Hegele agreed and recalled that the Borough had previously explored adding court paving to a street-paving contract. She suggested looking for similar efficiencies, possibly with contractors already performing nearby work for a bridge project.

Manager Hegele also raised the need to make the footbridge connecting areas of Memorial Park accessible under ADA standards. She stated that specialized work would require outside contracting rather than ordinary Public Works repairs. She explained that the proposed accessible footbridge would be especially important if the Borough proceeded with an ADA playground, allowing families and visitors to reach the pool and park amenities using an accessible route.

Council President Reichner expressed support for improved accessible access and asked whether grant funding might be available.

Manager Hegele said ADA improvements carried additional technical requirements but suggested speaking with Representative Dean about including access work in a larger funding request.

Manager Hegele described a longer-term proposal for trails through Memorial Park to connect parking along West Monument Avenue with the pool. She noted that the work could potentially be grant-funded but that floodplain requirements and other design logistics would need review. She explained that the projected cost was an older estimate requiring updating.

Manager Hegele then identified the need for a post-and-rail fence at Tanner Park to help prevent children from moving directly from the park into surrounding streets. She suggested that the fencing might be completed by Public Works in 2027 using regular parks funds.

Council President Reichner asked whether Tanner Park's earlier play-area improvements had been funded through an Elm Street grant.

Manager Hegele confirmed that the earlier Tanner Park work had been grant-funded. She stated that the equipment remained in good condition and had passed the insurer's inspection.

CAPITAL BUDGET FIRE MARSHAL DISCUSSION: Manager Hegele reported that the Fire Marshal needed Borough-provided protective gear. She explained that the Fire Marshal was still using gear loaned by another fire company. She noted that the arrangement had continued for approximately three years and stated that the Borough should provide equipment necessary for the position rather than continue relying on another organization. Manager Hegele said she hoped to identify unspent current-year funds to purchase the gear before year-end.

Manager Hegele clarified that the Fire Marshal's replacement portable and mobile radios were already included in the larger radio-replacement program being coordinated through the Police Department and would not require separate duplication in the Fire Marshal capital line.

Councilwoman Shay asked for confirmation that the separate radio line would be removed.

Manager Hegele confirmed that the duplicate entry would be removed while retaining enough information for Council to understand the full cost of operating the department. She reiterated her intention to obtain replacement protective gear during the current year if funding permitted so that the borrowed equipment could be returned.

CAPITAL BUDGET EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION: Manager Hegele explained that the Emergency Management radio needs would partly be included in the Borough-wide radio replacement initiative. However, she said the 500 radios were not expected to be covered by the County's primary radio purchase. She explained that those radios served as a secondary communications method when County radio traffic was restricted or prioritized during major incidents, allowing police, fire, EMS, and dispatch personnel to communicate. She reported that Chief Ruge and the Fire Marshal were investigating prices.

Manager Hegele noted that emergency barricades had already received grant funding and that the capital worksheet would be updated accordingly. She then recommended identifying or equipping a secondary Emergency Operations Center (EOC). She explained that the principal EOC was located at the Police Department. Borough Hall had traditionally been the backup location but could become inaccessible during flooding, and Pennypack was likewise vulnerable to floodwaters.

Councilwoman Jacobus asked whether the Public Works facility could serve as the secondary EOC.

Fire Marshal Valesky suggested that either Public Works or Enterprise Fire Company could be considered. She noted that the Fire Company was staffed during significant emergencies and already had a radio room, making it potentially easier to maintain an operational communications point there. She explained that Public Works might not be continuously staffed during an emergency.

Manager Hegele said that once staff obtained equipment prices and identified suitable arrangements, Council could decide whether the secondary EOC needs could be addressed through the regular Emergency Management operating budget. She stated that more details would be brought forward during the annual operating-budget discussions.

Manager Hegele summarized the directions received during the workshop and stated that staff would review the proposed grant applications, revise project years and cost estimates, examine possible funding sources, and return with updated information for Council's October meeting. She emphasized that applications would require formal Council authorization and accompanying resolutions rather than being submitted solely on the basis of discussion that evening. Manager Hegele stated that staff would attempt to post the revised capital-budget material, together with the June and September presentation slides, on the Borough's website after making the necessary corrections and funding adjustments. She cautioned that the Borough was short staffed, was in the midst of budget preparation, and was also responding to numerous Right-to-Know requests, so she could not promise immediate publication. She said the Borough would issue a public announcement when the material became available.

Council President Reichner announced a five-minute recess.

2027 BUDGET UPDATE: Manager Hegele stated that council needs to discuss and decide a date for the 2027 Operating Budget Workshop. After discussion Council decided to hold the workshop on October 21st at 6:00 PM.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EVENTS COMMITTEE (MCCUEN/HENDRICKSON):

UPCOMING EVENTS: Councilwoman McCuen announced the following events taking place in October 2026:

Upcoming Events: The following events are taking place over the next month:

- Hands Only CPR for Seniors will be taking place on Wednesday, September 30th from 10 AM to 11 AM at Borough Hall. Attendees will learn valuable lifesaving techniques.
- Road to Happiness and Understanding Depression: Join the Borough of Hatboro on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 10 AM for a special senior event: Road to Happiness and Understanding Depression hosted by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. This event will take place at Borough Hall, 414 S. York Road, Hatboro, PA 19040. Depression is a medical condition that affects many older adults, but depression is not a normal part of growing older. This presentation examines factors that put older adults at an increased risk of depression, explains how to detect depressive symptoms, and reveals methods that help those affected begin to feel like themselves again.
- Tai Chi for Seniors: Join the Borough of Hatboro and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services for the Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention every Wednesday from October 7th to December 2nd. The class will begin at 1:00 PM on each day of the program. Each class will be taking place at the Pennypack Community Center, 130 Spring Avenue, Hatboro, PA 19040. Please note, there will not be class on November 11, 2026, due to Veterans Day. Registration for this class is required. Due to equipment and space limitations, walk-ins are not guaranteed a space. Please call Borough Hall at 215-443-9100 to register.
- Chair Yoga: Join Nourishing Storm for Chair Yoga for Seniors on Wednesday, October 14th from 10 AM to 11 AM at Borough Hall.
- Senior Bingo: Senior Bingo will be taking place on Wednesday, October 21st at 10 AM at Borough Hall.
- Senior Event – Pumpkin Craft: Join the Borough of Hatboro Wednesday, October 28th at 10 AM for a special fall themed senior craft. During this craft day, attendees will be making pumpkin lanterns. Space is limited. Please call Borough Hall at 215-443-9100 to register.
- Skeleton Skurry: The Hatboro Chamber of Commerce is hosting the annual Skeleton Skurry 5K/Walk on October 31, 2026, from 8 AM to 12 PM at the Pennypack Community Center, 130 Spring Avenue, Hatboro, PA 19040. Please stay tuned for information on registration!
- Halloween Stroll: The Hatboro Chamber of Commerce is hosting the annual Halloween Stroll on October 31, 2026, from 2 PM – 4 PM on York Road! Children are welcome to attend this free event in their Halloween costumes to trick or treat at local businesses.

NEW BUSINESSES: Councilwoman McCuen announced that Cocomon World located at 124 S. York Road has opened for business in September. She stated that Cocomon World specializes in trading card and collectible sales and offers a wide variety of toys, action figures, and Pokémon cards.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST: HAT PACKS COSTUME GIVEAWAY: Councilwoman McCuen stated that Borough Council is in receipt of a Special Event Request for the HAT Packs Costume Giveaway on October 17, 2026, from 12 PM to 4 PM. Councilwoman McCuen stated that this item is included on the voting meeting agenda for consideration.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST: BLOOD DRIVE: Councilwoman McCuen stated that Borough Council is in receipt of a Special Event Request for the Battle of The Badges Blood Drive on January 12, 2027. Councilwoman McCuen stated that this item is included on the voting meeting agenda for consideration.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST: OCTOBER CRUISE NIGHT: Councilwoman McCuen stated that Borough Council is in receipt of a Special Event Request for an October Cruise Night on October 16, 2026. Councilwoman McCuen stated that this item is included on the voting meeting agenda for consideration.

COMMUNITY SURVEY UPDATE: Councilwoman McCuen stated the Borough had recently launched a community survey to obtain public input regarding Borough priorities. Residents and other interested individuals were encouraged to complete the survey through the Borough's website or Facebook page. The responses would be considered in future Borough planning and decision-making.

Gary Blickley 46 Harding Avenue- Mr. Blickley questioned when the survey would close, stating that they had not seen a closing date included with the survey information.

President Reichner believed it was October closing date but could not provide a specific date.

Manager Hegele stated she would look up the survey.

President Reichner reported that the survey had already received more than 300 responses and expressed satisfaction with the level of participation.

Marianne Reymer 120 Summit Avenue- Ms. Reymer raised concern regarding the accuracy of the survey results. She reported that the survey did not prevent individuals from submitting multiple responses and stated that she had personally completed it three times. She questioned whether repeated submissions could influence the results.

Councilwoman Jacobus acknowledged that the information was useful to know.

Ms. Reymer reiterated that respondents were not prevented from completing the survey multiple times and expressed concern that the results could be distorted if other individuals also submitted repeated responses.

Manager Hegele stated on the Borough's end identifying information could possibly be reviewed to eliminate some of the duplicate feedback, but she would have to check.

Mr. Blickley raised an additional concern that the survey was not restricted to Borough residents.

President Reichner explained that the survey was intentionally available to nonresidents because the Borough also wanted to obtain input from business owners and individuals who visit Hatboro to shop or conduct business.

Mr. Blickley stated that they had understood the survey to be intended to help determine how the Borough would spend tax revenue.

President Reichner clarified that the survey was primarily intended to guide decisions involving Business Privilege Tax revenue and initiatives associated with Main Street. She explained that Business Privilege Tax revenue had been used to support the Main Street grant during the current year. The Borough wanted public input regarding whether future funding should continue supporting similar efforts, including obtaining professional assistance, or whether the funds should instead be directed toward specific projects. President Reichner emphasized that the survey was primarily related to funds collected from businesses rather than general residential property tax revenue. For that reason, she believed it was appropriate to include business owners, visitors, and shoppers in the survey process.

Merrie Keller 110 W. Monument Avenue- Ms. Keller asked whether the Borough had been able to use the results of a previous community survey and whether those responses had influenced any actual decisions.

President Reichner referenced a survey conducted approximately four or five years earlier regarding the Pennypack property. She explained that the prior survey helped identify community preferences and priorities for the property. For example, community interest in soccer contributed to the Borough's decision to continue allowing soccer activities at Pennypack. President Reichner further stated that residents had expressed interest in trails, which remained under consideration as part of the Borough's capital planning. She also referenced stormwater-related projects as another area of consideration.

PENNYPACK COMMITTEE REPORT: Councilwoman McCuen reported that the Pennypack Committee continues to meet monthly and has begun planning events for 2027. The committee is reviewing its sponsorship documents to expand sponsorship opportunities beyond individual events and encourage financial support for the Pennypack Community Center as a whole. She explained that the Pennypack Committee consists of community volunteers rather than formally appointed members. The committee organizes events and activities intended to benefit the Pennypack Community Center and the Borough. Upcoming activities being planned include a line dancing event previously approved by Council and the annual hat drop event. The council member encouraged interested residents to participate in the committee, noting that meetings are held monthly via Zoom and that individuals can contribute to event planning without attending meetings in person.

Abby Laurich 110 N. Linden Avenue- Ms. Laurich questioned whether joining the Pennypack Committee would entitle them to a complimentary pool membership. She stated she had been informed that multiple individuals had received free pool memberships in exchange for serving on the committee and questioned whether the benefit was available to everyone.

President Reichner acknowledged that complimentary pool memberships had been offered in the past to individuals who volunteered at a certain number of events.

Manager Hegele stated that the Borough was working on establishing a formal policy to address the practice.

President Reichner further explained that the previous arrangement required individuals to volunteer at a specified number of events to qualify for a complimentary pool membership. The incentive had been intended to encourage committee participation and obtain volunteers to assist with organizing and operating community events.

Ms. Laurich asked whether the benefit had been available to members of every Borough committee or exclusively to members of the Pennypack Committee.

President Reichner stated that the Borough had not yet established the standards that would govern complimentary memberships for the 2027 pool season. She explained that the matter would be addressed through a formal policy. President Reichner explained that the matter would be discussed publicly through the Administration Committee as part of the Borough's policy review. She stated that the practice had existed prior to her assuming the position of Council President and that she had not initially been aware that complimentary memberships were being provided. When the issue arose during the current year, some individuals had already received the benefit in previous years. President Reichner explained that, because no formal policy prohibited the practice, the Borough continued the arrangement for the current season. She emphasized that she wanted a clearly established policy in place before the next pool season to prevent the continued distribution of complimentary memberships without consistent guidelines.

Councilwoman Jacobus expressed concern that individuals might join the committee solely to obtain a free pool membership rather than to participate meaningfully in volunteer activities.

President Reichner agreed and noted that the Borough also needed to generate revenue from pool memberships.

Ms. Laurich pointed out that a pool membership represented a significant financial benefit, estimating its value at nearly \$500.

President Reichner reiterated that the Borough needed membership revenue to support pool operations and expenses. She acknowledged that providing pool memberships for raffles, gift baskets, and other community fundraising activities could be an appropriate way to support community organizations.

Ms. Laurich stated that the primary concern was not simply the existence of complimentary memberships but the apparent inconsistency in how they were awarded. She questioned why some individuals reportedly received the benefit while others did not and characterized the practice as lacking transparency.

President Reichner acknowledged the concern and agreed that a formal written policy was necessary. She stated that the future policy would clearly define the eligibility requirements and circumstances under which complimentary memberships could be provided.

Marianne Reymer 120 Summit Avenue- Ms. Reymer asked whether the matter would be resolved before the 2027 pool season.

President Reichner stated that the policy would be addressed in conjunction with the Borough's fee schedule so that the appropriate requirements and fees could be established effective January 1, 2027.

Ms. Reymer expressed concern with the practice from the perspective of a senior taxpayer. She referenced the recent Borough tax increase and stated that she did not support taxpayer funds effectively subsidizing complimentary pool memberships for other residents.

President Reichner acknowledged Ms. Reymer's concerns and indicated that she agreed with the need to address the issue.

Gary Blickley 46 Harding Avenue- Mr. Blickley raised broader concerns regarding transparency involving the Pennypack Committee and its activities. He stated that there was limited publicly available information regarding the committee, its operations, and the way decisions were made. He questioned whether the Borough

intended to improve transparency regarding the Pennypack Committee as a whole, beyond the specific issue of complimentary pool memberships.

Councilwoman McCuen asked Gary to identify a specific concern or question regarding the committee.

Mr. Blickley noted that the committee conducted its meetings via Zoom and that meeting minutes were not publicly available.

Councilwoman McCuen explained that the Pennypack Committee was not an official Borough committee consisting of appointed members. Rather, it was a volunteer group responsible for planning community events. As such, the council member stated that the committee was not subject to the same formal meeting requirements as appointed Borough boards and commissions.

Mr. Blickley questioned whether the committee was spending taxpayer funds.

Councilwoman McCuen responded that the committee's activities were funded entirely through sponsorships and fundraising rather than taxpayer funds.

Ms. Laurich challenged that explanation by referring to the complimentary pool memberships. She questioned whether providing three free pool memberships constituted the use of taxpayer-supported resources.

Mr. Blickley asked how many complimentary pool memberships had been distributed during the current year.

President Reichner indicated that the exact number was not immediately available but could be obtained and provided. She further acknowledged that the complimentary membership practice was being addressed and that the arrangement had originated prior to the current administration's review of the issue.

Solicitor Geiser requested that Council resume order of business.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (SHAY/JACOBUS)

HOUGH AND ASSOCIATES CONTRACT: Councilwoman Shay presented information regarding the Borough's existing contract with Hough and Associates, which is scheduled to expire at the end of 2026. She explained that Hough and Associates is responsible for preparing and submitting the Borough's annual Act 904 Recycling Performance Grant application to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Councilwoman Shay noted that preparing the annual grant applications requires a considerable amount of time and administrative work, as the Borough must collect refuse and recycling information from all properties within its boundaries. This includes properties served by private waste collection companies that do not participate in the Borough's municipal trash collection program. The proposed contract with Hough and Associates would cost \$5,000 annually and cover the 2026, 2027, and 2028 grant cycles. Because grant applications are submitted during the calendar year following the applicable reporting year, the contract would cover services performed during calendar years 2027 through 2029. Councilwoman Shay stated that this item is included on the voting meeting agenda for consideration.

RATIFICATION OF 2026 ROAD PAVING CHANGE ORDER #1: Councilwoman Shay presented Change Order No. 1 for the Borough's 2026 Road Paving Program, referencing a memorandum prepared by Borough Engineer McNair and included in Council's meeting packet. She explained that certain curb ramps originally included in the paving project were determined to be ineligible for PennDOT Liquid Fuels funding because they could not be constructed in full compliance with applicable accessibility standards due to existing roadway

and sidewalk slopes. The affected locations included the intersections of Wood Street and East Montgomery Avenue, Abbotts Lane and West Montgomery Avenue, and Broad Street and Moreland Avenue. Councilwoman Shay explained that the proposed change order would remove four curb ramps and associated intersection paving work at Wood Street and East Montgomery Avenue and Abbotts Lane and West Montgomery Avenue from the original contract. The proposed change order would reduce the original contract amount of approximately \$231,431.09 by \$42,395.80, resulting in a revised contract amount of approximately \$189,035.29. Additionally, Gilmore proposed using separate Borough funds to construct two curb ramps at the intersection of Broad Street and Moreland Avenue. The amount referenced for this work was approximately \$8,833.20. Councilwoman Shay stated that this item is included on the voting meeting agenda for consideration.

2026-2027 ROCK SALT CONTRACT AWARD: Councilwoman Shay reported that the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities had conducted its annual competitive bidding process for rock salt for the 2026–2027 winter season. Morton Salt was identified as the lowest responsible bidder, with a price of \$73.44 per ton delivered and \$73.00 per ton for salt that was not delivered. Councilwoman Shay explained that the Consortium was requesting each participating municipality to formally approve the contract award at a public meeting and adopt a resolution memorializing the award. Councilwoman Shay stated that this item is included on the voting meeting agenda for consideration.

Councilman Smith questioned whether the roads affected by the proposed change order had originally been included in the Borough's 2026 Road Paving Program. He sought clarification regarding whether the change order meant that those roads would no longer be paved.

President Reichner clarified that the affected roads would still be paved as originally planned. She explained that the change order only eliminated certain curb ramp improvements because the ramps did not meet the requirements necessary to qualify for Liquid Fuels funding. President Reichner further explained that the curb ramps at Broad Street and Moreland Avenue would still be constructed, but the Borough would use its own funds rather than Liquid Fuels funding to complete that work. She noted that Broad Street and Moreland Avenue is a heavily traveled intersection and that the Borough wanted to improve accessibility at that location.

Councilman Smith asked whether the funds saved through the change order could be redirected toward paving another roadway.

President Reichner responded that the unused funds could be retained for the following year's paving program.

Manager Hegele explained that there was insufficient time remaining in the paving season to prepare bid documents, advertise, receive bids, and undertake additional paving work during the current year.

Councilman Smith clarified that his primary concern was whether the Borough would lose the unused funds if they were not spent during the current year.

Manager Hegele confirmed that unused money in the Borough's Highway Aid Fund would remain in the fund and carry forward for use on eligible projects in future years.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & PARKS (MYERS/SMITH)

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & PARKS UPDATE: Councilman Myers reported that neither the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) nor the Shade Tree Commission had met during the current month. As a result, there were no formal reports from either group. He announced that the Environmental Advisory

Council was scheduled to meet on October 5, 2026, at Borough Hall and that the Shade Tree Commission was scheduled to meet on October 21, 2026, at Borough Hall. Councilman Myers reported that the Birdtown Committee had met and discussed upcoming Borough events and opportunities for committee participation. He explained that the committee would be conducting activities involving the preparation of suet and would relocate its October 28 meeting to the Pennypack Community Center to avoid potentially damaging the carpeting in the Council Room. He also announced that the committee's next meeting was scheduled for September 30 at Borough Hall.

President Reichner questioned whether the Shade Tree Commission would need to reschedule its October 21 meeting because the Borough Council budget meeting was scheduled for the same date.

Manager Hegele confirmed that a scheduling adjustment might be necessary. She explained that the Shade Tree Commission had experienced difficulty obtaining a quorum and might not need to meet. She stated that Borough staff would contact the commission to determine whether its meeting would be held or rescheduled.

Councilman Myers announced that the Hatboro Story Walk at Miller Meadow featured a new book for the month, *Pete the Cat: Falling for Autumn*, by James and Kimberly Dean. He provided a brief overview of the story, explaining that the main character initially feels disappointed that summer has ended but, with encouragement from his mother, discovers activities and experiences that make autumn enjoyable.

Councilman Myers reported that the 2026 Memorial Pool season had concluded. He thanked pool members and guests for their participation throughout the summer. He also expressed appreciation to pool staff, the management team, Borough employees, and the Public Works Department for their work and dedication during the season.

Councilman Myers explained that the Borough highlights a local park or recreational facility each month. He reported that Hatboro Little League had been featured during the preceding month. He stated that Hatboro Little League occupies approximately 16 acres near the intersection of County Line Road and Blair Mill Road in Horsham Township, on property formerly owned by the Hatboro Water Authority. Councilman Myers noted that the league was founded in 1956 and operates as a nonprofit organization supported by volunteers. He highlighted the league's emphasis on teamwork, leadership, fair play, loyalty, and discipline. He encouraged families residing within the league's boundaries to consider registering eligible children. Registration typically begins in January, with practices beginning in March.

Councilman Myers announced that Montgomery County's final household hazardous waste collection event of 2026 was scheduled for Sunday, October 11, at the Lower Merion Transfer Station. He explained that advance appointments were required and directed interested residents to Montgomery County's recycling resources for additional information.

Councilman Myers offered several recommendations for managing fallen leaves during the autumn season. He encouraged residents to consider leaving some leaves in garden beds or beneath shrubs to provide shelter for overwintering insects, including butterflies and moths. He also suggested mulching leaves with a lawnmower or composting them to create natural fertilizer. Councilman Myers emphasized the importance of keeping fallen leaves out of streets, gutters, and storm drains because accumulated leaves can contribute to flooding and negatively affect local waterways. He reminded residents to follow the Borough's leaf collection guidelines and encouraged them to report storm drains blocked by leaves so they could be cleared before heavy rainfall.

Mark Hanisco 120 Summit Avenue- Mr. Hanisco asked Councilman Myers about the household hazardous waste collection event. He explained that he had gasoline he needed to dispose of and had attempted to register for the collection. Mr. Hanisco expressed frustration with the registration process, stating that he believed he was required to install Eventbrite on his telephone and create another account with a username and password. He stated that he was uncomfortable providing his personal information to additional websites and services and felt that the County should provide a simpler registration option. Mr. Hanisco asked whom he could contact to complain about the process and whether Councilman Myers could raise the concern on his behalf.

Councilman Myers agreed to assist and stated that he believed he still had Mr. Hanisco's email address. He offered to investigate whether a telephone number was available so that Mr. Hanisco could register without using the online process.

Mr. Hanisco reiterated that he did not wish to distribute his name or personal information to additional online services.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (HENDRICKSON/MYERS)

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilwoman Hendrickson announced the following meetings:

- September 29, 2026: Parking Commission, 7:00 p.m., Borough Hall.
- September 30, 2026: Birdtown Committee, 7:00 p.m., Borough Hall.
- October 5, 2026: Environmental Advisory Council, 7:00 p.m., Borough Hall.
- October 6, 2026: Historical Commission, 7:00 p.m., Pennypack Community Center.
- October 13, 2026: Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m., Borough Hall.
- October 21, 2026: Shade Tree Commission, subject to confirmation due to a potential scheduling conflict and ongoing quorum concerns.
- October 26, 2026: Borough Committee and Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Borough Hall.
- October 28, 2026: Birdtown Committee, 7:00 p.m., Pennypack Community Center.
- No Zoning Hearing in October

DISCUSSION REGARDING 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE: Councilwoman Hendrickson introduced the discussion regarding the Borough Council meeting schedule, explaining that Councilman Tom Smith had requested that the matter be placed on the September agenda. Councilwoman Hendrickson explained that since May 2025, Borough Council had generally conducted one public meeting per month, scheduled on the third or fourth Monday. Historically, Council had conducted one meeting per month during June, July, and August, while holding two meetings per month during other portions of the year. The decision to transition to one monthly meeting beginning in May 2025 had been made as a cost-saving measure. Councilwoman Hendrickson reported that Borough staff had prepared a spreadsheet comparing the expenses associated with holding one meeting per month versus two. The analysis included staff time and the costs associated with Borough Professionals. According to the information provided, conducting an additional meeting would cost approximately \$1,000 per month. The spreadsheet also compared the amount of time Council spent in meetings

under the previous two-meeting schedule and the current one-meeting schedule. Councilwoman Hendrickson stated that the total meeting hours were relatively similar. It was further noted that other municipalities in the area had also transitioned to one Council meeting per month. Councilwoman Hendrickson explained that Council needed to determine whether to maintain the existing schedule or return to two meetings per month. Any changes would need to be properly advertised.

Councilwoman Hendrickson presented her thoughts. She stated that one meeting per month was insufficient to adequately conduct Borough business. Council members typically received their meeting packets on Friday and were then expected to review the materials and be prepared to vote the following Monday. She explained that, in some instances, the Friday meeting packet represented the first opportunity for council members to review issues originating from committees on which they did not serve. This left limited time to research matters, seek clarification, or formulate questions before a vote. Councilwoman Hendrickson expressed interest in scheduling Borough Council meetings on different weeks from the Hatboro-Horsham School Board meetings. She stated that residents should not be required to choose between attending a Borough Council meeting and a School Board meeting when both bodies make decisions affecting residents, their families, and their tax obligations. She also explained that, as a school district employee, she would personally appreciate the opportunity to attend School Board meetings without a scheduling conflict. Councilwoman Hendrickson proposed returning to two Council meetings per month beginning in January 2027. This would allow the change to be incorporated into the annual meeting schedule and avoid additional advertising expenses associated with changing the schedule during the current year.

Councilman Smith stated that he had previously discussed the meeting schedule with Council President Reichner and Borough management. He proposed a compromise that would combine aspects of the Borough's previous two-meeting schedule with its current one-meeting schedule. Council would continue holding one meeting per month during June, July, and August, as well as November, December, and January. Council would conduct two meetings per month during the remaining six months. Councilman Smith explained that the proposed schedule would result in 18 meetings annually, compared with the current 12 meetings or the 24 meetings that would result from holding two meetings every month. He also proposed that, during months with only one meeting, non-time-sensitive matters could be discussed without immediately proceeding to a vote. Instead, those items could be carried over to the following meeting, providing Council members with time to review the information and formulate questions. For months with two meetings, Council members could raise questions during the first meeting and consider voting on the matters at the second meeting. Councilman Smith described the proposal as a compromise intended to provide additional opportunities for discussion and review while limiting the financial impact of returning to two meetings every month.

President Reichner responded to the concerns regarding the amount of time available for reviewing Council meeting packets. She explained that meeting packets would continue to be distributed on Fridays regardless of whether Council conducted one or two meetings per month. She stated that the Friday distribution schedule had been the Borough's longstanding practice. President Reichner further explained that Borough staff could not reasonably prepare and distribute the packets earlier because of staffing limitations and the amount of work required to compile the information. She also addressed Councilman Smith's suggestion to delay votes on certain items. President Reichner reminded Council that any member could request that a vote be tabled to a subsequent meeting if additional information or time for consideration was necessary. She emphasized that council members were not required to vote on an item if they were uncomfortable proceeding or believed the matter required additional review.

Councilman Smith stated that, based on his observations of previous Councils, matters had rarely been tabled for additional consideration. He explained that, during the approximately five years he had attended Council meetings as an observer, he had witnessed occasions when he believed council members may not have been fully comfortable with or informed about the matters under consideration. Councilman Smith expressed concern that Council had sometimes proceeded with votes despite possible uncertainty or unanswered questions. He acknowledged President Reichner's clarification that Council members could request additional time and stated that this would address part of his concern.

Councilwoman Jacobus noted that it was already approximately 10:09 p.m. and Council was still conducting the committee portion of the meeting. She stated that she was willing to remain at meetings for as long as necessary to conduct Borough business, even if meetings lasted several hours. However, she explained that her employment in healthcare required her to work two out of every four Mondays, which created scheduling difficulties. Councilwoman Jacobus supported changing the Council meeting schedule to avoid conflicts with School Board meetings and stated that, even if Council continued meeting once per month, the meeting date should be moved so it would not fall on the same evening as a School Board meeting. She also expressed concerns regarding the frequency of public comments and interruptions during Council discussions. Councilwoman Jacobus noted that the committee and council agendas already included designated periods for public comment and suggested that public participation should generally be limited to those portions of the meetings. She referenced having presided over a meeting in July while President Reichner was on vacation and stated that she had attempted to follow the established agenda and public comment procedures. Councilwoman Jacobus acknowledged the public's right to address Council but expressed the opinion that allowing comments throughout the meeting contributed to discussions becoming unnecessarily lengthy or moving away from the agenda. She suggested that adhering more closely to the established public comment periods could help reduce meeting length.

Councilman Smith asked whether Borough Council meetings were required to be held on Mondays or whether Council could consider meeting on another day of the week. Councilman Smith explained that his own schedule was relatively flexible and that he would be willing to attend meetings on other evenings if doing so would accommodate council members with employment or personal scheduling conflicts.

Solicitor Geiser clarified that Council could change its meeting day provided that the meetings were properly advertised.

Councilman Smith stated that he was personally flexible regarding meeting dates and that his suggestion was intended to accommodate others. He explained that he had raised the question because Council meetings had traditionally been held on Mondays and he was uncertain whether that schedule was required.

Manager Hegele stated that, during her approximately 30 years of employment with the Borough, Council meetings had generally been scheduled on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, with occasional adjustments during the summer. She explained that changing the meeting day could also benefit Borough employees, as it would allow staff greater flexibility regarding Monday schedules.

Councilwoman Jacobus asked whether changing Council meetings to Wednesdays would still allow the meeting packets to be distributed on Fridays. She suggested that a Wednesday meeting could provide additional time for reviewing the materials.

Mayor Schultz suggested considering Tuesdays as an alternative meeting day.

President Reichner noted that Wednesdays frequently conflicted with school-related activities involving her children.

Councilwoman Jacobus reiterated support for moving Borough Council meetings away from Mondays, stating that a different meeting day would be more convenient.

Councilwoman Shay expressed concern regarding the costs associated with adding Council meetings. She referenced the ongoing discussions about Borough expenditures and stated that Council should remain mindful of the financial implications of increasing the number of meetings. Councilwoman Shay also expressed concern for Borough employees, noting that staff were already working with limited resources and substantial workloads. She questioned whether requiring employees to remain at additional lengthy evening meetings would be appropriate given existing staffing demands. She further stated that some discussions appeared to be prolonged unnecessarily for the purpose of making or reinforcing particular points. Councilwoman Shay indicated that she was willing to support whichever meeting arrangement best balanced the Borough's finances, staff workload, and operational needs.

Councilman Myers agreed with the concerns regarding staff workload. He stated that he did not believe Council should return to two meetings per month during the summer, noting that previous Councils had commonly reduced their meeting frequency during that period. Councilman Myers suggested that Council could consider a compromise involving alternating periods of one and two meetings per month. He also supported exploring a change to Wednesday meetings if doing so would provide additional time for Council members to review their packets. Councilman Myers emphasized that each council member was responsible for reviewing the information provided in advance of meetings and preparing adequately to conduct Borough business.

Councilman Smith explained that he devoted a considerable amount of time to reviewing his meeting packets. He stated that he typically spent approximately four hours reviewing the materials on Friday, additional time on Saturday, and time on Sunday preparing questions or other matters he intended to raise. He acknowledged that this occupied much of his weekend but stated that he accepted that responsibility as part of serving on Council.

Councilman Myers stated that his primary concerns regarding additional meetings were the financial costs and the increased demands on Borough employees. He also questioned whether holding additional public meetings would meaningfully improve communication between Council and residents. Councilman Myers stated that residents increasingly communicate their concerns through social media rather than attending public meetings or contacting council members directly by email. He noted that Borough staff were responsive to concerns raised through those channels and that individual council members also periodically responded to residents on social media. As an example, Councilman Myers referenced residents who supported returning to two Council meetings per month and observed that they had created a Facebook group to discuss the issue rather than relying solely on participation at public meetings. Councilman Myers stated that adding meetings would not necessarily alter how residents choose to communicate with Borough officials. He also emphasized that the time associated with each meeting extended beyond the actual meeting itself, as Borough employees and professionals were responsible for preparing agendas, compiling meeting packets, and completing related administrative work. Councilman Myers stated that he did not support returning to two meetings every month. He was open to changing the meeting day to Tuesday or Wednesday to provide additional preparation time and to considering a hybrid schedule involving approximately 18 meetings annually.

Councilman Smith briefly clarified that his proposed schedule would alternate between periods with one and two meetings per month.

Councilman Myers questioned whether increasing the annual meeting total from 12 to 18 would provide enough additional benefit to justify the associated costs and staffing demands.

Councilman Smith acknowledged that the change might or might not produce a significant improvement but maintained that it was worth considering.

Councilman Myers reiterated the importance of considering both the Borough's expenses and the effects of additional meetings on staff.

Councilman Smith suggested that the Borough needed additional staff and began referencing staffing levels from when he first became involved in Borough matters.

Councilman Myers stated that residents also had some responsibility to contact elected officials with their questions and concerns. He encouraged residents to communicate through telephone calls, emails, and other available channels rather than relying exclusively on opportunities to speak during public meetings. He further observed that evening public meetings were not necessarily convenient for many residents, particularly households in which adults worked.

Councilwoman McCuen stated that she was willing to support either one or two meetings per month and did not have a strong preference regarding meeting frequency. She explained that she worked full time and also had numerous personal and community commitments during evening hours but would be willing to adjust her schedule if additional meetings were necessary. Councilwoman McCuen agreed with Councilman Myers' concerns regarding the manner in which some residents interacted with Council during meetings. She stated that Council members were available to answer questions outside formal meetings and that many residents knew council members personally as neighbors or community members. Councilwoman McCuen encouraged residents to contact Council members directly by telephone, text message, or email when they had questions. She expressed frustration that some meeting discussions felt more like a "firing squad" than an opportunity for constructive communication. She stated that residents sometimes raised accusations during public meetings without first attempting to obtain clarification from Borough officials. Councilwoman McCuen also supported establishing greater structure around public participation and ensuring that comments remained relevant to the agenda and occurred at appropriate times. She indicated a willingness to try two meetings per month to determine whether the change improved the conduct of Borough business. However, she suggested that Council should also be prepared to reconsider the arrangement if the additional meetings did not resolve the identified concerns.

Mayor Schultz proposed holding two meetings per month on Tuesdays during the first part of the year, reducing the schedule to one meeting per month during the summer, and returning to two meetings per month in the fall.

President Reichner raised a concern regarding November and December, stating that Council had traditionally met only once per month during those months.

Manager Hegele clarified that Council had occasionally held two meetings during November and December in previous years. She explained that the holidays often required adjustments to the regular meeting schedule, sometimes resulting in meetings being moved to the first and third weeks of the month. Manager Hegele noted that this could create situations in which meetings occurred very close together, such as when a late October meeting was followed by an early November meeting.

Mayor Schultz reiterated his preference for one meeting per month during the summer and Tuesday meetings during the remainder of the year. He explained that moving Borough Council meetings to Tuesdays would also provide an opportunity for council members and residents to attend School Board meetings held on Mondays.

Councilwoman Hendrickson asked if Council meetings were moved to Tuesdays, could they be scheduled on the first and third Tuesdays rather than the second and fourth.

Manager Hegele explained that the Planning Commission regularly met on the second Tuesday of the month. Scheduling Council meetings on that evening would create a conflict unless the Planning Commission's schedule was changed.

Councilwoman Hendrickson asked whether the first and third Tuesdays would be available instead.

Manager Hegele responded that the Historical Commission generally met on the first Tuesday of the month.

Councilwoman McCuen noted that the Historical Commission met at the Pennypack Community Center rather than Borough Hall.

Manager Hegele acknowledged that the meetings were held at different locations but emphasized that Council should avoid scheduling its meetings at the same time as other Borough boards and commissions whenever possible. She explained that the purpose of coordinating meeting schedules was not solely to prevent conflicts over meeting space but also to allow interested residents to attend multiple Borough meetings without having to choose between them.

President Reichner summarized the discussion and identified three separate matters that Council needed to address. The first was whether Council meetings should be moved from Mondays to another weekday, such as Tuesday or Wednesday. The second was whether Council should continue meeting once per month or return to holding two meetings per month, either throughout the year or under a modified schedule. The third was whether Council meetings should be scheduled to avoid conflicts with School Board meetings. President Reichner indicated that she personally favored moving meetings to Tuesdays but was willing to consider other options.

Councilwoman Shay agreed that Council meetings should not conflict with School Board meetings, describing that concern as valid. She expressed support for Tuesday meetings because moving the meeting from Monday to Tuesday would provide council members with an additional day to review their meeting packets. Councilwoman Shay stated that she preferred maintaining one Council meeting per month.

Manager Hegele suggested that Council consider varying its meeting frequency according to the Borough's anticipated workload during different portions of the year. She explained that January typically had a relatively light agenda because of the preceding holidays and the time needed for normal Borough operations to resume. Manager Hegele proposed that Council could hold one meeting in January, followed by two meetings per month during February, March, April, and May. Council could then return to one meeting per month during June, July, and August, when meeting activity had traditionally been reduced. Manager Hegele emphasized that she did not have a personal preference regarding the meeting schedule and that Borough staff would attend whichever meetings Council ultimately established. She explained that her suggestion was based on the Borough's typical annual workload and administrative needs. Manager Hegele continued by noting that September, October, and November were particularly important months because of the Borough's annual budget preparation and adoption process. She suggested that Council could hold additional meetings during

those months and return to one meeting in December, with the goal of completing the budget adoption process within the necessary timeframe.

Councilwoman Jacobus noted emphasized the importance of consistency, and that alternating between one and two meetings during different parts of the year could be confusing.

President Reichner asked how much advance notice would be required if Council needed to schedule an additional meeting.

Solicitor Geiser advised that a special meeting could be advertised with 24 hours' notice under the Sunshine Act.

President Reichner questioned whether Council could simply schedule a second meeting during any month in which additional business required attention.

Manager Hegele confirmed that additional meetings could be scheduled when necessary. She explained that Borough staff had already been working within the existing meeting schedule to ensure that required actions, including budget-related approvals, could be completed within applicable deadlines.

President Reichner referenced information provided to Council regarding meeting schedules in other municipalities. She noted that several municipalities had reduced the number of monthly Council meetings and suggested that financial considerations were likely contributing to those decisions.

Councilman Myers suggested that Council could schedule special meetings when particular issues required additional attention, rather than automatically scheduling two meetings every month. He explained that additional meetings could be appropriate for budget workshops, town halls, or other matters requiring extended discussion. He questioned the necessity of adding regular meetings during months when Council might not have sufficient business to justify the additional expense.

Councilwoman McCuen noted that returning to two meetings per month throughout the year would add approximately \$12,000 to the Borough's annual budget. She emphasized that Council needed to consider whether the additional expense was justified.

Councilman Myers suggested that Council could potentially develop a procedure allowing residents to request a special meeting when there was sufficient public interest in a particular issue. He stated that this could help determine whether additional meeting opportunities were actually needed. Councilman Myers also observed that, although several residents had expressed support for returning to two monthly meetings, Council had not received substantial input from a broader group of residents on that specific issue.

No formal procedure for requesting special meetings was adopted during this portion of the discussion.

President Reichner addressed the earlier comments from council members regarding public participation during meetings. She stated that she had attempted to be accommodating by allowing residents to speak and ask questions outside the designated public comment periods. Based on the concerns expressed by other council members about interruptions and lengthy discussions, President Reichner stated that she would begin more strictly following the established public comment procedures. She explained that she would respect the concerns of the other council members by directing residents to speak during the public comment periods provided in the agenda rather than allowing comments throughout the meeting.

President Reichner asked the Borough's legal representative whether Council was permitted to vote on the proposed meeting schedule during the current committee discussion or whether the matter needed to be addressed during the voting portion of the meeting.

Solicitor Geiser recommended that Council address the matter during the scheduled voting portion of the meeting, noting that the issue was already included on the agenda.

President Reichner asked whether Council could conduct separate votes on the different scheduling questions rather than combining all proposed changes into a single motion.

Solicitor Geiser confirmed that Council could make and vote on separate motions, provided that the motions were properly stated. She reiterated that, because the matter was already listed on the agenda, Council could act on it during the voting portion of the meeting.

President Reichner clarified that she wanted to ensure the decisions regarding meeting frequency and the day of the week were considered separately where appropriate.

Solicitor Geiser explained that the existing agenda item referred to returning to two Council meetings per month. If Council chose to adopt that arrangement, a motion could be made consistent with the agenda language. However, if Council wanted to establish a hybrid schedule, the motion would need to specify the proposed arrangement.

Manager Hegele explained that Council would be presented with the complete 2027 meeting schedule for all Borough boards and commissions during its December meeting. She stated that the annual schedule would require Council approval at that time.

Solicitor Geiser sought clarification regarding when the proposed changes would take effect, asking whether Council intended to change its schedule beginning in October or wait until the new year.

President Reichner indicated that the discussion concerned the schedule beginning in January 2027.

Solicitor Geiser explained that, because the changes would not take effect until January 2027, Council would be advertising the annual meeting schedule as part of its regular scheduling process. She indicated that there was therefore no immediate need to change the current year's advertised meeting schedule.

President Reichner explained that she wanted Council to establish its preferred meeting schedule sufficiently in advance of 2027 so that other Borough boards, commissions, and committees could coordinate their schedules accordingly. She stated that determining the preferred meeting day and frequency would allow Borough staff to consider potential conflicts before preparing the final annual meeting schedule.

Gary Blickley 46 Harding Avenue- Mr. Blickley questioned if President Reichner was going to allow comment at that time.

President Reichner declined to take additional public comments at that time, explaining that the meeting was not in a designated public comment period.

Mr. Blickley objected and questioned whether President Reichner was changing the rules regarding public participation.

Solicitor Geiser explained that the procedures regarding public comment had not changed. She stated that President Reichner had previously allowed residents to speak outside designated public comment periods as a courtesy, but that Council was not required to permit comments throughout its business discussions. Solicitor Geiser further explained that Council needed an opportunity to conduct Borough business without continued interruptions.

Mr. Blickley continued to attempt to address Council.

President Reichner informed Mr. Blickley that a public comment opportunity was scheduled at the conclusion of Councilwoman Hendrickson's committee report. She stated that she would listen to his comments at that time.

Mr. Blickley objected to being required to wait until the designated public comment period, noting that residents were limited to three minutes and that Council had discussed a significant amount of material.

Councilwoman McCuen asked Mr. Blickley to stop arguing, stating that President Reichner had already answered his question.

Mr. Blickley objected to the manner in which he was being addressed and stated that he did not want to be disrespected.

Councilwoman McCuen stated that she was not disrespecting Gary but was attempting to explain that his question had already been answered.

Mr. Blickley continued to express disagreement regarding the handling of public comments and what he perceived to be changes in the meeting procedures.

The exchange became increasingly argumentative and as the disagreement continued, Solicitor Geiser called for Council to enter executive session to allow the room to calm down.

Councilwoman Jacobus expressed agreement with the decision to enter executive session.

Marianne Reymer 120 Summit Avenue- Ms. Reymer asked what subject would be discussed during executive session.

Solicitor Geiser stated the purpose of the executive session was for Council to obtain legal guidance.

Individuals attending the public meeting were instructed to leave the Council Room for the executive session.

Solicitor Geiser reiterated that Council was calling an executive session for the purpose of providing legal guidance and stated that the public meeting would reconvene afterward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Solicitor Geiser asked for an executive session for legal purposes. Council adjourned at 10:25 PM for the purpose of this executive session.

President Reichner announced that council held an executive session for the purpose of legal matters and the session was from 10:25 PM to 10:30 PM.

President Reichner resumed the meeting at 10:30 PM

WEST MORELAND AVENUE BRIDGE PROJECT UPDATE: Councilwoman Hendrickson stated that the project is progressing with no reported issues. She stated the timeframe for completion has not changed.

ZONING RE-WRITE UPDATE/AUTHORIZATION FOR PC TO REVIEW: Councilwoman Hendrickson stated that Manager Hegele had asked Council to table this item due to missing information in the document.

DATA CENTER ORDINANCE UPDATE: Councilwoman Hendrickson stated last month the draft ordinance was submitted to the County for review as per the MPC. She stated Planner Mosby's review was not completed in time for the Borough Planning Commission to review. She stated that Council wanted to ensure the best ordinance is in place to protect the Borough as well as give a potential Data Center Developer Proper Guidance should they desire to open a Data Center in the Borough. She stated the Borough currently does not have any applications for Data Centers and felt that giving the County extra time was in the best interest of the Borough and the County.

2027 MMO/STATE AID: Councilwoman Hendrickson stated the minimum municipal obligation (MMO) is the smallest amount an employer must contribute to any pension plan established for its employees. She stated the amount is calculated using actuarial valuation to ensure that employer pension plans are sufficiently funded and provides the costs for the Borough's pension for the following calendar year, 2027. She stated for 2027, the cost of the uniformed MMO is \$466,834 dollars and the cost of non-uniformed MMO is \$0. She stated each year, the MMO is partially offset by state aid. She stated the Borough just received the 2026 state aid in the amount of \$235,541.14, which is being deposited into the Borough's pension plan immediately as required by law. She stated the Borough is expecting the 2027 state aid contribution to be around the same amount, which will help offset the Uniformed MMO. Councilwoman Hendrickson indicated this item was moved to the voting meeting portion of the agenda for consideration.

PSAB MANAGEMENT CAUCUS RESOLUTION: Councilwoman Hendrickson stated that PSAB envisioned a program that would provide a way to enhance the Borough Manager and/or Secretary function by providing a professional career development program. She stated this program is \$25 per year and offers the following benefits: provides up to \$15,000 in group term life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to the manager, administrator, and/or secretary-appointed position for only \$25 annually; offers periodic alerts with relevant information for managers; allows you to advertise borough management positions for free on PSAB's website, free participation in a PSAB webinar, which is a \$45 value, a discount of \$25 value on attendance at PSAB's labor and employment law training class webinar. She stated considering the discounts, the initiative pays for itself and in order to sign up, Council needs to adopt a resolution authorizing participation. Councilwoman Hendrickson indicated this item was moved to the voting meeting portion of the agenda for consideration.

HI-MU TEXT AMENDMENT – 237 JACKSONVILLE ROAD: Councilwoman Hendrickson stated the Borough is in receipt of an application from Hatboro Lofts requesting a text amendment to the HIMU ordinance. She stated the Hatboro Lofts were required to have commercial spaces on the first floor of their building when the property was constructed, as required for the mixed-use development. She stated the property owner is having difficulty filling these commercial spaces, and as a result, is proposing an amendment to the HIMU chapter of the zoning ordinance that would allow these commercial spaces to be converted to residential apartments. She stated this agenda item is merely an announcement that the application has been received and the application must be reviewed by the Borough's Planning Commission and the Montgomery County

Planning Commission before the application would come back to Borough Council for consideration and a public hearing.

ZONING HEARING BOARD VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: Councilwoman Hendrickson stated with the unfortunate passing of longtime zoning hearing board member Geri Weideman, there is a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board. She stated the Borough is now accepting letters of interest and letters of interest should be submitted to Manager Hegele.

OLD BUSINESS & UPDATES: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marianne Reymer 120 Summit Avenue- Ms. Reymer asked whether the three-minute public comment limit remained in effect, explaining that she had several questions arising from the evening's meeting.

Solicitor Geiser confirmed that the three-minute limit remained in effect.

Ms. Reymer reiterated her support for returning to two Council meetings each month. She cited several previous situations in which Council had been required to make decisions without having an additional meeting available for further discussion. She referenced the Main Street Manager grant application, stating that the deadline had nearly been missed and that Council was required to act immediately rather than table the matter. She also referenced the micro-school agreement, expressing concern that the public had not been aware of the agreement before Council voted on it. Ms. Reymer stated that the agreement had been approved without what she considered sufficient public discussion. She identified the pool snack stand as another example, explaining that the loss of the original vendor had required Council to make a replacement decision on short notice. Ms. Reymer stated that these situations demonstrated the value of holding two meetings each month. She also referenced an email she had sent to Council members through the Borough website around August 18 or 19. She stated that Councilman Myers had been the only Council member to respond and questioned whether the other members had received her correspondence. Ms. Reymer next addressed staffing concerns. She stated that staffing shortages had been referenced repeatedly throughout the evening and encouraged Council to consider addressing the issue during budget preparation. She suggested obtaining additional assistance through community volunteers, part-time employees, or potentially a student employee. Ms. Reymer then raised concerns regarding the Borough's annual audits. She asked whether the 2025 audit was in progress and requested that the 2024 audit be posted on the Borough website. She also questioned whether the auditing firm would present its findings publicly. Ms. Reymer suggested that Council consider soliciting proposals from other accounting firms for the 2026 audit. She indicated that she had discussed the Borough's auditing costs with an accountant and believed competitive proposals might result in savings. She referenced an audit cost of approximately \$11,500.

Robin Laufer 443 Harrison Avenue- Ms. Laufer asked regarding the LSA grant program if grant funding could be considered for the Environmental Advisory Council and the Birdtown Committee. She noted that both groups had been pursuing fundraising opportunities and suggested that additional grant funding could support larger projects and educational speakers. Ms. Laufer also questioned whether the proposed pool waterslide project included consideration of potential increases in liability insurance. She noted that other pools had removed waterslides because of liability concerns and asked whether the possible insurance implications had been included in the funding estimates. She asked whether the Borough's gasoline pumps were located beneath a protective covering or awning.

Detective Dilks responded that the pumps were not covered.

Ms. Laufer asked whether installing shade might help reduce excessive heat around the pumps.

Detective Dilks indicated that he did not know whether shading would provide a benefit.

Ms. Laufer suggested that shading, potentially incorporating solar-powered fans, might be worth considering as an alternative to replacing the pumps.

Ms. Laufer also asked whether proposed funding for a stump grinder would include consideration of insurance costs and ongoing maintenance expenses. Ms. Laufer then requested that abbreviations used during meetings be explained when first introduced. She specifically referenced MMO and HIMU, explaining that members of the public might not understand municipal terminology. Regarding the Hatboro Lofts HIMU text amendment, she asked whether the Borough's downtown development consultant, Mr. Barth, could assist with attracting commercial tenants to the available spaces. She suggested that the smaller commercial units could provide opportunities for new businesses to establish themselves in Hatboro before potentially relocating to larger spaces along Main Street. Ms. Laufer expressed support for retaining hybrid Council meetings.

Mark Hanisco 120 Summit Avenue- Mr. Hanisco thanked the Fire Marshal for preparing the Borough's meeting minutes. He specifically referenced a 26-page set of minutes and complimented the level of detail and comprehensiveness. He also thanked Borough staff for addressing the stacking of air conditioning equipment at a local business property. Mr. Hanisco then asked about the status of the property at 100 Meadowbrook, noting that the site had remained excavated and undeveloped for an extended period.

Fire Marshal Valesky that the property owner was proceeding through the building permit process.

Manager Hegele acknowledged that progress had been slow and indicated that the property owner still had time to proceed.

Mr. Hanisco returned to the discussion regarding one versus two monthly Council meetings. He questioned the additional cost estimate previously discussed and stated that he believed the increase would be approximately \$7,000 rather than \$12,000 because several months would continue to have only one meeting. He also suggested that holding two meetings each month could result in shorter individual meetings.

Gary Blickley 46 Harding Avenue- Mr. Blickley also addressed the proposal to return to two Council meetings each month. He stated that several concerns had been raised when the Borough initially moved to one monthly meeting and believed those concerns had not been adequately addressed. Mr. Blickley explained that his principal concern was not necessarily the number of meetings but the timing of information being provided to the public. He stated that agenda materials were often not made available until the Friday before a meeting, leaving residents insufficient time to review the information, formulate questions, and respond to proposed actions. He suggested that earlier distribution of information could improve public participation and reduce disagreement or confusion during meetings. Mr. Blickley then raised concerns regarding the Pennypack Community Center. He questioned whether Borough-owned facilities, public resources, and taxpayer-funded assets were being used to support activities or fundraising at the center without sufficient oversight. He also expressed concern that Council appeared to be unaware of certain activities involving the facility. Mr. Blickley suggested that an audit or review of Pennypack operations might be appropriate to provide greater transparency regarding the use of Borough resources.

ADJOURNMENT: The September 28, 2026, Committee Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 PM.

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER: The September 28, 2026, Council Meeting was called to order at 10:48 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT – (VOTING ITEMS ONLY): There was no public comment.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Schultz provided an update on community events and activities occurring throughout September and upcoming events scheduled for October and November. Mayor Schultz reported that the Children's Entrepreneurial Market was held on September 5th at Miller Meadow, featuring more than 30 youth vendors. He encouraged residents to support the participating young entrepreneurs. He also discussed the No One Left Behind Walk held on September 12th, which recognized veterans and first responders and promoted support for individuals experiencing difficulties. Mayor Schultz described the event as well attended. The Hatboro Rotary Club's annual Lobster Pot event was also held on September 12th. Mayor Schultz thanked the Rotary Club for its continued contributions to local charities, food pantries, winter clothing assistance, holiday programs, and school supplies for students in need. Mayor Schultz reported that the latest Hatboro Chamber Connections event was held at Concordance Ferments. He explained that the monthly program allows local businesses and professionals to connect and exchange ideas. Upcoming Chamber Connections events were announced for October 26th at Nonno's Bakery, 100 South York Road, and November 17th at Beauty From Ashes, 220 South York Road. Mayor Schultz reported that the regular Cruise Night season concluded on September 18th and thanked the Police Department, event sponsors, and others who supported the events. He noted that an additional Cruise Night was being considered for October 16th. Mayor Schultz explained that Cruise Night admission would remain free, with attendees encouraged to bring nonperishable food donations for local food pantries. Monetary contributions would also be accepted at the designated collection area near York and Moreland Avenues. He reminded the public that traffic laws would be strictly enforced during the event. Mayor Schultz announced the upcoming Skeleton Scurry 5K Run/Walk, scheduled for Halloween beginning at 8:30 AM. The annual Halloween Stroll would follow from 2:00 PM until 4:00 PM, allowing children to collect treats from participating businesses along York Road. Mayor Schultz also announced that the 2026 Hatboro Holiday Parade would feature a Colonial Christmas theme in recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary.

OFFICERS' REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Reichner began by reflecting on the domestic violence presentation provided earlier in the evening by Montgomery County personnel. She emphasized the importance of seeking help when experiencing an unsafe relationship and acknowledged that individuals may hesitate to disclose domestic violence because of shame or fear. President Reichner encouraged anyone experiencing domestic violence to access available assistance and discussed the importance of protection-from-abuse orders. She also shared that assistance from others had played a significant role in her own experience and emphasized that individuals should not feel they must remain in unsafe circumstances. President Reichner then discussed the Borough's upcoming holiday and community events. She encouraged residents to attend and recognized the time and effort contributed by Borough employees and volunteers. She reported that the Parking Commission's recent town hall meeting had been successful and expressed appreciation for renewed efforts to address parking concerns throughout the Borough. President Reichner announced that Borough staff were compiling departmental budget requests in preparation for the October 21 budget workshop. She encouraged residents to

attend the workshop to better understand the Borough's budget preparation process. President Reichner addressed the circulation of information on social media. She cautioned that information posted online is not always accurate and encouraged residents to contact Borough staff or Council members directly when they have questions or concerns. She emphasized that Council was working to operate the Borough effectively within the financial and operational limitations it faced. President Reichner acknowledged the financial pressures facing residents and stated that Council was not attempting to create unnecessary additional burdens. She advised residents that they could contact her through her Borough email address or arrange an in-person meeting at Borough Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Manager Hegele reported that the Borough earned \$3,615.66 in interest during August. The combined ending balance of all Borough accounts was reported as \$5,624,317.27. Manager Hegele also provided an update regarding the transition to the new Borough Treasurer. She stated that Council had signed the necessary documents earlier in the evening to begin the new Treasurer's onboarding process with M&T Bank. Manager Hegele anticipated that this would likely be her final Treasurer's Report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Geiser reported that the office continued to handle Right-to-Know Law appeals. Solicitor Geiser also provided an update concerning the Zoning Hearing Board appeal involving 26 Horsham Road. The matter remained before the Commonwealth Court, and the Borough's brief was due the following week. Solicitor Geiser had been communicating with Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor Bruce Eckel and anticipated filing the Borough's brief by the deadline. Based on the expected court schedule, oral argument was anticipated during the summer of 2027.

Councilman Smith asked approximately how many hours the Solicitor was spending each month addressing Right-to-Know matters beyond the normal workload.

Solicitor Geiser indicated that approximately 10 hours would likely be spent on Right-to-Know matters during the current week, although the workload varied.

Councilman Smith asked whether the Borough incurred additional charges for that work.

Solicitor Geiser explained that Right-to-Know work was billed at the regular hourly rate and that the law firm did not charge Hatboro a separate or increased litigation rate.

President Reichner asked whether Council could obtain a cost estimate for the Solicitor's firm to assume greater responsibility for Right-to-Know requests.

Solicitor Geiser stated that discussions had already begun with Sean Kilkenny regarding the matter. The firm was already handling similar responsibilities for Norristown and was in the process of assuming those responsibilities for Jenkintown.

President Reichner indicated that transferring some of the Right-to-Know workload could relieve administrative responsibilities currently handled by the Borough Manager.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer MacNair provided an update on the Station at Hatboro land development project at 21–23 and 27 South York Road. The project was approved and constructed as a three-story mixed-use building containing retail space along York Road. Construction has been completed, and Engineer MacNair recommended approval of Financial Security Release No. 3. Engineer MacNair explained that revised as-built plans were still needed for review before a recommendation could be made for the final escrow release.

Regarding the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program, Engineer MacNair reported that the Borough's annual report was nearly complete and would be submitted electronically to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection by the required deadline. Engineer MacNair reminded Council that the Department conducted an inspection in December of the previous year and found no violations. Engineer MacNair then provided an update on the 2026 road paving program. The awarded project included Wood Street, Abbotts Lane, Broad Street, and portions of Horsham Road. Bray Brothers was awarded the contract at the June Council meeting. Change Order No. 1 was recommended to remove work at the intersections of Wood Street and Montgomery Avenue and Abbotts Lane and West Montgomery Avenue due to Liquid Fuels funding requirements. PennDOT approved the use of Liquid Fuels funding on September 22nd. A preconstruction meeting was held on September 23rd, and Engineer MacNair anticipated that construction would begin during the current week.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Hegele reported that the Borough newsletter had been completed and was in the process of being mailed to residents. An electronic version would also be made available on the Borough website. Manager Hegele reported that Montgomery County had announced a \$500 grant opportunity for municipalities participating in the America 250 celebration. She submitted an application approximately two weeks earlier requesting \$500 to support the Hatboro Holiday Parade. Regarding the Dunkin property matter, Manager Hegele reported that previous notices had gone unanswered. A final notice had been issued the preceding week, and the responsible party was being given one final opportunity to respond before additional enforcement steps were pursued. Manager Hegele then discussed two incidents in which deer became trapped in soccer nets at Pennypack. The Police Department and Public Works Department assisted in rescuing both animals. She stated that she was working with the Hatboro-Horsham Soccer Club to ensure the nets were properly secured and to reduce the risk of future wildlife injuries. Manager Hegele publicly thanked Senator Maria Collett and State Representative Nancy Guent for their assistance in obtaining three Local Share Account grants totaling nearly \$1 million for the Borough. She explained that the grant funding would provide significant assistance with Borough projects and financial planning. Manager Hegele also reported that preparation of the 2027 operating budget was underway. She had been working with department heads and staff to prepare the budget and anticipated presenting information to the Finance Committee before the scheduled budget workshop. Regarding Borough banking and investments, Manager Hegele reported that she had met with representatives from Quakertown National Bank. The Borough had provided the requested information, and the bank was preparing a proposal. The Borough continued to seek proposals from financial institutions to evaluate opportunities for improved interest earnings. Manager Hegele anticipated that additional information could be presented the following month. Finally, in response to the earlier public comment, Manager Hegele clarified that MMO stands for Minimum Municipal Obligation and HIMU stands for Heavy Industrial Mixed Use.

STAFF REPORTS:

POLICE: Detective Dilks reported that personnel were completing the final portion of annual firearms qualifications, and that the department was also preparing for upcoming community events, including the Skeleton Scurry and the Hatboro Holiday Parade.

TAX COLLECTIONS: Manager Hegele advised that the Tax Collector's report had been submitted in advance and included in Council's meeting packets. She referenced an outstanding collectible balance of approximately \$261,000. Manager Hegele referenced an outstanding collectible balance for the refuse fee of approximately \$35,519.42.

PUBLIC WORKS: Manager Hegele began by thanking Council and those present for their expressions of sympathy following the passing of Public Works employee Keith. She described Keith as a valued member of the Department and shared that they had begun working for the Borough around the same time. Manager Hegele noted the personal impact of his passing and stated that his loss had been particularly difficult for Public Works personnel. She expressed appreciation for the moment of silence held earlier in the evening and indicated that she would convey Council's condolences to his mother. Manager Hegele reported that the Public Works Department was now operating with four fewer employees than its normal staffing level, including the vacancy created by Keith's passing. Regarding departmental operations, she reported that fall cleanup had begun and that crews were also performing tree maintenance and cleanup in Borough parks. She had met with the Public Works Foreman and Assistant Foreman to review operational needs and prepare the Department's proposed 2027 budget. Manager Hegele also reported that signage authorized by the Parking Commission had been ordered. The Department was working to install the signs in advance of the anticipated November implementation.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

Manager Hegele reported that the Hatboro Dining Guide had been distributed to businesses throughout the Borough. The guide was intended to encourage shoppers visiting Borough retail establishments to remain in Hatboro and patronize local restaurants. The guide included a QR code directing users to a dedicated Borough webpage containing restaurant addresses, websites, menus, and additional information. Manager Hegele stated that the Community Priority Survey had already been discussed earlier in the meeting. She reported that downtown development consultant Mr. Barth continued meeting with local business owners and preparing promotional content for the Borough's social media pages. Mr. Barth also met with the Downtown Development Committee to discuss projects planned for the final quarter of 2026. He was preparing a video highlighting public parking opportunities in the Borough. Manager Hegele reported several businesses that were opening or preparing to open in Hatboro, including Cocomon World Collectibles, Sumatra Cafe, Sabor De Puebla, Nakama Sushi & BBQ, River and Rome American Bistro, and Mulan Head Spa. She encouraged residents to support local businesses whenever possible. Manager Hegele also reported that Mr. Barth had prepared a list of vacant commercial properties in the Borough. She had returned the list with several questions and anticipated that the finalized version would be distributed to Council and the Montgomery County Commerce Department. Fire Marshal Valesky added that Veil Salon, located at 216 South York Road, was preparing for an October 1 grand opening, and had recently completed the Use and Occupancy process.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT: Fire Marshal Valesky stated during August, she completed 36 commercial fire inspections, bringing the year-to-date total to 197. She completed 13 Residential Use and Occupancy inspections, bringing the year-to-date total to 55. She completed seven rental inspections, covering seven units at six properties. Year-to-date rental inspection activity was reported as 317 units at 62 properties. Fire Marshal Valesky responded to five fire calls during August, bringing the year-to-date total to 79, and conducted one fire investigation involving a small kitchen fire in an apartment complex. She stated six smoke alarms were installed, bringing the year-to-date total to 39. Fire Marshal Valesky stated regarding property maintenance enforcement, the Borough received 28 complaints during August. The year-to-date total at the end of August was approximately 390 complaints, with the current total having exceeded 430. The August complaints included eight work-without-permit complaints, two unregistered rental complaints, one unregistered business complaint, 10 grass, tree, or overgrowth complaints, two fire or safety complaints, and five miscellaneous complaints.

Monthly Safety Message — Vehicle Emergency Escape Tools:

Fire Marshal Valesky presented a safety message concerning emergency vehicle escape devices and the differences between tempered and laminated automotive glass. The topic was selected following a resident's question regarding the effectiveness of emergency window-breaking tools in newer vehicles. She explained that common emergency hammers and spring-loaded window punches are generally designed to break tempered glass. Tempered glass is designed to shatter when struck appropriately, while laminated glass consists of glass layers bonded around a plastic interlayer. Because laminated glass remains held together by the plastic layer, conventional window breakers may crack the glass without creating an opening large enough for escape. Fire Marshal Valesky referenced testing by AAA demonstrating limitations of conventional escape tools when used on laminated glass. Residents were encouraged to examine the manufacturer's markings on their vehicle windows to determine which windows were tempered and which were laminated. She explained that some vehicles contain laminated front side windows but tempered rear side windows, making it important to identify alternative emergency exits in advance. For vehicles equipped with tempered side windows, a spring-loaded window breaker with an integrated seatbelt cutter was identified as a useful emergency tool. Fire Marshal Valesky emphasized that escape tools should be secured within reach of the driver or intended occupant rather than stored where they could become inaccessible following a collision. The presentation also addressed specialized cutting devices intended for laminated glass, which differ in design and cost from conventional emergency window punches.

Vehicle Submersion and Fire Emergencies:

Fire Marshal Valesky reviewed the SWOC procedure for vehicle submersion emergencies:

Seatbelts off, Windows open, Out immediately, Children first.

Fire Marshal Valesky explained that occupants generally have the greatest opportunity to escape during the initial floating phase of a vehicle entering water, often within approximately the first minute. The 2024 Wilderness Medical Society guidance was referenced in connection with prioritizing immediate escape. She explained that occupants should attempt to open the vehicle's power windows immediately rather than assuming the electrical system will fail upon contact with water. If the windows cannot be opened, an appropriate escape tool may be used on tempered glass. Fire Marshal Valesky cautioned against repeatedly attempting to break laminated glass using a tool not designed for that purpose. For children, she explained that younger children should generally be assisted first because older children may be more capable of following instructions while awaiting assistance. She also emphasized that escaping the vehicle should take priority over attempting to call 911 while trapped. Similar escape principles were discussed for vehicle fires following a collision, including removing seatbelts, locating an accessible door or window, exiting the vehicle, moving occupants to a safe distance, and contacting emergency services. Fire Marshal Valesky advised that knowing the type of glass installed in a vehicle and identifying available exits before an emergency are important parts of preparedness.

Printed educational materials were made available to meeting attendees.

Fire Marshal Valesky also announced that Fire Prevention Month materials and giveaways were available near the Borough Hall elevator for residents to take.

Councilwoman Jacobus asked whether the vehicle escape information could be posted on the Borough website.

Fire Marshal Valesky confirmed that the information could be posted.

FIRE COMPANY REPORT: Fire Marshal Valesky advised that Fire Company President Crook was unable to attend the meeting. The Company responded to 15 calls during August. Seven calls occurred within Hatboro, while eight involved responses to surrounding municipalities, including three in Upper Moreland, three in Horsham, and two in Warminster. The Fire Company continued its regular Wednesday evening training program, including equipment familiarization, operational procedures, and skill development. Driver qualification training was also continuing, including pump operations, apparatus maintenance, and knowledge of the local response area. Four members were participating in the driver qualification program. Fire Marshal Valesky reported that August was relatively quiet for community activities, although members participated in the Police Department's National Night Out event. The Fire Company announced its upcoming Fire Prevention Open House scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Residents were encouraged to attend and participate in fire safety education activities. The annual Fire Company fund drive mailing was distributed September 22nd. Residents who did not receive the mailing were encouraged to contact President Crook for additional information.

SECOND ALARMERS REPORT: Chief Davidson presented ambulance and emergency medical service statistics for July and August. During July, EMS responded to 83 calls for service in Hatboro, resulting in 40 patient transports. During August, EMS responded to 53 calls for service, resulting in 32 patient transports. There were no naloxone administrations by EMS personnel during July and one administration during August. Chief Davidson clarified that these figures reflected naloxone administered by EMS personnel only and did not necessarily include administrations by police officers or other responding agencies. Chief Davidson reported that staffing difficulties remained significant and continued to affect operations. Ambulances continued to experience downgrades to basic life support service or periods when no crew was available, particularly on weekends. Special event staffing also remained difficult. The organization had two vacant full-time EMT positions and three vacant full-time paramedic positions. Chief Davidson explained that shortages were occurring throughout the region but were beginning to affect local response times and the availability of emergency medical resources. The increased reliance on mutual aid was identified as a concern because responding agencies from other municipalities might be less familiar with Hatboro's streets and neighborhoods. Chief Davidson discussed Pennsylvania House Bill 1152, which was intended to provide additional patient protections, direct payment to EMS agencies, and a state-regulated fee schedule. He indicated that the legislation was unlikely to advance before the end of the current legislative session and encouraged municipalities and residents to seek its reintroduction during the next session. The organization had recently met with House Majority Leader Matthew Bradford regarding the legislation. Chief Davidson also discussed Act 54 of 2024, which expanded the authority of certain municipalities to impose or increase dedicated ambulance taxes to as much as five mills. He stated that such a high millage rate would be difficult for an EMS organization to justify. Second Alarmer's submitted its 2027 budget request to Manager Hegele on August 31. The requested funding was equivalent to approximately 0.25 mill, or approximately \$120,000. Information from the Department of Community and Economic Development concerning municipal EMS taxes was provided for comparison. Chief Davidson stated that the average rate identified in the available data was approximately 0.47 mill and noted that several municipalities had adopted EMS taxes of approximately 0.5 mill. The requested 0.25 mill was presented as lower than those comparisons. Chief Davidson reported that revised rates for EMS details and standby units became effective June 1 and were published on the organization's website. Discounts were made available to eligible nonprofit organizations and municipalities that provide funding to Second Alarmer's. He also explained that employee compensation adjustments became effective in August. Previously, full-time employees had been scheduled for 36 hours per week while being paid for 40 hours. The revised pay structure removed that arrangement and adjusted the pay scale accordingly.

Chief Davidson indicated that the changes resulted in a limited increase in compensation but did not fully address the difficulty of remaining competitive with other public safety occupations.

UNION LIBRARY REPORT: Robin Laufer advised that Library Representative Kennedy was unable to remain for the meeting and presented the library's report. Since August 1, the Library issued 53 new library cards, including 44 adult cards and nine children's cards. Of those new patrons, 40 were Hatboro residents and 13 resided outside the Borough. The library acquired 189 new books, including 90 adult titles and 99 children's titles. The Borough library tax supported the purchase of adult books. The library also added four digital titles through Overdrive, including three e-books and one audiobook. Between August 1 and September 15, the Library hosted 44 programs, consisting of 28 adult programs and 16 programs for children and young adults. The Borough library tax supported one of the adult programs. The Representative reported that the library's annual fall book sale was successful and thanked the volunteers and community members who supported the event. Ms. Laufer also discussed a meeting between Library Director Christine and Susan Eisenhower at the Eisenhower National Historic Site during the annual World War II weekend. Ms. Eisenhower had requested a private meeting to discuss how libraries could better assist veterans and expressed interest in using the Union Library of Hatboro as a model for similar efforts. The library also hosted a vision board workshop on September 24th. Upcoming programs included an October 8th discussion regarding substance use disorders and treatment support, presented through Saint Joseph's University's Center for Addiction and Recovery Education. The program was scheduled for 6:00 PM and was to feature Steve Forzato. An improvisational comedy workshop was also scheduled for October 21 from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM. Ms. Laufer encouraged residents to review the library's website for additional events and programming.

ORDER OF BUSINESS & VOTING ITEMS:

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF REPORTS: Vice President Jacobus motioned to acknowledge receipt of public works, fire marshal, treasurer's reports, bird town minutes and UMHJSA minutes. Motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT LIST, PAYMENT OF BILLS, MANUAL CHECKS AND TRANSFERS: Vice President Jacobus motioned to approve warrant list, payment of bills, manual checks, and transfers for the month of September 2026. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shay, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

AUGUST 17, 2026, COMMITTEE/COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES: Councilwoman Shay motioned to approve the august 17, 2026, committee/council meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman McCuen. Vice President Jacobus abstained. A vote was cast, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0 with one abstention.

ENTERPRISE FIRE COMPANY EXPENDITURE LIST: Vice President Jacobus motioned to approve the enterprise fire company expenditure list for the month of august 2026 in the amount of \$24,723.46. Motion was seconded by Councilman Myers, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

2026 FIRE RELIEF FUNDING: Vice President Jacobus motioned to acknowledge receipt of the 2026 fire relief funding in the amount of \$59,545.46 and to issue payment to the enterprise volunteer fire relief association in the amount of \$59,545.46. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hendrickson, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

SALE OF 2013 POLICE INTERCEPTOR: Councilman Jacobus motioned to approve the sale of a 2013 ford police interceptor in the amount of \$3,900.00. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shay, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

UNION LIBRARY EXPENDITURE LIST: Councilwoman Shay motioned to approve the union library expenditure list for the month of July 2026 in the amount of \$24,457.00. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hendrickson, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Shay motioned to approve the union library expenditure list for the month of August 2026 in the amount of \$26,485.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Myers, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

ADMINISTRATION COPIER LEASE: Vice President Jacobus motioned to approve the lease agreement between the borough of Hatboro and KDI office technology for the lease of a Ricoh IMC copier at a rate of \$379.00 per month. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shay, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

MAIN STREET MATTERS GRANT RESOLUTION: Councilwoman Hendrickson motioned to approve resolution 2026-11, ratifying application to the main street matters grant program for a business feasibility planning grant not to exceed \$40,000.00. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shay, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

2026 LOCAL SHARE ACCOUNT GRANT: Councilwoman Hendrickson motioned to authorize application to the local share account program for applications for a Fire Truck, a Trash or Dump Truck for the Public Works Department, Windows in Borough Hall, and HVAC improvements at the Pennypack Community Center. Motion was seconded by Vice President Jacobus, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

STATION AT HATBORO FINANCIAL SECURITY RELEASE #3: Vice President Jacobus motioned to approve financial security release #3 for the Station at Hatboro in the amount of \$8,725.00. This release shall leave a balance of \$209,194.60 in the developer's financial security. Motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST: HAT PACKS COSTUME GIVEAWAY: Councilman Myers motioned to approve the special event request for the hat packs costume giveaway taking place at the Pennypack Community Center on October 17, 2026, from 12 pm to 4 pm. Motion was seconded by Councilman Smith. Councilwoman McCuen abstained. A vote was cast, all ayes. Motion carried 6-0 with one abstention.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST: BLOOD DRIVE: Councilwoman Shay motioned to approve the special event request for the battle of the badges blood drive taking place on January 12, 2027. Motion was seconded by Vice President Jacobus, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST: OCTOBER CRUISE NIGHT: Councilman Myers motioned to approve the special event request for the October 16, 2026, cruise night event. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shay, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

HOUGH AND ASSOCIATES CONTRACT: Councilwoman Shay motioned to approve the updated contract between the borough of Hatboro and Hough and Associates for the purpose of processing 904 recycling grant applications for the years 2026-2028 at a rate of \$5,000.00 annually. Motion was seconded by Vice President Jacobus, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

RATIFICATION OF PAVING CHANGE ORDER #1: Councilman Myers motioned to ratify manager Hegele's approval of change order #1 for the 2026 road paving program resulting in a contract reduction of \$42,395.80 and authorizing local funds to be utilized to construct two curb ramps at the intersection of Broad Street and Moreland Avenue. Motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

2026-2027 ROCK SALT CONTRACT AWARD: Vice President Jacobus motioned to adopt resolution 2026-012 recommending that Hatboro Borough Council approve the form of the road salt supply agreement for the winter 2026/2027 season to the low bidder Morton Salt, at a price of \$ 73.44 per delivered ton and \$73.00 per non-delivered ton, subject to review by the solicitor and award of the bid by the Montgomery County Consortium Of Communities at its meeting on October 8, 2026 and authorize the borough to contract with Morton Salt for the same. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shay, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE:

Councilwoman Hendrickson stated that Borough Council needs to discuss the upcoming meeting schedule to determine whether or not they would like to return to two meetings a month or stay with one meeting per month. Councilwoman Hendrickson stated that staff performed a cost estimate, and it will cost approximately \$1,000.00 more per month to have two meetings as opposed to one meeting a month. Councilwoman Hendrickson stated that she believes one meeting is not a month and that the Borough should explore meeting dates that do not conflict with the School Board meetings. She stated that her recommendation would be to return to two meetings in January 2027.

Councilman Smith asked if a hybrid schedule could be established where the Borough would have a single meeting a month in January, June, July, August, November, and December and have two meetings all other months. He stated that if Council needs to have one meeting a month, he is suggesting that they do not discuss and vote on items at the same meeting unless they are time sensitive matters.

President Reichner stated that Borough Council receives their packets on Fridays and that if Council is not comfortable with voting on any items in a given month, the items can always be tabled until the next month.

Vice President Reichner stated that the Committee meeting is still taking place at 10:09 PM. She stated that she would be in favor of switching dates so that Council cannot conflict with the school board meetings. She also stated that she recommends that the Borough adheres to the public comment period and limits public comment to the designated periods.

Councilman Smith asked if the Borough needs to meet on Mondays. Solicitor Geiser stated that Council can pick any dates as long as they are advertised.

Manager Hegele stated that the meetings were always Mondays, but Council can change the meeting night if desired.

Councilman Smith stated that Tuesdays or Wednesdays may work.

President Reichner stated that a lot of meetings take place on Wednesdays.

Councilwoman Shay stated that between the costs associated with two meetings a month and staff that is already stretched thin and on the brink of shorting out. She stated that she recommends staying with one meeting a month as it would be easier on staff.

Councilman Myers staff are already stretched too thin. He would like to see Council consider another day of the week. He also is in favor of a hybrid schedule. He indicated that some on social media are fine with one meeting a month. He also indicated that our social media page shares a lot of information so residents can be informed.

Councilwoman McCuen stated she is fine with either and has no preference. Councilwoman McCuen stated she it feels like a firing squad rather than residents asking questions and making accusations as opposed to adhering to meeting structure and business.

Mayor Schultz spoke and stated he is fine as well with two meetings a month but would like council to consider changing the night so residents can attend school board meetings.

President Reichner stated there are three questions to discuss, meeting night, number of meetings per month and avoidance of school board dates. Councilwoman Shay said yes to not conflict with School Board and to meet once per month.

President Reichner questioned how procedure would be if council needed to hold a special meeting. Solicitor Geiser stated you need 24 hours prior for advertising.

Councilwoman Jacobus asked whether Council wanted to address the proposed meeting schedule change immediately or defer discussion until a later date, noting that the proposed schedule would not take effect until January.

President Reichner indicated that Council could vote on whether to return to two monthly meetings and address the specific meeting days at another time.

President Reichner introduced a motion to amend the meeting schedule to return to two Council meetings per month. It was pointed out that the proposed motion incorrectly referenced the 2026 schedule rather than the 2027 schedule.

President Reichner acknowledged the error and asked how Council should proceed.

Solicitor Geiser explained that, under Sunshine Act procedures, Council should first vote to open the agenda to correct the administrative error changing the year from 2026 to 2027. After that procedural vote, Council could separately vote on the substantive proposal to return to two meetings per month.

President Reichner stated that Council will be voting to amend the meeting schedule for 2027 as opposed to 2026 as noted on the agenda. Councilman Smith to open the meeting to amend the agenda item to reflect a vote on the 2027 meeting schedule as opposed to the 2026 meeting schedule as listed on the agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shay, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Smith motioned to amend the agenda to reflect a proposed change to the 2027 meeting schedule as opposed to the 2026 meeting schedule listed on the agenda. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shay, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilwoman Hendrickson motioned to amend the 2026 meeting schedule to return to two council meetings per month. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman McCuen. A roll-call vote was cast as follows:

Councilman Smith: Aye

Councilwoman Shay: Nay

Councilwoman Hendrickson: Aye

Vice President Jacobus: Nay

Councilwoman Reichner: Nay

Councilwoman McCuen: Aye
Councilman Myers: Nay

Motion was not passed, 3-4.

ZONING RE-WRITE: This item was tabled.

2027 MMO: Vice President Jacobus motioned to approve the 2027 minimum municipal obligation for the borough's pension plan in the amount of \$466,834.00. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Shay, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

Vice President Jacobus motioned to approve the deposit of the 2026 state aid funds in the amount of \$235,541.14 into the borough's uniformed pension plan. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hendrickson, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

PSAB MANAGEMENT CAUCUS RESOLUTION: Councilwoman Shay motioned to approve resolution 2026-10 authorizing participation in the Borough Management Caucus Program through the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. Motion was seconded by Councilman Myers, all ayes. Motion carried 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS AND UPDATES:

Councilman Smith asked about a previously anticipated discussion regarding the dissolution of the Friends of Cressbrook organization. He stated that he had expected the matter to be included on the agenda and questioned why it had not been presented.

President Reichner stated that the matter was not listed on the agenda.

Councilman Smith explained that he was raising the issue under old business because it had not appeared as expected.

President Reichner indicated that the matter would need to be addressed at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marianne Reymer 120 Summit Avenue- Ms. Reymer returned to her earlier comments regarding the Borough's auditing firm. She stated that the same accounting firm had been conducting the Borough's annual audit for more than 20 years. She reiterated her recommendation that Council solicit competitive proposals for future auditing services. Ms. Reymer explained that an accountant had suggested to her that the Borough might be able to obtain the same services at a cost of several thousand dollars lower. She encouraged Council to investigate the possibility. Ms. Reymer then addressed repeated contamination incidents at the Borough pool. She suggested that Council consider implementing a fee for incidents requiring pool closure and additional cleaning or chemical treatment.

President Reichner indicated that a similar suggestion had previously been raised.

Ms. Reymer suggested that a fee of approximately \$100 might be appropriate. She explained that these incidents require additional chemicals and employee time and can impose costs on pool operations. Ms. Reymer acknowledged that the incidents were not necessarily intentional but believed the issue warranted consideration.

Mark Hanisco 120 Summit Avenue- Mr. Hanisco questioned why Council was required to vote on the receipt and distribution of funds, specifically referencing fire relief funding and the Borough's pension Minimum Municipal Obligation. He stated that the funds appeared to be provided through external sources and questioned why a vote was needed when the Borough was legally obligated to distribute or deposit the funds.

President Reichner suggested that the votes might be necessary because the funds were being released from Borough accounts.

Manager Hegele explained that the Borough was required to document the receipt and distribution of fire relief funding. The process demonstrated that Council was aware of the funds being received and transferred to the Fire Relief Association. Regarding the MMO, Manager Hegele explained that the required pension paperwork had already been prepared and processed in accordance with legal obligations. She clarified that a formal Council vote on the MMO was not necessarily required, although the obligation and associated information had to be announced.

Mr. Hanisco questioned what would occur if Council voted against an action that was legally required.

Manager Hegele explained that the underlying legal obligation would remain despite an opposing vote.

Solicitor Geiser acknowledged Mr. Hanisco's point.

Manager Hegele clarified that the MMO item could be presented as an announcement rather than requiring a formal vote.

Mr. Hanisco asked about the estimated \$2,500 cost for an eyewash station for the Public Works Department. He questioned whether less expensive alternatives had been considered and suggested reviewing suppliers such as Grainger. Mr. Hanisco stated that government purchasing costs sometimes appeared significantly higher than those available to individual consumers.

Manager Hegele explained that the proposed eyewash station required plumbing installation. She stated that the Borough's insurance company was not satisfied with the existing arrangement and required a fixed sink and eyewash station. The estimated project cost therefore included the necessary plumbing work rather than only the purchase of an eyewash unit.

Mr. Hanisco noted that he had located a substantially less expensive eyewash product through Grainger.

Manager Hegele reiterated that the insurance company did not approve the existing type of arrangement.

Mr. Hanisco returned to the earlier discussion about transferring Right-to-Know responsibilities to the Borough Solicitor or an outside law firm. He questioned whether it would be more cost-effective to hire another Borough employee who could process Right-to-Know requests while also performing other administrative responsibilities. Mr. Hanisco referenced the cost of legal representation and suggested that additional staffing could provide broader operational benefits.

Solicitor Geiser clarified that the firm's hourly rate was lower than the amount Mr. Hanisco had estimated.

Mr. Hanisco reiterated that the Borough should compare the cost of additional administrative staffing against the cost of assigning Right-to-Know matters to outside legal counsel.

ADJOURNMENT: The September 28, 2026, Council Meeting was adjourned at 11:33 PM.

DRAFT