

BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2024

7:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ben Thomas, President Larry Faight, Vice President Scott Reagan, Councilmen Wade Burkholder, Albert Miller, Steve Miller, and Mike Stenger. Also present were Police Department Administrator Ericka Faight, Borough Manager Emilee Little, and Salzmann Hughes attorney Zach Rice. Councilman Joel Amsley participated via phone.

President Faight called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

An invocation was provided by Pastor Fred Keener.

President Faight led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Faight noted that the meeting was being recorded for accuracy of the minutes.

On a Reagan/Burkholder motion, the Council unanimously voted to approve the proposed agenda for the November 4, 2024, regular Council Meeting.

Opportunity to be Heard

No public comments were provided at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a S. Miller/Reagan motion, the Council unanimously voted to approve the Borough Council Meeting minutes of October 7, 2024.

Community Events:

On a S. Miller/Burkholder motion, the Council unanimously voted to approve a temporary block closure on N. Washington Street from E. Pine Lane to E. Madison Street in front of the Veteran's Memorial on November 11th from 10:30 am to 11:45 am to allow for the Veterans Day Commemoration as requested by the Greencastle American Legion.

On a Stenger/Burkholder motion, Council unanimously voted to endorse the 42nd Triennial Greencastle-Antrim Old Home Week Celebration: August 2, 2025 to August 9, 2025, including:

- Authorization of municipal resources to assist as needed for event preparation and public safety
- Approval of road closures and no parking as needed
- Authorization of the use of the Borough parking lot for the unofficial opening

REGULAR AGENDA

Payment of Bills

On a Reagan/Stenger motion, Council unanimously voted to affirm the disbursements listed on the October 2024 Disbursement Report in the amount of \$99,575.28.

Chief of Police Appointment & Swearing In

On a Reagan/S. Miller motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the appointment of Jason Batistig as the Chief of Police for the Greencastle Police Department and authorize the execution of the related employment agreement.

Council President Larry Faight read the following statement:

With Council's approval, Jason Batistig will be appointed as the Chief of Police for the Borough of Greencastle.

As a brief background, Jason is a retired Patrol Sergeant from the Hagerstown Police Department with over twenty five years of service in Hagerstown upon his retirement in March of 2023. During his years of service as a supervisor and canine handler with the Hagerstown Police Department, Jason received several awards including two Governor's Citations, a Bronze Medal of Valor, and Silver Medal of Valor. Jason is PA Act 120 certified through MPOETC and is an instructor in several law enforcement disciplines. After retiring from the Hagerstown Police Department, for the past two years Jason has been a program coordinator for the Indiana University of PA Criminal Justice Center Police Academy. In addition to his significant work related credentials and experience, Jason is a Greencastle-Antrim resident having lived in the Greencastle area since 2004.

Over the last several months with the assistance of the Borough's legal counsel at Salzmans Hughes, the Borough has conducted a thorough review of Jason's qualifications and completed all essential background checks, confirmations, and evaluations as required to ensure we have found a qualified candidate.

Please join us to help welcome our new Chief of Police, Jason Batistig.

Mayor Thomas performed the Swearing In Ceremony for Chief of Police Jason Batistig.

Reports from Elected Officials

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thomas provided his monthly report to the council and citizens of Greencastle, covering various topics such as public safety, Veteran's Day ceremony, drought watch, grant applications, police operations, and community events. The complete Mayor's Report is available on the Borough website.

Police Department Report

Ericka Faight provided a review of activities involving the Police Department in the month of October detailing calls for service, complaints, overtime, and mileage. Faight outlined recent cases being investigated including theft by an Amazon delivery driver with an extensive criminal history, multiple vehicle break-ins in the area of S. Antrim Way, five hit-and-runs with two solved using surveillance cameras, and the theft of 20 firearms from a residence. The complete Police Department's Report is available on the Borough website.

On a S. Miller/Burkholder motion, Council unanimously voted to authorize Salzmans Hughes to draft an agreement regarding the code enforcement issue at 43 W. Madison Street.

Manager's Report

Little provided a comprehensive report detailing updates on the 2025 budget, ARPA funds, community development projects, zoning ordinances, and current development under review. Little discussed projects currently under construction including the 2019 CDBG funded ADA ramps and the Plaza Phase 1A project. Little outlined upcoming ordinances soon to be reviewed by Council and noted operational updates from the Public Works and Sewer departments. Little advised that her complete written report would be available on the Borough website.

President's Report

President Faight thanked members of the Borough staff in attendance including Officer Eric Kamoie, Officer Mike Knetchel, and Public Works Manager Bob Manahan.

Committee Action

Administration & Finance

On a Reagan/Burkholder motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the budgeted annual contribution of \$1,929.20 to the Franklin County Drug Task Force.

On a Reagan/Stenger motion, Council unanimously voted to authorize the expenditure of \$3,752.82 (25% of the total cost of \$15,011.28 to be shared between Antrim Township and the Greencastle-Antrim Chamber of Commerce) for the installation of a new Center Square sound system including speakers, microphone system, and power amplifier.

On a Burkholder/Reagan motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the preliminary adoption and advertisement of the 2025 Municipal Budgets as recommended by the Admin & Finance Committee.

On a Reagan/Burkholder motion, Council unanimously voted to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 2024-05 amending Chapter 155 to provide for a 3% increase in quarterly sewer rates and minimum quarterly sewer charges to be enacted with the 2025 Sewer Fund budget effective the first billing period after January 1, 2025.

On a S. Miller/Reagan motion, Council unanimously voted to authorize an ordinance to be drafted and advertised establishing a 1.25 mill fire tax to be enacted with the 2025 General Fund budget.

On a Reagan/Stenger motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the Franklin County Area Tax Bureau's 2025 Operating Budget as presented.

On a Burkholder/Stenger motion, Council unanimously voted to appoint Mayor Ben Thomas as the representative and Manager Emilee Little as the alternate to the Franklin County Area Tax Board for calendar year 2025.

Community & Economic Development

On a Reagan/Burkholder motion, Council unanimously voted to approve a final subdivision plan as prepared by Frederick, Seibert & Associates, Inc. on behalf of Patriot Federal Credit Union for the proposed subdivision of parcel 08-2B12.-001.-000000 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

A. Miller expressed a concern with the inlet at the corner of Williamson Avenue and Route 11, noting that there is an issue with stormwater freezing over this intersection.

Justin Doty of FSA stated that the land development plan shows the removal of a considerable amount of asphalt; therefore, no stormwater BMP is needed for this development but that FSA would investigate the inlet.

On a Reagan/A. Miller motion, Council voted 6-1, with Amsley opposed, to approve a 180-day extension request for the review of a land consolidation plan for the subdivision of the lands of the Chambersburg Hospital for addition to the lands of the Greencastle-Antrim School District as prepared by Triad Engineering, Inc. (expires 11/8/2024, 180-day extension to 5/7/2025)

On an A. Miller/Burkholder motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the formation of a Capital Campaign Committee to raise funds for the development of the Borough owned lot on E. Baltimore Street.

Burkholder advised that he would like to be a member of the Capital Campaign Committee once formed.

Personnel

On a Reagan/Burkholder motion, Council unanimously voted to accept a notice of resignation from part-time Police Officer Chadwick Fuchs effective October 1, 2024.

Public Safety

On a Reagan/Stenger motion, Council unanimously voted to authorize staff to request West Penn Power to install an additional LED street light on N. Jefferson Street as recommended by the Public Safety Committee.

Correspondence

Truck Mounts Inc. – Ray Fair – letter concerning proposed portable storage container ordinance

Final Comments – Public

Tim Fetterhoff of 180 Baumgardner Drive congratulated Chief of Police Jason Batistig on his appointment.

Final Comments – Council

Chief Batistig stated he was glad to be here, excited for this new chapter and thanked Council for the opportunity.

S. Miller advised that continued vigilance is the cost of freedom, that the world is changing, and stated that he is looking forward to Chief Batistig's term as Chief.

Stenger, Burkholder, and A. Miller welcomed Chief Batistig.

Amsley noted that he has interviewed many people and that Batistig was one of the most impressive interviews, stated that Batistig will make a difference in the Greencastle community, and that he is delighted to have Batistig as Chief.

Reagan expressed that Batistig has been impressive to date and he is looking forward to all the great things he will do as Chief of Police.

Mayor Thomas noted that he and Batistig will continue to work together and advised that the girls' volleyball team is competing at the state level.

Faight thanked everyone for attending the meeting and stated to Jason that he has a great team of people to work with.

Adjourn

On a Reagan/Burkholder motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilee Little
Borough Secretary