BOROUGH OF GREENCASTLE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 2026
7:00 P.M.

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

President Larry Faight called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
An invocation was provided by Pastor Fred Keener.
President Larry Faight led the Pledge of Allegiance.
President Larry Faight noted that the meeting was being recorded for accuracy of the minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION NOTICE – immediately prior to this meeting – legal matters

On a Reagan/Burkholder motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the proposed agenda for the October 5, 2026, regular Council Meeting.

Opportunity to be Heard

Joe Crouse, 41 Edward Drive, expressed concerns regarding potential property maintenance code violations at a neighboring property. Crouse referenced provisions of Chapter 86, Brush, Grass, and Weeds, and Chapter 132, Property Maintenance, noting that the neighboring property has weeds approximately six feet high. He stated that he had consulted an attorney regarding the possibility of taking legal action against the Borough for failure to enforce its ordinances.

Charles Stockslager, 241 E. Madison Street, questioned the funding source for the purchase of the front portion of the Brightspeed property and the associated surveying costs. He also asked how much funding remains from the Plaza fundraising efforts and questioned costs related to the Plaza project.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a Schroy/Reagan motion, Council unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2026, Borough Council Meeting.

On a Reagan/Amsley motion, Council unanimously voted to accept Act 44 disclosures for the Borough's Non-Uniform and Police Pension Plans as presented.

On a Reagan/Amsley motion, Council unanimously voted to affirm the employment of Rochelle Moyer to fulfill the part-time Administrative Receptionist position.

REGULAR AGENDA

Payment of Bills

On a Regan/Amsley motion, the Council unanimously voted to affirm disbursements listed on the September 2026 Disbursement Report in the amount of $103,565.07.

Reports from Elected Officials

President's Report – no report provided

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thomas reported on the community's America 250 commemorative events, including the Alumni Band concert and local history pageant performances. He also highlighted September activities, including the 9/11 Walk of Unity and the swearing-in of new part-time Police Officer Randy Kane. Thomas congratulated Antrim Township on receiving a $250,000 Local Share Account grant for a new Rescue Hose Company fire engine and provided an update on the Borough's ongoing efforts with PennDOT to address downtown truck traffic.

Chief's Report

Chief Batistig reported on an investigation resulting in the arrest and felony charges of an individual for failing to comply with Pennsylvania sex offender residency and registration requirements. He also highlighted the Department's participation and win in Wawa's Hoagies for Heroes Challenge and confirmed that all officers successfully completed annual firearms training and qualifications.

Manager's Report

Manager Little provided updates on major projects, budget preparations, and projects currently out to bid. Little noted several upcoming topics of discussion, including zoning and code amendments, door-to-door solicitation regulations, and the creation of a rental inspection program. She noted that the Personnel Committee would be working on police union negotiations, reviewed Public Facilities infrastructure projects and grant applications, and advised that Public Safety would be reviewing code enforcement matters. Little confirmed that the annual leaf collection program would begin October 19th.

Committee Action

Administration & Finance

On a Regan/Amsley motion, the Council unanimously voted to approve the submitted request for payment in the amount of $21,585.40 to the Rescue Hose Company No. 1 for the Borough's portion of the RHC personnel costs incurred from 7/1/2026 to 9/30/2026.

On a Burkholder/Reagan motion, the Council unanimously voted to approve the following requests as submitted by the Greencastle-Antrim Chamber of Commerce for Heritage Christmas Events:

a) Police Support
   - Assistance from GPD during transport and delivery of the Christmas Tree on November 16th

b) Borough Staff Support & Parking Restrictions
   - Santa's Mailbox in the NE corner by November 17th at 12:00 PM.
   - Post "No Parking" signs in the Square by November 20th at 12:00 PM for the Tree Lighting Ceremony
   - Post "No Parking" signs in the Square on December 4th and December 11th by 3:00 PM for Heritage Christmas activities
   - Post "No Parking" signs in the NW corner of the Square from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on December 5th for the Taste of the Holidays Stroll

c) Electricity & PA System
   - Provide power for the Christmas Tree and all four corners of the Square as needed
   - Allow use of the PA system to play holiday music during events

d) Road Closure Approval
   - Authorize closure of Center Square to traffic during the Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 20th with Fire Police support
   - Issue an approval letter to accompany a special event permit submittal to PennDOT

e) Food Truck Ordinance Waiver
   - Waive the regulations established in Ordinance 2025-01 to allow one food truck to operate in the NW corner of the Square during:

i. Tree Lighting – November 20th
ii. Heritage Christmas in the Square – December 4th & 11th

f) Tree Sponsorship
- Provide a donation in the amount of $2,000.00 for expenses related to the installation, decoration, and removal of the town Christmas tree

On a S. Miller/Reagan motion, the Council unanimously voted to adopt Resolution 2026-08 authorizing the sale of surplus equipment to the highest responsible bidders through the Municibid online auction platform and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute all documents necessary to complete the sales, as follows:

a. 2013 Chevy Tahoe police vehicle – $5,700.00
b. (2) police patrol bicycles – $160.00

On a Amsley/Burkholder motion, the Council unanimously voted to adopt Resolution 2026-09 authorizing the Borough of Greencastle to bid on the property identified as 43 W. Madison Street, Greencastle, PA 17225 offered for sale at tax sale and designating officials to execute associated purchase agreements.

Little reviewed the preliminary proposed 2027 Municipal Budgets, as recommended by the Admin & Finance.

Little highlighted major capital projects and equipment purchases, including a police vehicle and body cameras, a backhoe loader, Moss Spring Phase 2 traffic calming, Town Hall Plaza, and Tyrone Street stormwater improvements.

The proposed General Fund budget anticipates $879,000 in grants and contributions and an $82,500 expense to the Rescue Hose Company.

Proposed rates include no real estate tax increase (remaining at 16 mills), an increase in the fire tax from 1.25 to 2.0 mills, a 3% sewer rate increase, and no change to the SPIF rate. The budget also anticipates a 15% healthcare increase and wage increases of 3.5% for police uniformed staff and 3.6% for non-uniformed staff.

All budgets are balanced as presented.

Community & Economic Development

On a Burkholder/Amsley motion, the Council unanimously voted to authorize free parking, granted by the Borough of Greencastle, to begin on Small Business Saturday, November 28, 2026, and to continue through December 28, 2026.

On an Amsley/Reagan motion, the Council unanimously voted to authorize the following items related to the Town Hall Plaza Brightspeed Property Acquisition:

a. Authorize the Borough Manager to execute the Agreement for the Sale and Purchase of Real Estate between the Borough of Greencastle and Brightspeed of Pennsylvania, LLC for the purchase of approximately 750 square feet of the property located at 47 E. Baltimore Street, Franklin County Tax Parcel No. 08-2B29.-040.-000000, for the Town Hall Plaza Project, at a purchase price of $5,000.00.
b. Approve a proposal submitted by Frederick, Seibert & Associates, Inc. for surveying, subdivision, and related professional services, at a cost not to exceed $4,500.00, associated with the Borough's acquisition of a portion of the Brightspeed property located at 47 E. Baltimore Street for the Town Hall Plaza Project.

Public Facilities

On a Amsley/S. Miller motion, the Council unanimously voted to enact Ordinance No. 2026-03 as advertised amending Chapter 155 of the Borough Code, entitled "Sewer," to update the tapping fees for connections to the Borough's sewer system as established by the February 2026 Capital Charges Study prepared by Keller Engineers pursuant to Act 57 of the PA Municipal Authorities Act.

Correspondence

Council deferred anonymous correspondence concerning several matters in the S. Washington Street area to the Public Safety Committee for review.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:57p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilee Little
Borough Secretary