

BOROUGH OF SOUTH COATESVILLE
Borough Council Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2026

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. President Wright called the meeting to order at **7:08 p.m.** and announced that Council met in Executive Session at **6:00 p.m.** to discuss personnel and legal matters. The meeting was held at Borough Hall, 136 Modena Road, South Coatesville, PA

Present: President Wright, Vice President Watson, Councilor Jones, Councilor Washington, Councilor Eveland, Mayor Carey

Absent: Councilor Bond

Staff: Borough Manager Steven J. Plaughter

Agenda

Councilor Eveland moved to amend the agenda to include action on **Resolution 2026-03 – Snow Emergency Declaration**. Seconded by Councilor Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President Watson moved to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Vice President Watson moved to approve the **February 10, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes** with the following additions:

Councilor Washington requested that the minutes include the statement that remaining funds from the Woodward Road Grant Project should be applied toward the required match for the Youngsburg Road stormwater repair grant.

President Wright clarified that Council will seek permission from DCED to apply any remaining Woodward Road grant funds toward the Youngsburg Road project.

Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills

Vice President Watson moved to approve the bills list for payment pending review by the Finance Committee. Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried **4-0**, with Councilor Jones abstaining.

Old Business

Southview Homes – President Wright reported that Council will meet with the Borough Solicitor to review escrow options related to Southview Homes. Discussion occurred regarding whether the Borough or the Southview HOA should be responsible for the solicitor's costs.

Woodward Road Grant Project – Manager Plaughter reported that the Borough is awaiting tree trimming along the roadway and DCED approval to utilize grant funds to repair the upper portion of Woodward Road. The roadway remains closed due to safety concerns.

New Business

Borough Council Vacancy – Council previously declared a vacancy following Mr. Gilbert Parker's decision not to take the Oath of Office for his elected seat.

Councilor Jones moved to appoint **Arthur Phillips, Jr.**, to fill the vacancy. Seconded by Councilor Washington. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Phillips will take the Oath of Office at the March 10, 2026, meeting. Mr. Phillips addressed Council and stated that he looks forward to representing the entire Borough.

Public Works Resignation – Councilor Eveland moved to accept the resignation of part-time Public Works employee **Tahj Reeves**, effective February 27, 2026. Seconded by Councilor Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-03 – Snow Emergency Declaration – Vice President Watson moved to ratify the Snow Emergency Declaration issued by Mayor Carey on February 21, 2026, in advance of a winter storm. Seconded by Councilor Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Finance – President Wright reported that **McCarrigle Bookkeeping and Consulting Services** will present at the next meeting.

PA State Police – Previously submitted

Public Works – Previously submitted

Wastewater Treatment Plant – January and February reports included

Modena Fire Company – Report included

Westwood Fire/EMS – Report included
Planning Commission – No report

Citizen Comments

Rev. Brunson reported that the sinkhole in front of his church on Youngsburg Road continues to expand. Manager Plaughter will meet with him onsite to review the issue.

Mr. Gilbert Parker commented that Council members should be allowed to speak without interruption during discussions.

Ms. Elizabeth Dermond thanked Council for posting meeting minutes on the Borough website.

Mr. Peter DiMario of the Coatesville Library thanked Council for its continued support.

Council and Mayor Comments

Councilor Washington suggested holding Executive Sessions on a separate evening and designating the second monthly Council meeting as a work session. She also reiterated concerns regarding Southview escrow arrangements.

Councilor Jones emphasized the importance of transparency regarding escrow funds.

Vice President Watson thanked residents for attending and noted that Council members volunteer their time to serve the entire Borough.

Councilor Eveland congratulated Mr. Phillips on his appointment and noted that differing viewpoints among Council members reflect varied perspectives rather than conflict.

Mayor Carey thanked residents for attending and stated that while progress is being made, additional work remains.

President Wright noted the strong public attendance and stated that resident feedback helps Council identify ongoing issues. He also reported continued communication efforts with PennDOT and noted improvements in snow removal during the recent storm.

Adjournment

Vice President Watson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at **8:02 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



Steven J. Plaucher
Borough Manager