

BOROUGH OF SOUTH COATESVILLE
Borough Council Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2026

Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. President Wright called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 Washington, Councilor Eveland, Councilor Bond, Councilor Jones, and Mayor Carey. *Note that Councilor Jones arrived at 7:32 p.m.*

Absent: Councilor Phillips

Staff Present: Borough Manager Steven J. Plaughner

Public Comment – Agenda Items Only

None

Agenda

Councilor Bond moved to approve tonight's meeting agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously. There were no amendments.

Minutes

Vice President Watson moved to approve the April 14, 2026, Borough Council meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills

Vice President Watson moved to approve the April 28, 2026, bills list as presented, Seconded by Councilor Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Southview Homes – Manager Plaughter reported that staff has meet with our Land Development Solicitor and Borough Engineer to review options concerning the escrow being held and the possibility of a meeting with the developer.

Woodward Road Grant Project – Manager Plaughter reported that paving repairs to the upper end of Woodward Road have been completed and the roadway was reopened on April 15, 2026.

Streetlights – Remington Avenue – Manager Plaughter reported that contractor Vietri Electric made repairs to the streetlights on Remington Avenue and the lights are now operational. Vietri has a list of additional streetlights out in the Borough and will be scheduling the repair work.

Youngsburg Road Stormwater Project – Manager Plaughter reported that Carroll Engineering has been assigned the task of coordinating with PennDOT on permit status and Chester County for grant reporting.

New Business

Ordinance 2026-03 – Disbanding the South Coatesville Police Department – Councilor Washington moved to approve Ordinance 2026-03, disbanding the South Coatesville Police Department effective April 30, 2026. The Pennsylvania State Police will continue providing police services to the Borough. Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-04 – Stop Signs on Woodward Road – Councilor Eveland moved to approve Resolution 2026-04 for the installation of stop signs on both ends Woodward Road - Overhill Road and Goosetown Road and authorizes the Borough Manager to complete any necessary applications required by PennDOT. Second, by Councilor Jones. Motion carried 5-0, with Councilor Washington abstaining.

Birch Street Playground Improvements – Tree Planting – Summit Village developer Robert Miller presented a proposal to install (6) maple trees, or any type tree that Council prefers along the frontage of the municipal park to help beautify that section of Birch Street. Mr. Miller will have the trees installed at his cost and will take care of watering.

Following discussion concerning how tall the trees would grow, type leaf, and concerns about the trees obstructing the public’s view of the park, Council tabled further action on the proposal.

Job Description and Posting – Administrative Assistant – After Vice President Watson read in additional financial duties for the position, Councilor Washington moved to approve the Administrative Assistant job description and to advertise. Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried 5-1 with Councilor Jones voting in opposition.

Community Meeting Room – Council discussed the feasibility of converting the former police station into a community meeting room. President Wright recommended that we cost-out the required renovations and look for available grants.

Reports

Finance – Comments made earlier in the meeting. Bills List is in order

Engineer Report – May Meeting

PA State Police – May Meeting

Public Works – May Meeting

Wastewater Treatment Plant – May Meeting

Modena Fire Company – May Meeting

Westwood EMS – May Meeting

Planning Commission – No Update

Citizen Comments

Mr. Gilbert Parker provided documents to Councilor Bond and asked that copies be made for Council. Further, he discussed research and development, market-based health insurance plans, and that retired police receive a pension. Mr. Parker then cited a prayer.

Mrs. Doreen Taylor spoke about a project list from 2019 that the Council failed to act. Further, the street sign is missing from Birch and Wood Street, and someone may be living in 32 Wood Street. In addition, Mrs. Taylor feels the recycling containers need to be bigger, as the current containers do not hold enough recycling material.

Reverend Brunson commented that he has been attending meetings regularly and often hears Council comment about not having funding to move forward with projects. He asked if the Borough is collecting past due bills, and is Cleveland Cliffs paying their fair share of taxes.

Council and Mayor Comments

Councilor Bond commented that he agrees with what was said, and residents should hold elected officials accountable. He agreed that Cliff's may not be paying their share of taxes, and residents should consider forming a coalition and have a unified voice.

Councilor Eveland thanked residents for coming out and suggested they keep up to date by reading the agenda and minutes on the website and attending meetings regularly.

Councilor Jones explained that he is being transparent in voting no on the Administrative Assistant job description because of the last-minute wording change, which should have been provided prior to the meeting and voting. Further, residents' questions and concerns can be on the agenda, as we are all taxpayers. Citizens should be heard, but there is a process; ask to be on the agenda. Historically, churches with predominantly African American congregants have often organized and partnered with broader community groups to advance local initiatives. Rev. Brunson should consider mobilizing in that way.

Councilor Washington thanked residents for coming out tonight to make sure we are making progress. She believes residents on Birch Street do not want trees planted. Further, she requests that our engineers provide an update on Summit Village and if all the necessary fees are collected.

President Wright thanked those in attendance for coming out tonight, and he believes that Council supports our residents. We are moving forward and trying to address your concerns. This year we did not have to take out a loan to maintain operations and hope to have a surplus at the end of the year. We are moving the chain forward and have a strong team in place.

Mayor Carey commented that Council does hear what you say and will address your concerns. Further, PSP is patrolling the Borough, but neighbors should look out for each other.

Adjournment

Councilor Bond moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Plaugh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven J. Plaugh
Borough Manager