

BOROUGH OF SOUTH COATESVILLE
Borough Council Meeting Minutes
May 12, 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, Councilor Phillips, and Mayor Carey.

Staff Present: Borough Manager Steven J. Plaugher

Public Comment – Agenda Items Only

Gilbert Parker questioned how far in advance does the meeting agenda come out.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Vice President Watson moved to approve the April 28, 2026, Borough Council meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Councilor Jones pointed out a portion of his comments under "Council and Mayor Comments" were not accurate and he will be sending the correct verbiage to the manager. The motion was amended to include Councilor Jones's corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Payment of Bills

Vice President Watson moved to approve the May 12, 2026, bills list as presented, Seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Southview Homes – President Wright reported that there was nothing new to report, but he hopes to have an update at the next meeting.

Youngsburg Road Stormwater Project – Manager Plaughter reported that a meeting has been scheduled with PennDOT, Carroll Engineering and staff in an attempt to get this project moving forward.

Crosswalk – 1200 Block of Youngsburg Road – Manager Plaughter reported that on tonight's agenda Council will be discussing appointing JMR Engineering to oversee the application process for a mid-block crosswalk.

New Business

Stormwater Project and other Concerns on Youngsburg Road – Rev. Brunson presented to Borough Council on this topic and stated he is pleased with what he heard tonight on the progress update. He went on to say that it has been five years since Hurricane Ida, causing damage to both Woodward Road and Youngsburg Road. Woodward Road repairs were completed with grant funding and is now open. Youngsburg Road has two sink holes partly covered by iron plates and flooding issues that have not been resolved, despite Cedarville Engineering submitting plans to PennDOT in 2024.

Rev. Brunson further commented that he believes Council gave Woodward Road priority because of the Winery. The church's flood insurance has also increased in cost. The Reverend sent a video to Council showing what happens when it rains heavy. In closing Rev. Brunson told Council that the NAACP is here tonight for support and he will seek legal action if needed.

In response to Rev. Brunson's remarks, Council made the following comments:

President Wright – Thank you for the update and brining us up to speed. Council will follow through to move this project forward. We have to be in compliance with the state and file the proper paperwork.

Councilor Bond – Thanks for assembling and brining in a group.

Councilor Jones – Thanked neighbors and the NAACP for coming out. We will get through this.

Councilor Washington – It is very embarrassing that this project has dragged on, and we need to be progressive moving forward. She was here five years ago, and studies have already been completed. We need to get matching funds for the grant. Further, the speed limit should be reduced on Youngsbury Road.

Lawn Mower Purchase – Public Works Department – Manager Plaughter presented on a Public Works request to purchase a used Ferris 48” walk behind mower from Honey Brook Outdoor Power in the amount of \$4,800 (after trade in). This mower will allow the safe mowing of hills and embankments. Councilor Phillips moved to approve the purchase, seconded by Councilor Washington. Following discussion about service, warranty and payment structure, the motion carried unanimously.

Sale of Police Ballistic Vest to Malvern Borough – Manager Plaughter reported that the Malvern Borough Police Department is interested in purchasing a ballistic vest that was purchased from Witmer Public Safety prior to our police department disbanding. Councilor Bond moved to approve the sale at a price of \$600.00, seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of JMR Engineering – Youngsbury Road Crosswalk Project – Manager Plaughter recommended to Council the appointment of JMR Engineering to focus specifically on advancing the crosswalk approval process through PennDOT. Motion to approve the appointment of JMR Engineering by Councilor Jones, seconded by Councilor Eveland. Motion carried unanimously.

Birch Street Playground Improvements – Previously tabled – Councilor Jones moved to raise this item from the table, seconded by Vice President Watson. The motion carried unanimously. Council reviewed developer Robert Miller’s request to plant six maple trees in front of the municipal park in Birch Street. Council Jones moved to decline Mr. Miller’s offer to plant the trees with the option to revisit at a later date, seconded by Councilor Eveland. The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Finance – Reported earlier in the meeting

Engineer Report – No Report

PA State Police – Attached to packet

Public Works – No Report

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Attached to packet

Modena Fire Company – No Report

Westwood EMS – No Report

Planning Commission – Councilor Eveland would like to discuss reducing the number of Commissioners on the Planning Commission at the next Council meeting.

Citizen Comments

Mrs. Singleton, 801 Charles Street thanked Rev. Brunson for his presentation and reminded Council that block grant applications are now available, but the closing window is next week.

Mr. Gilbert Parker commented that the Borough spent too much money on tree cutting and culvert repairs when completing the Woodward Road repair project.

Mr. Larry London believes the Borough is spending too much money on the manager's salary that could be used elsewhere in the Borough.

A resident of 2140 Upper Gap Road commented that she looked around at other municipalities, and our manager salary is reasonable. Further, if we had a manager back years ago, we would not be in this position.

Council and Mayor Comments

Councilor Bond commented that the manager's salary is reasonable. He complimented Rev. Brunson on the presentation and reminded everyone the importance of attending municipal meetings.

Council Phillips concurred with Councilor Bond and thanked everyone to coming out to tonight's meeting.

Councilor Eveland thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and having your voice heard. Further, she would like Council to consider a resolution in support of America 250.

Councilor Washington thanked our residents and the NAACP for coming out and supporting Rev. Brunson. Further, the Juneteenth celebration is coming up.

Councilor Jones thanked everyone for attending and concurs with Councilor Washington's comments.

Vice President Watson thanked Rev. Brunson and everyone for coming out this evening.

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President Wright thanked Rev. Brunson and everyone for coming out tonight. We are in the process of strengthening Borough staffing and operations so that we can move forward and better serve our residents. Please keep attending meetings and check our website for agendas and minutes.

Mayor Carey thanked Rev. Brunson and understands what he is describing. The mayor feels that the Borough is moving forward.

Adjournment

Councilor Jones moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Bond. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'St' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Steven J. Plaugher
Borough Manager