

July 28, 2026 Business Meeting

Meeting minutes

The Mount Penn Borough Council met for the Monthly Business Meeting on July 28, 2026, at Mount Penn Borough Hall, 200 N. 25th Street, Reading, PA 19606. Council President Rick Lombardo called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Council President Rick Lombardo, Council Vice President Christine Dise, Council Member Troy Goodman, Council Member Michael Kindlick, and Council Member David Korinchock were present. Mayor Ryan Maurer, Council Member Tom Baer, Council Member Kelly Dudash were absent. Staff and professionals present included Solicitor Zachary Morey, Esq., Borough Engineer Ty Leinneweber, P.E., Chief of Police Justin Johnson, Codes Administrator Arthur Kelly, Jr., Streets Laborer Ricky Lombardo, and Borough Manager Hunter L. Ahrens. Several members of the public were present including Meriam Tiderman, Ron Tiderman, Curt Hill, Patti Rose, and Brian Hartman.

Meeting Opening

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. All present were asked to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Mr. Lombardo.

Public Comment

Meriam Tiderman, 121 S. 22nd Street – Ms. Tiderman addressed the Council regarding a skateboarding incident in which she was struck and injured in the parking lot of the Perkiomen Avenue mini-mall near Dollar Tree. She requested that the borough contact the property owner to install more prominent signage prohibiting skateboards, e-bikes, and scooters on the premises. She noted that an existing ordinance from 2004 addresses motorized vehicles on public property but does not cover private property or skateboards specifically.

Chief Johnson confirmed that the department can enforce such prohibitions on private property provided the owner grants authorization and appropriate signage is posted, and stated he would follow up with the property owner. Mr. Morey noted that the borough's regulatory authority does not extend to private parking lots, but suggested Ms. Tiderman consider consulting a private attorney.

Ron Tiderman, 121 S. 22nd Street - Mr. Tiderman expressed concern about his wife's injuries and a separate issue of potholes on South 22nd Street above Fairview. Mr. Ahrens and Mr. Lombardo¹ acknowledged the complaint and explained that ongoing rain had delayed

¹ Streets Laborer Richard Lombardo.

milling and patching operations, as wet conditions prevent the work from being completed properly.

Curt Hill, 1713 Friedensburg Avenue [Lower Alsace] – Mr. Hill raised a question regarding the advertisement for the vacant Antietam Valley Municipal Authority (AVMA) board position, recommending that the Council consider relevant professional disciplines when selecting candidates to ensure the board retains diverse expertise. Mr. Lombardo² confirmed that public interviews would be conducted at the next meeting.

Patti Rose, 919 N. 26th Street [Lower Alsace] – Ms. Rose requested that the Council provide a full accounting of legal and planning fees incurred to date in connection with the Mt. Penn Municipal Water Authority conveyance agreement, to be made available to the public at the August meeting.

Discuss and Consider Street Project Change Order

Motion by Troy Goodman, seconded by Christine Dise, to approve Pay Application No. 5 in the amount of \$12,395.80 to Allen Myers, Contract A. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Leinneweber reported that following a Teams meeting with Allen Myers LP, the contractor's original additional cost claim of \$146,455.90 for Contract B was reduced to \$85,656.70 after unjustified items were identified and removed. The change order pertains to additional labor, equipment, and hauling costs associated with 12-inch milling performed in two cuts. The Engineer requested conditional board approval, contingent upon receipt of signed documentation from Allen Myers LP.

Motion by David Korinchock, seconded by Troy Goodman, to conditionally approve Change Order No. 8 to Allen Myers LP for Contract B in the amount of \$85,656.70, subject to receipt of signed documentation from the contractor. Motion carried unanimously.

The Engineer also noted that approximately \$256,507 remains in the grant balance, less engineering costs already submitted for reimbursement, leaving roughly \$200,000 on the table. It was discussed that any amounts the Water Authority had committed to paying—approximately \$40,000—would be submitted to the state for grant coverage in the hope that the State would also approve those expenses rather than require the Authority to pay for those changes.

Discussion and Consider Revised Speed Cushion Quote

The Council and Borough Manager discussed a revised quote for speed cushions to be installed on a borough street near the high school. It was explained that the originally

² Council President Richard Lombardo

quoted unit was PennDOT-compliant but did not meet the required vehicle-slowng specifications; a larger unit is necessary. The unit price is \$3,676 per cushion, with two units totaling \$7,352, plus installation kit components.

Mr. Ahrens noted that the school district had been asked to contribute toward the cost of the unit to be placed in front of the high school; Mr. Ahrens commented that Dr. Matlack indicated he was in discussion with the school board but had not yet confirmed an outcome. The Council determined it was important to proceed with the order before the school year begins, particularly given a freight waiver offered by the vendor expiring at the end of the month.

Motion by Christine Dise, seconded by Michael Kindlick, to approve the revised speed cushion quote and authorize the purchase of two speed cushion units in the amount of \$7,482.00. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council discussed the need to pass an ordinance authorizing the speed cushions. It was agreed to advertise the ordinance and bring it to a vote at the August 18th workshop meeting, which would be designated as a voting meeting for this purpose, allowing the cushions to be installed before the school year begins.

Motion by Michael Kindlick, seconded by Christine Dise, to advertise a speed cushion authorization ordinance for adoption at the August 18, 2026 Council Workshop Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss and Consider Procurement of Public Works Truck

Mr. Lombardo³ and Mr. Ahrens presented a proposal for the procurement of a new public works truck to replace the borough's 2006 pickup. The total purchase price is \$146,206, consisting of a truck body from Reading Body at \$69,572 and a chassis from Chapman Ford and Ram at \$76,634. The chassis price represents a maximum figure, as final 2027 model year pricing has not been released and could be lower. A 25% deposit is required to place the body order; no deposit is required for the chassis, with payment due within 30 days of delivery. Build times are approximately 24–26 weeks for the body and 5–6 months for the chassis.

The available grant balance applicable to this purchase is \$64,521, with the remainder to be funded through a combination of the general fund and liquid fuels funds, consistent with prior practice and with confirmation from the regional financial consultant. Mr. Goodman asked when the grant expires June 30, 2028. Key benefits of the new unit include an

³ Streets Laborer Richard Lombardo

onboard air compressor powered by the vehicle, integrated tool and sign storage, and a separable body that can be refurbished and transferred to a future chassis replacement.

Motion by Michael Kindlick, seconded by Troy Goodman, to approve the procurement of the public works truck, including authorization to place a deposit for the body and place the order for the chassis totaling \$146,212.00, utilizing grant funds and liquid fuels funds as appropriate. Motion carried, with one abstention.⁴

Discuss and Consider Resignation of AVMA Board Member

The Council acknowledged the resignation of Frank Kelly from the AVMA board.

Motion by Christine Dise, seconded by Michael Kindlick, to accept the resignation of the Francis Kelly effective July 7, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss and Consider Appointment of AVMA Board Member

The Council discussed the process of filling the vacancy on the Antietam Valley Municipal Authority. It was agreed to advertise the position via the borough website and social media. Public interviews are planned for the August 18th meeting, beginning at 6:30 PM, with the possibility of moving to 6:00 PM if additional applicants are received.

Motion by Troy Goodman, seconded by David Korinchock, to advertise the vacant AVMA Board Member position via social media and the borough website. Motion carried unanimously.

Approvals

Approve Ordinance No. 912 Amending Recycling Requirements

Ordinance No. 912 was presented, amending the borough's recycling provisions to clarify the separation of recyclable materials including colored glass, clear glass, aluminum, and steel. The ordinance was noted as duly advertised.

Motion by Christine Dise, seconded by David Korinchock, to adopt Recycling Amendment Ordinance No. 912. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Advertisement of Handicap Ordinance

Motion by Christine Dise, seconded by David Korinchock, to advertise a Handicap Ordinance for the property located at 1949 Fairview Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Advertisement of No-Parking Ordinance

Motion by David Korinchock, seconded by Christine Dise, to advertise a No-Parking Ordinance for the 2300 block of Woodvale. Motion carried unanimously.

⁴ The required abstention letter is attached to these minutes.

Approve July 2026 Treasurers Report

Motion by Michael Kindlick, seconded by Christine Dise, to accept the July 2026 Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve June 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Michael Kindlick, seconded by David Korinchock, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2026 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve June 30, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by David Korinchock, seconded by Michael Kindlick, to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2026 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve July 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Troy Goodman, seconded by David Korinchock, to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2026 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports**Chief of Police**

Chief Johnson noted that his written report was included in the meeting packet. He reiterated the department's commitment to addressing skateboard, scooter, and e-bike complaints in the borough's commercial areas, and confirmed he would follow up with the owner of the Perkiomen Mini-Mall regarding signage and enforcement authorization.

Codes Administrator

Mr. Kelly reported the following activity for the month of July: 116 cases and notices of violation opened, 74 closed, and 42 remaining open. Seven zoning permits were issued and one inspection was conducted. Property maintenance enforcement—including high grass and weeds, overgrown vegetation, trash accumulation, and general maintenance issues—remained the department's highest priority.

Mr. Kelly raised a significant ongoing concern regarding 1 Weimoor Court, a property with multiple outstanding citations, an admitted unsafe structure, and tenants from whom rent is being collected despite the conditions. The property has had a condemned double garage for over two years, and a required structural engineer's report for its demolition has not been submitted. Mr. Kelly indicated he would be requesting guidance on potential next steps, including possible blight designation or condemnation.

Mr. Kelly noted that the borough currently has no ordinances governing complaints related to feral cats or wildlife feeding (including squirrels), and that without such an ordinance, enforcement is limited to sanitary or health-based violations. Mr. Ahrens confirmed that

these matters fall outside the current scope of enforceable code provisions absent a specific ordinance.

Mr. Kelly noted that the second quarter report included in the packet reflects that code activity is running ahead of last year's projections.

Merger Committee

No report was presented; Mr. Ahrens noted that a presentation on merger-related matters is being planned for the August 18th workshop meeting.

Borough Manager

The Borough Manager reported the following:

1. A one-year contract extension with J.P. Mascaro was executed at a 2.24% increase.
2. A request was received from a Cub Scout pack leader for a borough council member to serve as a judge at a trunk-or-treat event on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at the Boscov's outlet parking lot near Panera. Mr. Kindlick indicated availability and Mr. Ahrens agreed to make the connection.
3. A review of the borough's employee insurance plan revealed that the borough carries a no-opt-out plan, requiring all an employee's dependents to be enrolled regardless of other coverage. An enrollment discrepancy was identified and corrected, resulting in a credit of over \$14,000 to be applied across the next two billing cycles.
4. Mr. Ahrens shared an article in the Wall Street Journal regarding email-based financial fraud schemes in which hackers intercept project-related email chains and insert fraudulent banking information to redirect EFT payments. Council members were encouraged to remain vigilant.
5. The borough is working on an updated contract with Environ, an energy management company, to seek cost savings on street lights, traffic lights, and borough building energy costs.

Other Business

Mr. Goodman commented that only Mount Penn Borough residents should be appointed to the three Mount Penn-designated seats on the AVMA board, distinguishing those from the two seats appointed by Lower Alsace Township. It was also noted that a vacancy exists on the Planning Commission and that advertisement for that position could be beneficial.

Adjournment

Motion by Michael Kindlick, seconded by David Korinchock, to adjourn that meeting at 8:05 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lombardo announced the Council would adjourn to an Executive Session after the meeting at 8:05 PM to discuss personnel, potential litigation, and active litigation matters.

Submitted by:

Hunter L. Ahrens

Hunter L. Ahrens (Sep 30, 2026 16:44:51 EDT)

Hunter L. Ahrens, MPA, SHRM-SCP
Borough Manager



Borough of Mount Penn

"The Friendly Borough"

John A. Becker Municipal Building

200 N. 25th Street

Reading, PA 19606-2091

Phone: (610) 779-5151 Fax: (610) 779-5221

July 31, 2026

Mount Penn Borough Council

Attn: Hunter L. Ahrens

200 N. 25th Street

Reading, PA 19606

Mr. Ahrens,

At the July 28, 2026, meeting of Mount Penn Borough Council, I abstained from voting on the matter authorizing procurement of a truck body from Reading Truck. This letter serves as the required written disclosure and record of my abstention and the reason for it.

Under the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act (Title 65, Chapter 11), a public official is prohibited from engaging in conduct that constitutes a conflict of interest and is required to abstain from voting on matters in which the official has a direct personal financial interest. In this instance, the vote concerned procurement of a vehicle body from a business where my husband is employed. This constitutes a direct pecuniary interest requiring abstention pursuant to the Ethics Act, including the voting-conflict provisions of Section 1103.

This disclosure is submitted to ensure transparency, compliance with the Ethics Act, and proper inclusion in the public record. Please attach this letter to the official minutes of the Borough Council meeting held on July 28, 2026.

Sincerely,

Christine Dise

Christine Dise (Jul 31, 2026 17:48:12 EDT)

Christine Dise

Borough Council Vice President

INCORPORATED 1903

Binder1

Final Audit Report

2026-09-30

Created:	2026-09-30
By:	Hunter L. Ahrens (manager@mtpennborough.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA133f3hnHacS--ZspC-5ITuEE07-P0F53

"Binder1" History

-  Document created by Hunter L. Ahrens (manager@mtpennborough.com)
2026-09-30 - 8:41:25 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Hunter L. Ahrens (manager@mtpennborough.com) for signature
2026-09-30 - 8:41:30 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Hunter L. Ahrens (manager@mtpennborough.com)
2026-09-30 - 8:44:36 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Hunter L. Ahrens (manager@mtpennborough.com)
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