

Minutes

The Royalton Borough Council met on the above date; meeting being called to order by Council President Long at 7 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer were observed.

Roll call followed: Council Members recorded present for this session were Randy Cain, Kenneth DesJardins, Justin Gilday, Chris Long and Cindy Marsh. Also present was Mayor James Fry. Absent members were, Chris Flynn, Jody Flynn and Brandon Phillippy

Also present were Solicitor Steven Miner, Solicitor Abigail Agosti and Borough Manager Amy Burrell.

Visitors and residents present were: Sheri Barrick, Janice Mills and Terence Watts.

Minutes of the March 10, 2026, meeting were presented and approved through motion by Marsh. Seconded by Cain and carried.

Residents and Visitors heard: None Heard

Communications:

From- BeeSwarmed.org- Information on free public resources to safely relocate honeybees. Manager Burrell introduced Royalton resident, Janice Mills who is a beekeeper and has expressed interest in assisting Royalton residents if there is a swarm issue. Mills had asked about utilizing the Borough bucket truck if there would be a swarm out of ladder reach. Solicitor Miner advised the Council that Borough vehicle use should only be by Borough employees. Mills stated that even if the bucket truck could not be used she would still like to offer her services. Council President Long asked if BeeSwarmed had a truck that could be used. Mills stated she was unsure, but she felt it seems to be beekeeper dependent. Solicitor Miner questioned if Mills was licensed with Mills replying in the affirmative; she holds certification with the Department of Agriculture. Cain asked if the services were just for honeybees with Mills stating yes just outdoor honeybee swarms. She does not want to supply services to remove swarms from inside a home. Council President thanked Mills for offering her services. If it is an outside swarm in Royalton within reach then Mills will be contacted. If the swarm does not meet those criteria residents will be given the BeeSwarmed information.

From- Solicitor Miner- Rental Inspection Ordinance Case.

From- Manager Burrell- Dauphin County Gaming Grant update. Manager Burrell noted that the Dauphin County Commissioners voted down awarding the Dauphin County Gaming Grants in their most recent meeting. Royalton was on the list to have its application fully funded. Awarding of the grants is back on the next Commissioners agenda and Manager Burrell will update when more information becomes available.

From- Middletown Volunteer Fire Dept.- 2026 Banquet Invitation.

The Financial Reports were presented and approved as submitted through motion by Council Vice President DesJardins. Seconded by Cain and carried.

Schedules of Bills payable from the General and the State Appropriations Funds were presented and approved through motion by Gilday. Seconded by Council Vice President DesJardins and carried.

Engineer Report- No Report

Mayor and Police- Mayor Fry presented the police report for March and the April schedule.

Mayor Fry presented a proclamation regarding the 2026 Central PA Air Show and a letter that will be sent to residents along Water Street regarding no parking signage.

Council President Long asked about officers' schedules and meeting the minimum required hours.

Mayor Fry stated he needs to review. He noted that one officer had been out on medical restrictions.

Highway- No Report

Electric- Manager Burrell presented the NYPA Hydropower Updated Agreement for Electric. Manager Burrell noted that Norm Baron, the Borough utility engineer, had reviewed and approved. Cain made a motion to approve the NYPA Hydropower Updated Agreement for Electric as presented. Seconded by Council Vice President DesJardins and carried.

Discussion was had on the utility moratorium period. Accounts Manager Barrick reviewed that shut-offs were conducted with two properties having services turned off. All other accounts were brought current by the deadline and one of the two that were shut-off was satisfied the next day. Council discussed and felt that utility customers are taking advantage of the period and paying at the end which is placing the Borough in a position of having to hold financing debts for an extended period of time. The Council was in agreement that the moratorium period policy should be terminated. Solicitor Miner stated that a new Resolution will be needed to rescind the moratorium period policy. A Resolution will be drafted for the May meeting.

Ordinance and Sanitation- The Code Enforcement report was submitted and approved through motion by Cain. Seconded by Council Vice President DesJardins and carried.

Council Vice President DesJardins asked for an update on 231 R Water Street. Code Officer Watts stated that the property owner had contractor issues. They have a new contractor now and are waiting for their plans to be turned over. Code Officer Watts stated that he expressed to the property owner that there needs to be movement on the property as the Borough intends to revoke the fire escrow funds if progress is not made in the near future. Solicitor Miner reviewed the difficulty there was in getting notice and a response from the property owner. Segreant Givler had to hand deliver a notice to their primary place of residency outside of the Borough.

Code Officer Watts suggested that the Council consider having a list of approved third-party inspectors in the event he is unavailable to provide an inspection and the matter is time sensitive. The cost of the third-party inspector would be the responsibility of the property owner. Council agreed this would be good to have in place in the event Watts was unavailable. Manager Burrell and Code Officer Watts will get a list together to present in the May meeting.

Budget and Finance- No Report

Park and Building- DesJardins noted that the Borough did not meet the minimum collection requirements.

With the new program guidelines, it does not appear that the Borough will be able to meet the requirements to stay with the program. The bins will be removed, and donors will be advised that Giant is a collection site.

Fire- No Report

Planning Commission/Zoning Hearing Board- No Report

Authority Matters- No Report

REMA- Dauphin County Emergency Management is offering to present an update on Crane Clean Energy Center planning to elected officials if requested. Council determined they would like a presentation. Manager Burrell will arrange a presentation to be held at 6 pm on a Council meeting evening.

Manager Burrell noted the next REMA meeting is scheduled for April 21st at 6 pm.

Old business- Council President Long and Manager Burrell reviewed that approximately 70 signatures have been collected to date on the petition regarding the elimination of voting wards and reduction in the number of Council members.

New business- The WREP Intergovernmental Agreement was presented and approved through motion by Council Vice President DesJardins. Seconded by Cain and carried.

Cohen Law Group has completed and submitted the most recent Verizon franchise fee audit.

Middletown Borough has requested a letter of support for the DCNR grant application for a new park at the former location of the Middletown Community Pool. Council Vice President DesJardins made a motion to provide a letter of support. Seconded by Cain and carried.

Manager Burrell noted that pickleball will start again behind the Borough building the first Wednesday in May. This is a free, play at your own risk activity.

Council Present Long requested two holes be filled at the Kiwanis Park dugout.

No further business.

Cain made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 pm. Seconded by Gilday and carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Burrell
Sec./Treas.