

**MACUNGIE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
General Business Meeting  
Monday, January 19, 2026 - 7:30 P.M.

**I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance**

The Macungie Borough Council meeting was called to order on January 19, 2026 at 7:35 p.m. at the Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main Street, Macungie, PA 18062. In attendance were Carl Sell, Jr., President; Ronald Karboski, Vice President; Todd Ritter, Member (via telephone); Greg Hutchison, Member; Megan Sell, Member; Greg Reinbold, Member; Bob Sell, Jr., Mayor; Patrick Armstrong, Esq., Solicitor; and Kalman Sostarecz, Jr., Borough Manager.

President Sell opened the meeting and asked all present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**II. Announcement of Executive Sessions**

Mr. Sostarecz announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting, beginning at 6:30 p.m., and the topics were related to personnel.

**III. Engineer's Report**

President Sell announced that there would be no Engineer's Report provided this evening.

President Sell announced that he would like to move up agenda items X.A. to fill the vacancy on Council and X. B. the Macungie Halloween Parade donation request.

**X. Unfinished Business**

**A. Resolution #2026-01 – Filling a Vacancy on Borough Council**

Ms. M. Sell asked if the public was going to be able to hear the letters from the candidates. Solicitor Armstrong stated that it is up to Council. Ms. M. Sell asked after reviewing all the candidates what was the reason for choosing Lynette Sell?

Mr. Hutchison said he would not get into a debate, but he feels Lynette is the most qualified.

Mr. Reinbold stated that there was another write-in in November who was basically a fifth place finisher and he feels that the person should be appointed. He would object to Lynette Sell being appointed as her husband is already on Council. Mr. Karboski stated that the Mayor and a Council member are also husband and wife.

He feels that Lynette Sell is well-qualified to be on Council.

President Sell stated that he would be recusing himself from the vote due to Lynette Sell being his wife. Ms. Megan Sell stated that he should have announced his recusal prior to the nomination and submitted his reason in writing. Solicitor Armstrong stated that he did disclose the conflict, would not be deliberating or voting on the motion, and will be submitting it in writing.

Robert Bogert stated that he agrees with Mr. Reinbold, that Tom Ashelman should be appointed.

Karen Bilger stated that she also agrees with Mr. Reinbold, that it's hard to get people to run, and that Tom Ashelman should be appointed.

Lisa Donegan stated that she also agrees that Tom Ashelman should be appointed.

Bernie Reinert stated that she is one of five individuals who submitted letters of interest; she then read her letter.

Jeff Hartman asked how the process works and that he supports what Mr. Reinbold said.

**Mr. Hutchison made a motion to adopt Resolution #2026-01 appointing Lynette Sell to Borough Council, seconded by Vice President Karboski.  
Motion passed 3-2 (M. Sell & Reinbold – No; C. Sell – Recusal)**

Ms. M. Sell asked if the required majority was of all of Council? Solicitor Armstrong stated that it is a majority of those able to vote. Since President Sell recused himself there were five members able to vote; therefore, three yes votes are required to pass the motion.

Lynette Sell was then issued the Oath of Office by Mr. Sostarecz and was seated on Borough Council.

**B. Macungie Halloween Parade Donation Request**

Angela Faidley stated a few years prior the parade was going to go under, so she took it over. She had not previously realized that all of the paperwork had to be submitted to obtain the \$1,500, and she has since submitted it. The largest expense is to close the roadways down. All funds are paid through Macungie Park.

Mr. Hutchison said that there were a lot of questions previously that have been answered.

Mr. Karboski stated that there is a policy which was previously passed by Council which regulated how donations are provided. He suggests that next year they meet with the Borough Manager to make sure everything is in order so the donation request is handled smoothly. Ms. Faidley said that would be no problem.

**Vice President Karboski made a motion that the request be authorized, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. The motion passed unanimously.**

President Sell stated that new business item XI.A. regarding the Macungie Holidays donation request would also be moved up in the agenda since it is related.

**XI. New Business**

**A. Macungie Holidays Donation Request**

Rebecca Young stated that she did submit all the receipts that were needed. Mr. Karboski asked that she meet with the Borough Manager in the future to streamline the process.

**Vice President Karboski made a motion that the request be authorized, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion passed unanimously**

**IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

Lisa Donegan stated that her street had been closed and she tried to reach someone at Borough Hall by phone and email but was unable to. Mr. Sostarecz stated that he would check to be sure those are functioning. Ms. Donegan also asked if there was a discount. Mr. Sostarecz stated that there is not a discount on utility bills.

Jeff Hartman stated that there had been discussion a few months prior about the new utility bills that changed in the fall. Mr. Sostarecz stated that the bills that were just mailed are identical to the bills delivered in November, and that there is no tiered billing. All gallons are charged at the same rate. The next bill to come out in April will reflect this.

Karen Bilger stated that there has never been a discount on the utility bills. If the bill isn't paid on time there is then a penalty.

Bob Bogart stated that he would like to commend Public Works on removing snow and getting them safely back on the road. He also stated that there are many people in the borough who do not clear their sidewalks after a snow.

David Saylor stated that he would like to thank the new Borough Manager for meeting with Friends of the Institute and the Flower Park committees.

## V. Complaints, Petitions, & Appeals

None

Mr. Ritter who was participating by telephone, disconnected at 8:20 p.m.

## VI. Approval of Minutes

### A. January 5, 2026

Mr. Hutchison made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. M. Sell stated that she would like a small correction to the new business, that she had mentioned that there was someone else who ran in the November election.

**Mr. Hutchison amended his motion to include the amendment, seconded by Vice President Karboski. Motion passed 6-0 (Ritter – absent)**

## VII. Financial Report

### A. Treasurer's Report

**Vice President Karboski made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as written, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion passed 6-0 (Ritter – absent)**

### B. Approval of Paid Bills Detail Report in the Amount of \$81,084.67

**Vice President Karboski made a motion to approve the bills according to the detail presented, seconded by President Sell. Motion passed 6-0 (Ritter – absent)**

## VIII. Correspondence

### A. Macungie Ambulance December 2025 Report

### B. Lower Macungie Fire Department 2025 Annual Report

### C. PSAB-MRT Monthly Report

### D. Letters of Interest for Council Vacancy

1. Lynette Sell
2. Stanley Landis
3. Ricky Moyer
4. Bernie Reinert
5. Thomas Ashelman

## IX. Reports

### A. Council

Ms. M. Sell stated that there is a page on the Borough's website with past council meeting audio recordings.

### B. Macungie Police Department

Mayor Sell outlined the Macungie Police Department's December 2025 report.

### C. Mayor

Mayor Sell stated that an officer resigned from the department. He also read a quote by Martin Luther King, Jr. in honor of MLK Day.

### D. Solicitor – None

### E. Borough Manager – None

## XI. New Business

### B. Accepting Letter of Resignation of Todd Ritter Effective February 1, 2026

**Vice President Karboski made a motion to accept Mr. Ritter's resignation, with regret, effective February 1, 2026, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion passed 6-0 (Ritter – absent)**

**C. Resolution #2026-02 – Appointing the Borough Manager as Payroll Administrator**  
**Vice President Karboski made a motion to adopt Resolution #2026-02 appointing the Borough Manager as Payroll Administrator, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion passed 6-0 (Ritter – absent)**

**D. Resolution #2026-03 – Meeting Tape and Digital Recording Destruction Policy**

Ms. M. Sell questioned why the audio tapes should be destroyed. Mr. Hutchison stated that unfortunately people can take audio recordings and make it seem like things were said which weren't, and there was actually a previous employee who was dismissed for doing that. Ms. Sell asked why the resolution was placed on the agenda? Mr. Sostarecz stated that it was placed on the agenda due to Council feedback, and based on his past experience governing bodies have gone either way with keeping or destroying the recordings; it's up to each individual body.

Mr. Reinbold asked if the recordings would still be available in the future? Mr. Sostarecz stated that no, they would be destroyed, and the official record of the Council are the written minutes which are maintained forever.

Bernie Reinert asked what the benefit of destroying the audio recordings are, and if the written minutes are the official record all those who speak at a meeting should be recorded in the minutes.

Jeff Hartman stated that audio files do not take up a lot of space, that regarding AI the files can be protected, and that written minutes are an interpretation as opposed to audio recordings which are actually what was said.

Bob Bogart stated that when he was on Council they used the audio recordings many times to listen back to hear what was heard.

Tim Romig asked why the item was on the agenda. Audio has been kept for many years, why is it being destroyed now. Mr. Sostarecz stated that the agenda is discussed with Council leadership who sets the agenda.

Bill Reiss stated that the draft minutes are available for the council and public to review and comment on prior to them being approved.

Karen Bilger stated that if Ms. M. Sell wasn't at the meeting to amend the minutes tonight, they would have been approved without her amendment.

**President Sell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion passed 4-2 (M. Sell & Reinbold – No; Ritter – Absent)**

Vice President Karboski and Mr. Romig engaged in a debate about Mr. Romig going to Mr. Ritter's home.

**X. Adjournment**

**Mr. Reinbold made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m., seconded by President Sell. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Kalman A. Sostarecz, Jr.  
Borough Secretary