

MACUNGIE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
General Business Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2026 - 7:30 P.M.

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

The Macungie Borough Council meeting was called to order on September 21, 2026 at 7:40 p.m. at the Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main Street, Macungie, PA 18062. In attendance were Carl Sell, Jr., President; Stan Landis, Vice President; Greg Hutchison, Member; Megan Sell, Member; Greg Reinbold, Member; Lynette Sell, Member; Tom Ashelman, 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 on September 21, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. regarding personnel.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. September 8, 2026

Karen Billger, resident, commented on the posting of the minutes on the website.

Motion by President Sell to approve the minutes of September 8, 2026, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Reports

A. Treasurer's Report for August 2026

Ms. Billger commented on what falls under miscellaneous revenue and the amount under budget the Borough is so far this year.

Terry Buss, resident, commented on the reasons why the Borough is under budget.

Motion by President Sell to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Vice President Landis. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Paid Bills Detail Report in the Amount of \$110,555.02

Tim Romig, business owner, commented on the quantity of legal fees as well as transferring funds between line items to cover overages.

Paul Licata, business owner, commented on ledger accounts.

Motion by Ms. Megan Sell to approve the bills in the amount of \$110,555.02, seconded by Mr. Reinbold. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Correspondence

- A. Letter of Interest from Thomas Ashelman on Civil Service Commission Appointment**
- B. Macungie Ambulance Corps Monthly Report for August 2026**
- C. PSAB-MRT Monthly Report of Municipal Net Assets**

VI. Reports

A. Emmaus Public Library Annual Report – Allison Floray, Director; Barb Levinson, Liaison

Ms. Flory reviewed her written annual report and discussed their budget request for 2027.

Vice President Landis commented on the museum passes that are available through the library. Mr. Ashelman commented on the audio books that are available.

B. Jerry Simpson, PCPA – Police Consultation Update

Mr. Simpson commented on the PA Chiefs advertisement up for action later in the meeting and it would be advertised the next day. Their process would wrap up by December 1st and the Borough could move forward with the candidates during the month of December. He commented on the meetings that he has had with the PA State Police, OIC Bernhard, and Mayor Sell, including the patrol coverage of the Borough. The PSP is dedicated to assisting as necessary. Additionally, he met with Lehigh County District Attorney's Office which offered their support in several areas. Finally, the PA Chiefs will participate in the budget process for the Borough.

C. Council

Mr. Reinbold thanked the Public Works for posting the speed limit sign on his road.

Ms. Megan Sell stated that she had mentioned at a previous meeting that she would like to see two items appear on an agenda but they had not yet, one was about restoring public comment to the beginning of the agenda, and the other was the Hometown Heros Banner program. In addition, she commented on the references in deed documents that were discovered about a paper alley, named Green Street, on the property being developed, and copies were distributed. Her concern is that the development was approved even though these documents exist. Solicitor Armstrong stated that the conditional approval letter that was sent to the developer had a condition stating that the matter of a potential paper street needed to be worked out to the satisfaction of the Borough. President Sell stated that regarding Hometown Heros banner programs, he phoned several other municipalities and learned that they keep the banners up year round, and two of them take the banner down after two years due to their condition. Mr. Sostarecz stated that he recommends having an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss the Hometown Heroes program, as well as a resolution to address meeting structure. Mr. Hutchison commented on how meetings have run historically. Mr. Ashelman and Vice President Landis agreed that adopting a resolution is the best method.

Mr. Romig commented on the Young Development and the referenced paper street and feels that the Borough should take an action to appeal the decision within the thirty-day window.

D. Mayor

Mayor Sell commented on the need to utilize PSP for police coverage at certain times; he also announced several events coming up at the Macungie Memorial Park; finally, he mentioned a thank you letter that was received from the Humane Society for partnering with them. Mr. Hutchison asked Mayor Sell if he had met with Mr. Harvey, and Mayor Sell indicated he did.

Ms. Buss commented on the Police Department not contracting with the Haafsville Sanctuary instead of the Humane Society.

Mr. Romig asked if the Mayor is being advised regularly by the consultants and the Mayor indicated that he is. Mr. Romig then commented on the police schedule and whether the consultants are dictating how it is structured.

E. Solicitor

Vice President Landis asked if the Solicitor would research the paper street, Green Street

F. Borough Manager

None

VII. New Business

A. Authorizing Chief of Police Recruitment Profile

Vice President Landis stated that he would like to see a wider range used for the salary to attract a larger number of candidates and recommends \$115,000 to \$130,000. Ms. Megan Sell stated that she would like to know the economic cost of what the fringe benefits would be. Mr. Ashelman stated that is something that would be worked out in negotiations with the candidate.

Michael Mullen, Borough police officer, commented on the significant jump in salary from the current Officer in Charge. Mr. Ashelman stated that the OIC is an hourly position with opportunities for overtime among other things, and the Chief would be a salaried position.

Mr. Romig stated the Borough has not had a Chief of Police for ten years and the Council did not listen to its own officers stating they needed one. Now that the Borough has paid for a study it decided it was time for a Chief.

Ms. Buss stated that the Borough does not need a Chief of Police, because we made it this far without one.

Jeff Hartman, resident, asked if internal candidates will be considered as well. Mr. Ashelman stated that the current officers are welcome to apply. Mr. Hartman commented on the other assignments that the consulting group has, other than finding a new Chief.

Motion by Vice President Landis to approve the Chief of Police Recruitment Profile, with the starting salary updated to \$115,000 to \$130,000, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Appointing Thomas Ashelman to the Civil Service Commission

Mr. Sostarecz stated that the Civil Service Commission is comprised of three members; there is currently two members seated, however, one of them is not responsive, and there is one vacancy. The Commission can have alternates as well.

Motion by Mr. Hutchison to appoint Thomas Ashelman to the Civil Service Commission, seconded by Vice President Landis. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Appointing Council Members to the Police Collective Bargaining Agreement Committee

Ms. Megan Sell stated that at the January Organization Meeting all committees were dissolved and a new negotiating committee was formed comprised of former Council Member Ron Karboski, Ms. Megan Sell, and Mr. Hutchison. Mr. Hutchison stated he does not consider himself a member and resigns from the committee, which leaves two vacancies. Mr. Hutchison stated he would like Megan Sell removed from the committee. Mr. Mullen and Travis Kocher, Borough police officer, commented on the negotiations and scheduled arbitration. Mr. Kocher stated that the formation of a committee is a moot point as there is no way for Council to act prior to arbitration. Mr. Romig stated that the police have been working without a contract for the past ten years.

Motion by Ms. Lynette Sell to appoint Vice President Landis and Mr. Ashelman to serve on the committee with Ms. Megan Sell, seconded by President Sell. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Authorizing Distribution of the 2026 Commonwealth of PA Volunteer Fire Relief Allocation

Mr. Sostarecz stated that the Borough received the 2026 Volunteer Fire Relief allocation in the amount of \$21,984.28 which, per the agreement with Lower Macungie Fire Department, is to be forwarded to their relief association.

Motion by President Sell to authorize payment of the 2026 Commonwealth of PA Volunteer Fire Relief Allocation be made to the Lower Macungie Relief Association in the amount of \$21,981.28, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Kocher commented on the hiring of full-time police officers and the Lehigh County Police Consortium Testing that just took place and which the Borough has been utilizing for many years. He stated that the consulting firm was not aware of the testing.

Wendy Horn and Brenda Decker, residents of Lehigh Street, commented on the documents that were discovered referencing a paper street or "Green Street" to the rear of their properties. Solicitor Armstrong stated that he would review their documents. Mr. Hutchison recommended scheduling a special meeting to discuss the results of what the Solicitor discovers to be sure Council is within thirty days of their decision. Ms. Horn stated that the area in question is utilized by vehicles when the field is parked for events, but it is still just grass, and nothing has been paved or graveled. A special meeting was scheduled on Monday, September 28, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Billger commented on the Administrative Assistant not attending Borough Council meetings. Mr. Sostarecz stated that it was an administrative decision.

Janet Sell, resident, commented on a fire hydrant issue on S. Lea Street. During a fire call it was difficult for the firemen to open a hydrant, and she thought that the hydrants were checked periodically. Ms. Megan Sell stated that she learned that the hydrant may not appear on the map either. Ms. Janet Sell commented on the storm drains not being cleaned. Ms. Megan Sell stated that the Public Works Department has been waiting for another employee to be hired.

Mr. Hartman stated that regarding the public comment on the agenda, it should be the residents comments that should be the priority, and not the general business.

Ms. Buss stated that she wants to stress the importance of standing up, showing up, and speaking out. She also commented on the Lumber Street development and Vice Presidents Landis's comments and vote to approve the plan.

Brenda Eisenhard, resident, stated that she is ashamed by the behavior of some members of Council. She also commented on the police Internal Affairs Policy, and stated that the Council creating the IA policy conflicts against state law.

Mr. Romig commented on a RTK request that he submitted earlier in the year that he has not yet received a response. He then commented on a request for information that he submitted to Council regarding the use of Fire Hydrants, and he has not received most of that information. He commented on employment notices that should be placed on the Borough's website.

Paul Licata, business owner, commented on his unhappiness with the Young Development being approved, and the paper street which he tracked to a December 7, 1931 document. He also commented on the Chief of Police position, and that it should be offered to current officers first. He stated that we need patrol officers. The Borough has been short-staffed in all departments for a long time. Finally, he commented about the response statement made at a previous meeting in response to his comments; he stated that he did not make false statements.

Ronald Conrad, resident, commented on being short-staffed in the police and public works department. When he was Mayor, he brought up the need to hire a Chief. He commented on the lawsuits, items being on the agenda, and Lower Macungie Firefighters who were formerly Macungie Firefighters.

Mr. Mullen stated that he and Mr. Kocher were in favor of the police consultant assisting the PD as there are many things out of date. When he met with Mr. Simpson, the first question he was asked was regarding his pending lawsuit, which is not something an impartial consultant should ask. He then commented that Mr. Simpson and Labor Attorney Gerber know each other and have worked together in other municipalities.

IX. Adjournment

President Sell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hutchison.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kalman A. Sostarecz, Jr.', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kalman A. Sostarecz, Jr.
Borough Secretary