

Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council
Re-Organization Meeting Minutes-January 5, 2026

Mayor Deborah Halpin-Brophy was sworn in by Karen Johnson Secretary/Treasurer. Mayor Halpin-Brophy swore into office Cathy Neff as councilwoman, Sherry Boyles as councilwoman, Andrew Tate as councilman, Pam Still as councilwoman, and Gus Ginter as councilman.

Call to Order – Mayor Halpin-Brophy called the re-organization meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:04 p.m. and led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Attendance– The following members of the Borough Council were present; Sherry Boyles, Lois Stoner, Gus Ginter, Cathy Neff, Pam Still, Gay Bowman, and Andrew Tate. Also, present Deborah Halpin-Brophy, Mayor, Thomas Day, Police Chief/ Borough Manager, and Karen Johnson Secretary/Treasurer.

Mayor Halpin-Brophy opened the floor for nominations for Council President. Sherry Boyles was nominated by Mrs. Stoner. There were no other nominations. The vote by council members was all in favor.

Mrs. Boyles is elected Council President by majority votes.

Mayor Halpin-Brophy turned the gavel over to the newly elected Council President.

Mrs. Boyles opened the floor for nominations for Council Vice-President. Lois Stoner was nominated by Cathy Neff. There were no other nominations. The vote by council members was all in favor.

Mrs. Boyles opened the floor for nominations for Council Pro Tem to serve in the absence of both Council President and Vice President. Cathy Neff was nominated by Pam Still. The vote by council members was all in favor.

Mrs. Boyles gave council members their committee assignments as follows:

Health, Safety, and Welfare:

Gay Bowman, Cathy Neff and Andrew Tate

Administrative, Finance, and Budget:

Gay Bowman, Lois Stoner, and Sherry Boyles

Public Works:

Gus Ginter, Andrew Tate, and Pam Still

Liaison to Parks and Recreation:

Lois Stoner

Liaison to Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board

Pam Still

Mrs. Boyles called the Re-organization meeting closed at 7:07 pm.

Mrs. Boyles called to order the Borough Council Regular meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Borough Council Regular Meeting

Tax Collector: Mrs. Boyles swore in Tracey Winton as Tax Collector.

Water & Sewer Authority: Jason Bonawitz was nominated on a motion by Mrs. Stoner to replace Judy Russell for a term of 5 years on the Authority Board. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion and vote to approve passed unanimously.

Planning Commission: Pam Still was nominated to serve on the planning commission by Mrs. Stoner. Mrs. Neff seconded the motion and vote to approve passed unanimously.

Vacancy Board: remains open

2026 Borough Holidays: (meeting dates were approved at December 2025 meeting)
Ms. Bowman made a motion to approve the holidays as follows.

New Year's Day	January 1, 2026
President's Day	February 16, 2026
Good Friday	April 3, 2026
Memorial Day	May 25, 2026
Independence Day	July 3, 2026
Labor Day	September 7, 2026
Veteran's Day	November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving Day	November 26, 2026
Black Friday	November 27, 2026
Christmas Eve (1/2)	December 24, 2025
Christmas Day	December 25, 2026
New Year's Eve (1/2)	December 31, 2026
New Year's Day	January 1, 2027

Mr. Ginter seconded the motion and the vote to approve passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

--Justin Bretzman-Mt Holly Springs

Mr. Bretzman was here to update council on the progress of 2 Stuart Street. He is still waiting on the insurance adjuster response, and has a structural engineer ready. Mr. Day stated that the insurance adjuster he spoke with earlier in the day, would be sending two checks. One for around \$39,000 will be sent to the Borough to hold in escrow and would be used towards demolition, once completed to the Borough's satisfaction/approval the amount would be disbursed.

Approval of Payment of Bills and Financial Reports: Financials for December 9, 2025 to January 5, 2026 were reviewed. Account Balances -\$757,301.28 (Deposits \$81,073.06, Bills Paid \$109,938.62). Mrs. Neff made a motion to approve the payment of bills and the financial report, with Mr. Ginter seconding the motion. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from December 8, 2025 were passed and reviewed. Mr. Ginter made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as submitted, with a second by Ms. Bowman. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Business Before Council:

-- 2 Stuart Street-addressed earlier in public comments

-- Article IV, Ordinance 184 Animal Noise—Mrs. Boyles asked for a motion to approve the Noise Ordinance previously advertised (applicable to all animals). Mrs. Stoner made the motion to approve, with a second by Mr. Ginter. The vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Mt. Tabor AME Church- Memorandum of Understanding and Lease/Rental Agreement between Mt Tabor and the Borough. Lease is for 5 years from Jan. 1, 2026 to Jan. 31, 2031 paying \$1 per month. They submitted a check to pay the rent for the entire lease agreement. (\$60.00) Ms. Still made a motion to approve the agreement with a second by Mrs. Stoner. The vote to approve passed unanimously.

Council Members Reports:

Cathy Neff—nothing to report

Pam Still-Planning:

--Planning Commission concurred with 20 Center Street as a blighted property. Steve Blair signed and it's moving forward.

--Keystone signs resubmitted plans for building review.

--Next meeting January 21 at 7pm.

Ms. Still asked for a list describing what council members need to do for the committee's they serve on. She would also like to see committee meetings planned when we need to discuss items in the future, especially with the budget. Mr. Day pointed out that the budget was given to council in October for review and there was plenty of time to meet and/or discuss prior to the vote at the December council meeting. He went on to explain, we have not increased taxes in years, we eliminated the EMS tax, and with costs increasing there was no other alternative.

Lois Stoner—Park & Rec:

Mrs. Stoner mentioned Christmas events, next meeting will be on Jan. 20th (they will be discussing items for the calendar), and paint night planned for Feb/Mar.

Gus Ginter—wanted to extend a thank you to Dylan Coyle for taking his place as Santa due to illness.

Gay Bowman and Andrew Tate—nothing to report

Mayor's Report:

--PD Stat report was reviewed

--Executive Session with action to follow

Codes/Zoning Report: Jason Bonawitz

-- Codes/Zoning Stat report for 2025

Jason answered council members questions about some stat report items (land-use applications, junk vehicles, etc.

--101 E. Butler near Mt Creek—owner is waiting on mortgage and will place a modular home where house once was.

--Jan 12-Emergency Management meeting

Borough Manager's Report: Thomas Day

-- Updated council on Authority stuff—mentioned that Madeline, Jason and Karen have worked to get letters, lien information, etc. for accounts in arrears. Mr. Day stated that there is a list of accounts who are paid current, while quite a few others are on the unpaid accounts list. We are moving forward with liens and sheriff sales due to large amounts owed to the borough. Will be voting on a new system with MuniLink who came highly recommended to us. Ms. Still reminded council that any landlords on the unpaid listing could have licenses revoked.

--287 G Program -ICE –Borough was sent information and could benefit from this program. This is not a program to be going door to door, but for traffic measures for persons violating vehicle laws and are not properly licensed. ICE would offer training and certification, as well as reimbursement for the borough to participate. We need to do something, since weight restriction violations are costing our residents due to negligence. Mr. Ginter made a motion to approve sending a letter of interest for the 287 G Program. Mr. Tate seconded the motion and the vote to approve passed unanimously.

Other Business Before Council:

--Ms. Still mentioned the MetEd pole at her property (and also the pole at Dave Toner's house on the corner) and her remaining concerns about sidewalk being ADA compliant.

Executive Session with Action: Mrs. Boyles called for Executive Session at 8:15 pm to discuss pay rate increase for Jason Bonawitz, with action to follow. Following discussion, the meeting was called back into session at 8:35 pm. Mrs. Stoner made a motion to approve a pay increase for Jason Bonawitz from \$22.65 to \$24.00 per hour. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion and vote to approve passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Mrs. Boyles called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ginter made the motion and Mrs. Neff seconded. Members approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer