

Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council Meeting Minutes-March 9, 2026

Call to Order – Mrs. Boyles called the meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:08 p.m. and led the **Pledge of Allegiance**. Mrs. Boyles apologized for the late start due to an executive session held prior.

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

Approval of Minutes –The minutes of the Borough Council meeting from February 9, 2026 were reviewed, with corrections made for Ms. Still. Mr. Tate made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Bowman seconded the motion and vote to approve passed unanimously. Mrs. Boyles also addressed items from last meeting would be filed with the minutes.

Approval for Payment of Bills and Financial Reports –Financial Reports for February 10, 2026 to March 9, 2026 were submitted for review. Account Balance of \$879,193.69 (Bills Paid \$183,258.01 and Deposits \$232,780.79). Motion by Mrs. Neff to approve the financial report with a second by Mrs. Stoner. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Report of Executive Sessions- Mrs. Boyles reported that an executive session was held on February 24, 2026 at 4:30 pm and on March 9, 2026 (today) at 6:00 pm to discuss legal matters pursuant to the Cumberland County CCP case number 2024-04253.

Questions from February 9th Meeting: Mrs. Boyles addressed questions from last meeting and will answer to the best of her ability.

--Liability with the 287g proposal- Mrs. Boyles stated that our solicitor Mark Alshouse did review the agreement and "saw no red flags", our liability would be for our officers with any case they are given.

--Can we withdraw from the agreement? Yes, we can withdraw and pull out anytime, with a written 48-hour notice.

--Transporting to centers: Mrs. Boyles understands this to be part of a blanket agreement and outlined in the agreement. Mrs. Boyles feels that most of the stuff in the agreement she doesn't see our officers having to do. If they are pulled away or asked to do something they do not want to do, then she herself (as well as other council members) would request removing ourselves from the program. The perspective right now would be keeping our roads safe especially from truck traffic through Mt. Holly.

--Costs for overtime and holidays—Mrs. Boyles, personally does not feel this to go beyond regular shift hours, and using the program as a tool for proper training on how to handle situations.

Ms. Still read parts from the agreement regarding liability and feels any lawsuit should be a concern. She feels the attorney did not look at the agreement close enough nor liability for the borough. She asked about an indemnity clause as suggested at the last meeting by Justin Douglas from Dauphin County. Mrs. Boyles once again stated that our attorney saw

no red flags from the agreement. Mr. Day stated that for almost any municipality, etc. there are blanket agreements between state police, sheriff's department, DA's, neighboring police departments for our officers. They would be covered with the borough's insurance liabilities in performance of their duties.

Mrs. Boyles moved into Public Opinion, with rules: anyone wishing to speak to come up state name, and address, with a 3-minute time limit.

Public Opinion-

--Suzanne White—Mt. Holly Springs

Here in support of the Borough and Tom, by saying, she has been on different sides at times, and she has never been afraid voicing her opinions. She feels the Police Department does a great job. She knows people get emotional and motivated, pointing out that 95% of people behind her in the room are not even from Mt Holly Springs. They are part of a traveling show and it's a shame. The borough budget makes it aware that monies do not exist for infrastructure or to go door to door rousting people. With the heavy truck traffic and damage being done monthly, some of these drivers do not need to be on the road. She is all in favor of taking steps to remove them. Council thanked Suzanne for speaking.

--Tessa Boyer—Carlisle

Addressed Council about her Girl Scout Gold Award. Her award is focusing on doing a mural in Mt Holly, which would provide a "pop of color", to help increase moods, economy, and an overall better environment. She is working with Karen Griffith (Creative Palooza) and Brooke Jones (Carlisle Art and Learning Center) on her mural ideas. Her ideas of wildlife and history of Mt. Holly is her inspiration. She passed booklets with sketches and budget plans, with a specific location by April and a goal to begin this summer. She was asked about size- 5 x 5 feet or 20 x 20 feet, ground level. Tessa was thanked by Council for her presentation.

--Derrick Scheuren- Mt. Holly Springs

His address to Council is for elected community leaders having a duty to protect both economy and cultural integrity. ICE agreement is not about hostility but accountability. Every person working on our roads, delivering goods should follow the same rules set for all. Transportation is facing "under the table" employment practices, resulting in rising costs. An ICE partnership ensures companies and their hiring practices will hold everyone to legal standards. Partnering with ICE isn't about targeting anyone, but about fairness, safety, and preserving what our town and nation stands for. Council thanked Derrick for speaking.

--Jessica St. Clair—Carlisle

She is running for 87th District, and wishes that council rescind the agreement. Her concerns are financial, legal, especially what is happening in other areas. She talked about comparable communities of North Carolina and costs to taxpayers, and lack of federal reimbursement. ICE will cover training, but state and local governments would shoulder the majority of the cost. She allocated for additional time from others waiting to speak.

--Mandy Taylor-Mt. Holly Springs

Speaking this evening regarding 287g agreement, and an understanding between immigration and the infrastructure problem cited in the paper, and reason for the agreement. Concerns for local governance, financial responsibility, and risk management. Municipalities across the country facing litigation for wrongful detention, violating constitutional rights, and errors in procedures, noting civil rights claims can be costly, and not included in the budget. She asked about current liability coverage, if additional funds are needed where would they come from? What about a formal risk assessment provided by the attorney, is it available for viewing, and transparency for public costs? She feels if the state implements legislation, what happens to the invested time, and administration resources, and should they be factored in? She mentioned, state police have not entered into a 287g agreement. She was thanked by Council for speaking.

--Jen Dieter-Mt. Holly Springs

Disappointed that her question from last month was not addressed, about quote of "almost every time it's someone illegal" in regards to traffic stops, making it sound like a huge problem. She pointed out that back in 2019 the majority of truck problems on Mountain Street were reduced and seems to be recurring now. She mentioned Carroll Township's decision process they are doing regarding the 287g program, and feels council here didn't do a thorough job. Council member Bowman spoke up about the insulting comment, by insinuating that council members did not do their job.

Remaining time was given to Jessica St. Clair—speaking again about lawsuits resulting from defective detainers, mentioning San Francisco and other areas.

Chuck Crone gave his minutes to Jessica St. Clair---speaking again on local government providing officers an adequate defense to alleged constitutional violations and litigation, and ICE leaving them holding the bag. She stated she does not want dangerous people on the street and appreciates the thoughts to public safety, and would like to see more transparency.

--Katie Daniels—Boiling Springs

Ms. Daniels had planned to read parts of the agreement but instead wants to speak about "hearts". Appreciating the time to speak and councils time to listen. Ms. Daniels talked about her time volunteering with Church World Service, helping due to reduced grant monies, and furloughed staff. She spoke of an instance of bullying and what would happen if family members were deported. Ms. Daniels feels that partnering with ICE is a step away from mistaken identity or deportation for a minor infraction, scaring individuals even if they have a right to be here. She closed by asking council not to fund an ICE force in Mt. Holly Springs.

--Craig Henry- Mt. Holly Springs

Very emotional about the country he stands up for and not the country he fought for serving in the Marines. Does not like what is happening in our federal government, but only faults others if they agree or go along with it. Mr. Henry concluded by thanking the borough manager for taking care of the flag up at the park he mentioned during the last meeting.

--Nicole Kilburg—Mt. Holly Springs

Started by saying, she feels the way the 287g program process was irresponsible, feeling that residents were “bullied” into the agreement. She feels council was not properly informed during past meetings, asking council members if they knew what was happening. Mrs. Boyles responded by saying that she personally knew of the letter of interest, and assumed the signing was part of that, because, why apply if there were no intentions to continue through with it? That is how she saw it unfolding, and is her opinion. Ms. Kilburg feels that the signing was not specific in the minutes, and quoted Pam Still as saying there were secret meetings. Ms. Still responded by saying that is not what she said, that she specifically said, “when she came into the meeting on February 9th everybody was already sitting here, and there was no a meeting taking place”. Mrs. Boyles stated that she came early anticipating a large crowd, as did other council members, and once again there was no secret meeting.

--Rick Copen—Carlisle

Started by thanking council for the opportunity to speak, recognizing Democracy in action, and also working with his students this past year. Mr. Copen handed out information on Community and Economic Grants, and “Holly Community Opportunity Hub”. He has been speaking these past months about principles and tremendous potential for the community, especially with the elementary school. Grants would only be available to apply for once the school is owned by the borough. He went on to highlight other information in the handouts. He also stated that there is a lot of ugliness in communities throughout the country, blaming the federal level that has failed with immigration policy. Council thanked Mr. Copen for speaking.

--Leonard Guise—Mt. Holly Springs

Here today to say, exactly six years ago, his son Jerome passed. Mr. Guise wanted to thank the borough of Mt. Holly for everything they have done and for keeping his memory alive. Council thanked Mr. Guise for speaking.

Concludes the public opinion and President of Council moved into business before council.

Business before Council:

--CEFC Church -202 N Baltimore Avenue has requested approval to allow them to ring church bells throughout the day. Jason Bonawitz gave some insights about what Pastor Mike requested. It would not be a traditional bell, but a speaker mounted on the top of the building. They are still in planning stages, so they are open to council input. Example: chimes on the hour would indicate what time it is, or short chimes, or play hymn at noon and six. Sound level will have to be approved, addition information needed outlining details before council can make a decision.

--HRG Agreement- Race Bridge Replacement--Borough Manager Day explained that they would wait until school is out for the year (June 15th), and the project would take a few weeks. The 107-year-old bridge would be demolished and replaced with 60-inch culvert pipe with guide rails on both sides. Due to the amount of truck traffic going across the bridge it has pushed down the northern side of the bridge, resulting in allowable weight being reduced to only 16 tons. Terry Rickard was included in the discussions about using his property while the bridge is replaced. Mrs. Boyles asked for a motion to approve the agreement for Race Street Bridge Project. Motion made by Mrs. Stoner, and seconded by Mr. Tate. Suzanne White raised the concern of fire truck’s ability to access area. Dylan Coyle stated that the height of the fire truck is not an issue. Vote to approve HRG agreement passed unanimously.

--Cooke Township- Mrs. Boyles asked for a motion to allow Citizen's Fire Co. Fire Police to provide traffic control for their annual Buck Ridge Burn Trail Race on Sunday, April 12, 2026 from 7:00 am to 1:30 pm. Mrs. Stoner made the motion, with a second by Mr. Ginter. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

--287g Memorandum of Agreement- Ms. Still made a motion to rescind the 287g program voted for on January 5, 2026. She asked for an opportunity to raise questions. She assumed that of the 1,300 law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania they would have all received information on the 287g program. She mentioned stats, along with newspaper articles, tv coverage, making the public aware. The more she looked at the agreement, the more she is compelled to speak out against it. She feels ICE in our community would hurt businesses, selling homes, and recreational events. She is also concerned about liability and our small budget. She mentioned that Newville's troubles resulted in losing all but one officer. Dauphin County Prison, and Cumberland County Prison chose to not sign the 287g agreement due to liability concerns. She stated that ICE has not been included in our budget and round trips driving back and forth from the detention center would eat up our resources. The chief (as stated in newspaper articles) said our town does not have an immigration problem, and apprehensions would be focused on traffic infractions. Ms. Still agrees we have a truck problem and stated the Panama Canal expansion made it worse. CDL licenses were obtained by those who slipped through loopholes in the system, and is not our problem to fix. This would fall to state and federal levels, noting key changes to exams being administered in English. Ms. Still wants to be fiscally responsible to taxpayers. She believes that errors were made when the 287g agreement was approved by council in January, and feels the MOA must be rescinded and is calling for a roll call vote. Ms. Still made a motion to rescind the 287g Task Force Model MOA. Mrs. Boyles asked for a second. No second to the motion.

Mr. Day wanted to bring attention to an incident with a truck which happened after last months meeting. Just to give insight on what the police department handles on a regular basis. A tractor trailer turned from West Pine Street, onto South Walnut Street ripping power lines from homes and tearing up people's yards. The driver was unable to even back the truck and a towing company had to remove. Unqualified driver and the weight 77,000 pounds on a 6,000-pound road. Liquid Fuels gives the borough \$59,000 per year which would not even cover paving half of West Pine Street. Mountain Street alone cost \$250,000 to pave. We don't have an exact number of undocumented drivers, I do know of nine that have been removed from trucks that should not have had a CDL license.

You can say what you want about ICE, but they just had a person (you could say undocumented) but he was in the process of doing it the legal way, and ICE chose not to remove him.

We cannot keep letting our residents burden the damages that are being done. Mt. Holly Springs is unique with 20,000 vehicles going through town daily. 44% is truck traffic and Penn Dot has already warned of increases of 5%-8% yearly. The 287g agreement will train and give us tools to determine if drivers belong behind the wheel. If an officer releases an individual and they proceed on their way and an accident happens, and that person is not legal to drive, the borough would have the liability issues, this is what we want to avoid. Discussion with hypothetical instances continued.

Mrs. Boyles requested to move forward with meeting. Ms. Still would like an attorney to review for indemnity purposes. She feels that Attorney Allshouse was not thorough on his review of the agreement and the impact on the borough, and asked why he did not attend the meeting. Mrs. Boyles stated that he did look at the agreement, concluding there were no red flags.

Council Members Report:

Pam Still-Planning Commission:

--Keystone Sign Land Development Plan—They are working hard to satisfy everything that is required and are asking approval for a 90-day extension. Motion to approve a 90-day extension was made by Mr. Ginter and seconded by Mr. Tate. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Planning continuing with Comprehensive Plan Format

--Cumberland County outreach meeting tomorrow.

--Cumberland County Planning-crash course on planning- March 25, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Lois Stoner—Park & Rec

-- Park & Rec meeting scheduled next week (March 17th-6:30pm)

Nothing to Report:

Cathy Neff

Gus Ginter

Gay Bowman

Andrew Tate

Mayor's Report: Mayor Halpin-Brophy

Monthly Police Stat report from February 9, 2026 to March 8, 2026 mentioned.

Codes/Zoning-Jason Bonawitz

--2 Stuart Street—Mr. Bretzman was unable to attend tonight-he sent an email stating the property is to be sold in the coming weeks, and the new buyer is planning on a full renovation of the property. Mr. Bonawitz talked with Mr. Bretzman on the phone and if we do not receive a bill of sale or a signed settlement date by April's meeting, we will proceed with County's Blighted Property. Concerns of underground tanks on the property, but as far as anyone knows, the tanks were removed.

--109 Chestnut Street—Failed rental inspection October 2025, water has been turned off due to large amount owed to Authority. If payment is made in full the water could be restored and with inspections to pass. No water to the property is reason enough to ask for councils vote to approve condemning. Motion by Ms. Still and second by Ms. Bowman to condemn the property. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

-- Working on zone 3 rentals inspections, with all but 26 rental units scheduled for this year. March is a busy month for inspections.

--Emergency Management classes--- only three remain and all are scheduled in a row the beginning of June.

--32 Center Street, Lot 13 was sold to someone from Santa Clarita, California, and will have to start all over again with the property.

--COG meeting today—a few things mentioned with road repairs. Hanover Street and Carlisle with lane restrictions due to construction. 233 in Newville will be shut down. I-81 widening project, and Phase II Dickinson Township Barnetts Woods construction of 150 homes, increasing traffic on West Pine Street.

Borough Manager Report-Tom Day

--The funding for the bridge to be replaced will only cover paving for roughly 50 feet on both sides of bridge. A motion is needed to mill down and repave the section from railroad tracks to Mountain Creek Bridge, to be included in the bid price for whoever gets the bid for paving. Can we wait until next month for the motion so the engineers have time to include it.

--COG bids for 2026 for stone and blacktop—approval to engage with other municipalities for COG bids for projected stone and blacktop projects compiled into one bid for best pricing. Traffic line painting was awarded to Mullins Markings Incorporated who came in lowest for white line and double yellow line paving. York came in lowest for stone and blacktop. Pricing is locked in for the year. Mrs. Boyles asked if it was okay with everyone since this item was not on the agenda to take a vote, all approved. Mr. Ginter made a motion to accept the COG bids for 2026 with a second by Mrs. Stoner. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Mrs. Boyles asked for Amendment to Agenda to add Executive Session -personnel matter with vote to follow. All in favor -meeting moved into Executive Session

Members returned from Executive session with the following:

Motion to hire Josh Bonn for Special Council and in a personnel matter. Ms. Still made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Neff. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Motion to approve settlement agreement as discussed in earlier Executive Session for Cumberland County CCP Case No. 2024-04253. Ms. Bowman made the motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Ms. Bowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm, seconded by Mr. Ginter. All in favor and meeting adjourned.

Recording Secretary
Karen Johnson