

Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council Meeting Minutes-April 13, 2026

Call to Order – Mrs. Boyles called the meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Attendance– The following members of the Borough Council were present; Sherry Boyles, President, Cathy Neff, Gay Bowman, Lois Stoner, 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. Andrew Tate was absent.

Executive Session of Borough Council and Borough Authority: Mrs. Boyles mentioned that an executive session was held prior on April 8, 2026 at 6:30 to discuss audits and litigation, with the borough moving forward. No action followed.

Approval of Minutes –The minutes of the Borough Council meeting from March 9, 2026 were reviewed. Ms. Bowman made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, with a second by Ms. Still. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Approval for Payment of Bills and Financial Reports –Financial Reports for March 9, 2026 to April 12, 2026 were submitted for review. Account Balance of \$960,049.80 (Bills Paid \$324,625.92 and Deposits \$405,482.03). Ms. Still asked for clarification on two of the bills paid, no further discussion. Motion by Mrs. Stoner to approve the financial report with a second by Mr. Ginter. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Public Opinion-

Mandy Taylor-Mt Holly Springs

Ms. Taylor addressed council members on process for how decisions are tracked, communicated, and timelines, wanting clarification on standard documentation. Mrs. Boyles responded by saying that no decisions or discussions take place outside of council meetings. The formal records would be in the minutes and the agendas help. Other sources are Park & Rec Facebook page, newsletters, website, planning commission (who keeps separate minutes). Council thanked Ms. Taylor for speaking.

Joshua Mell-Newville -- will address later, here for Keystone Signs subdivision

Ron Baer: Mt Holly Springs:

Mr. Baer asked council if someone could reach out to Patriot/Parks Garbage services about trash collected on cul-de-sac at 4 am. Borough Manager Day stated that one of the reasons we were able to secure Patriot/Parks service (who came in way lower than Waste Management's bid) was an earlier start for pickup. He agreed to reach out to Patriot Garbage and ask about picking up at that location later. Council thanked Mr. Baer for speaking.

Rick Coplen- Carlisle:

Professor Coplen handed out guidance copies of current courses for Elizabethtown College Grad students and Central Penn College Undergrad Macroeconomics students highlighting and focusing on case studies. Handout highlighted 7 Principals for all roles, as well as outline of elementary school, showing 23 rooms, gym, and office spaces which will be available for use. Professor Coplen was thanked by Council.

Business before Council:

--Yellow Breeches EMS: Mrs. Boyles read the letter of termination by Yellow Breeches EMS effective June 30, 2026.

--Mt Holly Springs VFW Flags: MHS VFW donated 25 flags to the Borough and is requesting a photo of Council members with a flag. Photo will be taken after the meeting and supplied to MHS VFW.

Council Members Report:

Park & Rec--Cathy Neff: Mrs. Neff reported that the summer newsletter has been completed by Angie Ginter and mailed. They are moving along with events, Holly Fest has approximately 49 vendors.

Lois Stoner: Scavenger Hunt-May 2nd

Gus Ginter—Public Works: Mr. Ginter saw on Facebook that someone commented about speeders on Chestnut Street. The only stop sign is at Butler and asked about the placement of an additional stop sign or speed bump. Borough Manager Day stated to do so would require an engineer study to be done.

Discussion on motorcycles on W. Pine Street and the noise created. Only way to enforce would be to have an officer stand with a decibel reader to record the level, which is almost impossible.

Mr. Ginter stated there are burnout markings at Trine near the road. Hoping eventually cameras can be purchased for the park.

Gay Bowman-- Heath Safety and Welfare: Ms. Bowman said the committee is working on guidelines for community access for Fire and EMS services, along with 10 other municipalities, and will have more to report in the future.

Pam Still—Planning Committee:

--Keystone Signs Land Development Plan:

Josh Mell spoke about their development plans with accessory building and improvement with grass space. Council thanked Mr. Mell for speaking.

Ms. Still stated, Cumberland County reviewed, HRG Engineers reviewed and Planning Committee is recommending that the Borough approve for the 6 Administrative items to be completed. It has been easy working with Keystone Signs. Ms. Still made a motion to approve the Keystone Sign Land Development Plan for Administrative Items listed on HRG Engineers report to be completed. Mr. Ginter seconded the motion and vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Ms. Still, along with Gus Ginter and Rick Coplen attended a meeting on March 25. She noted that our Comprehensive Plan must be in order to get grant money. Important steps needed are: surveys to find out what the public wants, (prior surveys did not include talks of school closure), with scheduled public meetings (required by PA Municipal Code).

--Ms. Still mentioned appreciation to:

Public Works for street sweeping and brush pickup, stating they are doing a great job.
Mountain Creek Trout Club for cleanup of the creek, Fishing Derby, 6-acre grant, Club House-bathroom and new roof.

Doris Fahnstock-1900 Quilts for Veteran groups

Mayor's Report: Mayor Halpin-Brophy

Monthly Police Stat report from March 9, 2026 to April 12, 2026 was reviewed, no questions or discussions on report.

--Mayor Halpin-Brophy had a question for Ms. Still (Elections for the Borough), on why the polling place was moved? Reason given was it was too small so they moved location to the church. The mayor felt that it was "strange" and a quick decision, and we never had a problem before.

Codes/Zoning-Jason Bonawitz

--W.C.C.O.G- with possible vote: will include on agenda every month because their meeting is at 2:00 pm on the same day as council meetings. This way if the COG votes or requires a vote, we can address at our meeting. At today's meeting line painting was awarded to Mullins Line Painting.

-- 1 & 2 Stuart Street—Received an agreement of sale for potential buyers dated March 25th. Settlement scheduled for April 15, 2026. The property is being sold "as is" and the new owners will be notified of blighted property's 18-month timeline which would still stand. Will contact our solicitor for returning escrow money to the Bretzman's once settlement is completed to make sure there are no other issues.

--Planning Meeting-Wednesday, April 15, 2026 –will look to review and clarify defining our demolition ordinance and ask on recommendations.

--CEFC Church Bells—The church has requested approval to ring bells on the hour, starting at 6 or 7 am until 9 or 10 pm, with a hymn to be played at noon. (1 gong for 1, 2 gongs for 2, etc.) The volume would definitely have to have a decibel meter. Borough Manager Day is turning the request over to Health, Safety and Welfare to look at other municipalities and research pros and cons.

--Codes/Zoning updates: 27 rental properties to be inspected, 70 building permits issued.

--526 Chestnut Street-Numbered Storage Space-owner of storage units in the process of evicting. Person definitely not working but is living in there. Mattress, refrigerator, food, and the time occupying the unit defines living quarters. Once the person is evicted it would revert back to storage space. Mr. Bonawitz is asking for approval to condemn the unit. Mrs. Neff made the motion to condemn Storage Unit Numbered Workspace, with a second by Mr. Ginter. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Rental Inspection Checklist- guide sheets contain list from International Property Maintenance Code's 2015 edition, and is filled out at time of rental inspections. Question asked on how many of the 271 units have failed? Mr. Bonawitz said that number is zero. He said landlords show up with smoke detectors, batteries, etc. just in case and to pass inspections. 109 Chestnut was not included in the failed number since a sheriff sale is scheduled for June. Mr. Bonawitz mentions at the time of inspections; he mentions events in the borough.

-- Bakery—Emily's Cupcakes & More has started the remodel process for opening (near Holly Pharmacy).

Borough Manager Report-Tom Day

--Atlantic Transportation System Quote—Mr. Day mentioned that an elderly resident addressed concerns of crossing at the crosswalk at Sheetz (Mill and N Baltimore Ave). The crosswalk is the only one in Mt Holly without a pedestrian sign. Mr. Day feels that this should have been in place all along and is a safety concern. He contacted Atlantic Transportation Systems for a pricing to install the pedestrian sign and received a quote for \$ 4466.16 which can be paid from our liquid fuels money. Mr. Day asked for a motion to approve for safety purposes. Ms. Still feels that we should look into a grant for the cost of the pedestrian sign. Vote is delayed so grant can be researched, by Health, Safety and Welfare Committee.

--New backhoe is in service

--Approval to advertise for bids and sell 1995 John Deere Backhoe, 1968 Case Master Trailer, 1998 New Holland Tractor and the Leaf Vac System.—Ms. Bowman made a motion to advertise for sealed bids, to be opened at next council meeting, for the sale of equipment listed. Mr. Ginter seconded the motion, vote to approve passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

No other business before council, Mrs. Boyles asked for motion to adjourn. Ms. Bowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm, seconded by Mr. Ginter. All in favor and meeting adjourned.

Recording Secretary
Karen Johnson