

**Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council
Meeting Minutes-May 11, 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, 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.

Recording: Mrs. Boyles addressed the recording of the meeting by attendees. Nothing wrong with recording as long as it is announced so anyone wishing not to be recorded would have the right not to be included. Recording was announced.

Approval of Minutes –The minutes of the Borough Council meeting from April 13, 2026 were reviewed. Mrs. Stoner made a motion to approve with a second by Ms. Bowman. Notation to correct the word committee to commission for Planning; also meeting that was attended should say county planning training meeting. Mrs. Neff wanted clarification from Ms. Still on her answer which was recorded under the Mayor’s report. (Ms. Still was asked about the location change of the polling place from borough office to church, reason given by Ms. Still was the place being too small). Mrs. Neff asked why a Facebook page admitted Ms. Still lied about why it was moved, and was asking for the correct answer. Ms. Still stated she knew nothing about the polling place being moved and any questions should be directed to Bureau of Elections and “her” the Commissioner. Ms. Bowman asked why Ms. Still needed to lie to council as stated in the Facebook page or as someone else stated it was a misunderstanding. ^{Ms. Bowman ki} She asked Ms. Still if she knew that the pastor and his wife lost jobs at the church over the polling place moving there. Ms. Bowman is concerned for the seniors who will not be able to walk to the new location to vote. Mayor Halpin-Brophy mentioned the calls she has received over this issue, adding there was nothing wrong with the polling place at the borough office, and the move resulted from somebodies’ encouragement. Ms. Still said, she was not aware of the Facebook posting saying she lied to council members, and questions should be directed to the Bureau of Elections. Mrs. Boyles asked for vote on the motion to approve the minutes. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Approval for Payment of Bills and Financial Reports –Financial Reports for April 13, 2026 to May 8, 2026 were submitted for review. Account Balance of \$1,098,114.74 (Bills Paid \$174,767.85 and Deposits \$312,966.13). Motion by Mrs. Neff to approve the financial report with a second by Mrs. Stoner. Ms. Still asked for two clarifications: Elan Financial Services—Credit card for public works, authority, and borough. UNUM—health insurance (disability). Vote to approve passed unanimously. Borough Manager Day added that the money market CD is \$ 216,000.

Public Opinion-

--Cynthia Thompson-Director -Amelia Givin Library

Cynthia handed out an update of summer activities scheduled at the library. A few she mentioned: 250th Birthday America, Petting Zoo--a free event-over 500 attended last year, Project Share-their 6th year participating with breakfast, lunch, and snacks with 100-200 every Friday for about a two-hour period. Summers are a very busy time of year for the library, with a ton of events for kids, and something for every age group.

Borough Manager Day said Ed in public works is working on getting paint, and they will be painting lines for the library's parking lot. Cynthia expressed her gratitude and was thanked by Council for the update.

--Mandy Taylor-Mt Holly Springs

Ms. Taylor first asked for an update/status for the 287g training, and if it has begun or completed. Mr. Day stated that training has been completed. Second thing; she noticed that the pedestrian signal project was not listed on the agenda. She is very interested in getting more involved and learning, for better understanding in the way things are done. Since last meeting she spoke with a local business owner to get an idea of the foot traffic in the location where the pedestrian signal is needed. She was informed that there is quite a bit of foot traffic in that area. She has looked at ways for potential funding (ARLE and Green Light Go), offering her assistance and support to council moving forward. Ms. Taylor was asked to share her contact information, and we are always looking for help. She was thanked by Council for speaking.

--Nicole Kilburg-Mt Holly Springs

Ms. Kilburg addressed the lawsuit against South Middleton as frivolous stating it was filed by Borough Manager Day, and replacing the borough's current solicitor (Mark Alshouse) with the "Maga Republican" Kelso Law Firm. She stated, she has been a litigator for 33 years even though her Pennsylvania license to practice has been administratively suspended due to not completing CLE (Continuing Legal Education). Mr. Day clarified, he has not sued anyone and his name is not on any lawsuit. The Authority Board voted to file the suit against South Middleton. Mrs. Boyles informed Ms. Kilburg, that the lawsuit she is referring to has been settled, completely finished, and we are moving forward. Kelso Law will be representing the Borough not the Authority. The Authority Board has yet to vote officially on which accounting company to do the reconciliations moving forward.

--Mark Stahl—Mountain Creek Trout Club

Mr. Stahl wanted to give Council an update, starting with their recent purchase of 6 ½ acres between Mt Holly Springs and South Middleton Township. The property will be open to the public with trails for everyone to use. Plans for a rental cabin to bring people to town. The property has 3 rights-of-way's (separate tracks of property) for access. The Club has another stream project coming in 2027 (downstream from the Deer Lodge) for bank improvements. They have a GP3 permit, help from the Fish and Boat Commission, and Brooke at the County is working on funding for Mountain Creek. Terry Rickard gave them a clubhouse and put \$40,000 into the building. He has been good to the Club and very accommodating. Mr. Stahl expressed his gratitude to Tom and the public works crew for all their help. Mr. Stahl was thanked for everything he is doing.

-- Doris Fahnestock—Mt Holly Springs

Ms. Fahnestock represents Doris Quilters for Vets, making lap quilts for veterans. Quilts are handed out to veterans at Memorial Day Service, Veterans Day Service, etc. Doris Quilters was founded in 2016, starting with 8 people and have added 20 more to the group. They have given away 1,910 quilts to date. If anyone knows of a veteran or current service man or woman who would like a quilt, please notify Doris directly. Everyone in the room gave Doris a round of applause and she was thanked for speaking.

--Rena Wilson—Mt Holly Springs

Ms. Wilson is here to talk about two things; first—she thinks Trine Park is wonderful and sees many families coming to enjoy the park. She lives directly across from the park and wants to make council aware of what is happening after hours. There are kids doing all kinds of things; burnouts, yelling, loud music, and lights staying on sometimes until 1 am. Residents cannot sleep with their windows open due to the noise. Mr. Day was not aware the timers on the lights were not shutting off by the 10 pm set time. The lights at the playground and dog park are dusk to dawn and will not shut off, but he can look at the other lights, especially around the basketball court. He will also increase the police presence there to help with the mischief.

The other thing Ms. Wilson wanted mentioned, was the red light and drivers constantly running it, especially trucks. Mr. Day said that he will deal with that as well. Ms. Wilson was thanked by Council for speaking.

--Nicole Kilburg took Burr Beard's spot

Question for Mr. Day about DHS- ICE order for assistance and whether he would send officers if notified. Mr. Day stated that being part of the 287g program since March 18th, officers in Mt Holly Springs have not left their jurisdiction and have handled 17 drivers who were removed from their trucks, turning them over to ICE. No transporting, part of our normal routine with trucks being on weight restricted roads and DHS came here to the site. No difference from regular duties at a traffic stop except we can hold them long enough for DHS to pick them up. Without affiliation with ICE, once a citation was issued, officers did not have a legal right to hold them. Ms. Kilburg kept asking if he would obey an order from DHS to send officers. Mr. Day stated that they have a mutual aid agreement between all departments in Cumberland County and Adams County, and yes, they could be called to scenes, but no one will order him or his officers to do anything they do not want to do. Once again Mr. Day was asked about assisting. Mr. Day said that if they were called to assist state, federal, local, or by constable, and they were asking for help, they would assist, but would not have his words twisted to meet a narrative.

--Rick Coplen--Carlisle

Started by thanking Cynthia (Amelia Givin Library), Mark (Mt Creek Trout Club) Mandy Taylor, and Doris Fahnstock (thanking her for the Coplen family quilts they received). His student Alex Foley and her paper about Mt Creek Community Center which would be a great idea for the elementary school complex. He spoke about common themes and wanted to also remind Council that applying for grants once under our possession. Earlier, Ryan Emerson the director of grants for PA DCED said that strong public input is a must, along with strong public support, and a fairly current comp plan. Mr. Coplen closed with words of wisdom from one of his students--picking 2 principals; housing for all and open for business. Mr. Coplen thanked Council for their time.

Business before Council:

-- Fire Police- Mayor Halpin-Brophy swore in the following to their positions of fire police: James Hoerner, Ty Whitten, Tawnia Perkey, Brad Mentzer, Ben Hoerner, Kory Stone, and Justin Current. Mr. Day wanted to say thank you to the fire police and make the public aware that when there is an accident, fire scene, road closure, they are the ones that will stand in the freezing cold rain to direct traffic, putting up with motorist when they don't understand why they can't go down a road, and take a big burden off the police department.

--Opening Sealed Bids for Equipment: Listed in order of opening:

1995 John Deere Backhoe—1. Daves Auto Sales -\$12,233 2. Kenneth Leatherman -\$13,333
3. Brandon Pokrzyk-\$9,500 4. Michael Griffie- \$9,000 5. David Veneziano- \$3,007
Motion by Mrs. Neff to accept Kenneth Leatherman's bid of \$13,333 with a second by Ms. Bowman, vote to approve passed unanimously.

1998 New Holland Tractor-- 1. Brandon Pokrzyk- \$2,500 2. David Veneziano- \$1,007
3. Jesse Autry-\$1,500 4. Dave's Auto Sales- \$8,233 5. Kenneth Leatherman- \$2,600
6. August Ginter -\$1,201 7. Jesse Autry-\$2,000 8. Curtis Wiser -\$1,260
Motion by Mrs. Neff to accept Dave's Auto Sales bid of \$8,233 with a second by Mrs. Stoner, vote to approve passed unanimously.

1968 Case Master Trailer—1. Kenneth Leatherman-\$425

Motion by Ms. Bowman to accept the bid by Kenneth Leatherman for \$425 with a second by Mr. Ginter, vote to approve passed unanimously.

Leaf Vac -no bids

--Approval to hire Kelso Law—Mrs. Neff made a motion to hire Kelso Law as Borough Solicitor to replace Mark Alshouse. Mrs. Stoner made a second, vote to approve passed unanimously.

--VFW flags and picture—Picture was posted on the website, a thank you letter along with a picture of Council members holding one of the flags was sent to the VFW by Secretary Johnson back in April.

--Approval to Advertise Demolition Ordinance 2026-01—Ms. Still made a motion to advertise the demolition ordinance 2026-01 with a second by Mr. Tate. The vote to approve passed unanimously.

-- Approval to apply for a grant through PA Local Share Account for funding to purchase the elementary school—Motion by Ms. Bowman and second by Mr. Tate to approve the application process for a grant through PA Local Share Account. Discussion to clarify this would be to help fund the purchase of the elementary school. Plan to advertise and schedule a public meeting for around the end of June. Residents can give their input and why the borough believes that this would be a good asset not only for the borough, but also an asset for the community. Some feel that a June date would be too soon, leaning toward July or August. Everyone agreed that public input and meeting date is needed. The school will not officially close until the 28-29 school season, but the school board is looking ahead, and willing to engage in an agreement with Mt Holly Springs Borough provided we get funding for the purchase. Applying for this grant will allow us to engage in the agreement with the school board, so when the school closes, they can start moving along. Ms. Still requested to amend the motion, permission to investigate Cumberland County grants to help pay for costs associated with planning, for the elementary school. Public opinion, and discussions even though they are not on the agenda now it's *de minimis*. It doesn't involve cost, it's just permission to talk about it in planning to prevent coming back, and saving time. Mrs. Boyles asked for a vote on the motion and second to approve applying for the grant since the deadline is October 31, 2026. No further discussion, vote to approve passed unanimously.

Council Members Report:

--Park & Rec- Cathy Neff and Lois Stoner

Meeting for next week—date changed to Tuesday, May 19th due to polling place changing.

Holly Festival—number of vendors are ahead of last year

Scavenger Hunt—12 people signed up, a lot of fun

Tye Dye event for kids—June 14 at 1:00 pm --Trine Park

Planning for America 250th anniversary---working on patriotic decorating contest

Trine Park-Community Appreciation Day-July 11

--Health, Safety & Welfare –Gay Bowman, Andrew Tate, and Cathy Neff

Meeting with Jeff Staub (Fire Chief) on consolidating EMS services for several townships, municipalities in Cumberland County. Long term effect to save money and provide a more efficient system for everyone. Jeff will attend a future meeting to discuss in more detail.

--Planning Commission- Pam Still

Thank you to Jason for discovering that demolition definition was not included when Zoning was done in 2017. There are always new zoning issues and technology coming up to be looked at.

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 pm

--Public Works – Gus Ginter, Andrew Tate, Pam Still

Public works are working on parks, trees, mulch, street sweeping, and pollinating garden. Bridge project starting in June.

--Slogan Banner – Pam asked about who to contact for information on graphics, size, and costs for a new slogan banner (Where Mountain Creek Flows, Community Grows). Starting with council approval to spend money from the budget. Ms. Still asked for approval if it is not over \$300, and was told that it would be way more than \$300. She will get in touch with the contact person mentioned and table the banner until the next council meeting in June.

--Pedestrian Crosswalk Grant—Last months minutes referred to Health, Safety and Welfare responsible for looking into a grant for pedestrian crosswalk. Ms. Still wanted to clarify the email changing it to Public Works Committee. Mr. Day said it should have been Public Works Committee to look into the grant and not Health, Safety and Welfare.

--Church Bells—Cathy Neff and Gay Bowman looked at other places for more information on common practices of church bell ringing. They found no specific guidelines and it's basically up to every community's discretion. Most reasonable ringing would be 9 am, noon, and 3 pm. Table for next month for further discussion to come up with some kind of guideline or ordinance.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Halpin-Brophy

Monthly Police Stat report from April 13, 2026 to May 11, 2026.

Under Ordinance tickets—Illegally parked—Chief received a call and ran down to the park to confront the lady who parked her truck on the basketball court at Trine Park last Sunday. Person was cited and also given a certified letter of no trespass for the park (one year).

--Mayor has been getting complaints on condition of railroad bridge. She contacted Norfolk Southern about the complaints and was told they are up to date with bridge inspections and they have passed (last inspection April 26, 2026). Bridge was built in 1962 and the concrete is starting to deteriorate. The mayor has a contact person, emails, and records of conversation with Norfolk Southern, and at this point nothing else can be done on her end.

Codes/Zoning-Jason Bonawitz

--nothing on the WCCOG report

--Keystone has continued to follow through with all the administrative items. They received their building permits last week, and are waiting to reschedule contractors to start the work on the whole building.

--20 Center Street (blighted) is still working their way through the courts and the solicitor.

--32 Center Street Block 13 -process started to become County Whiteboard. (blighted)

-- New businesses coming to Mt Holly Springs:

S. Baltimore –Entire building will be remodeled (old hardware store) with ADA accessibility. Building will feature—Serendipity (targeted for grand opening- Oct 1st) -is a fabric store offering quilting classes, a Café planned for in the rear of the building with outside seating overlooking creek, also planning for additional businesses.

Ice Cream Truck—June—throughout the borough and park

Farmers Market moving into part of the Holly Pharmacy building Thurs, Fri, and Sat

Borough Manager Report-Tom Day

--Public Works: Eddie and crew replaced drain pipe on Locust Street, beside the Shetter property due to a clog. A lot of trash coming from the tenants living in the apartments at 4 East Locust Street. The guys did a great job putting in a new drain and stoning for run off. The landlord has been notified and if the trash continues, he will be held responsible, and fines could be issued.

--Saturday May 23rd –noon or 1:00 pm—Memorial Day Service at the Mt Tabor AME Church hosted by the American Legion Post 674. Honoring the Civil War-Color Guard Veterans buried at the cemetery. Carmen James has been working with Matt Hockley, a band will be playing, and guest speakers planned.

Other Business:

--James Collins II resignation: Mrs. Boyles read the letter of resignation from Jim Collins II effect immediately from the Borough Authority. Mrs. Neff made a motion to accept Jim's resignation from the Borough Authority as of May 11, 2026. Mr. Tate seconded the motion, with vote to approve passing unanimously.

--Mike Gwozdecki—Mr. Gwozdecki no longer has any invested interest in the borough, mostly living in Florida living his best life. Mrs. Stoner made a motion to remove Mr. Gwozdecki from the Borough Authority with a second by Ms. Bowman. The vote to approve passed unanimously. Mr. Day will advertise for candidates to send in a request to serve or submit a resume`.

Adjournment:

Ms. Bowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm, seconded by Mr. Ginter. All were in favor and meeting was adjourned.

Recording Secretary
Karen Johnson