

Mt. Holly Springs Borough Council Meeting Minutes-June 8, 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, Andrew Tate, 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 May 11, 2026 were reviewed. Ms. Bowman made a motion to approve with a second by Mr. Ginter. Ms. Still questioned wording used in the minutes. Specifically, (referencing moving of polling place), the minutes stated “they” moved the location, Ms. Still feels the wording should be specific to Bureau of Elections. Also, the word “she” (referencing to why the pastor and wife left the church) was made by Ms. Bowman should be specific to who said it. Ms. Still feels that the discussion regarding the Facebook posting which said, “Ms. Still felt the need to lie to Council” at the April meeting, should not have been included in the minutes. Mrs. Boyles stated, Mrs. Neff asked for clarification from Ms. Still on what was posted on the Facebook page. Ms. Still reiterated that she did not post anything on Facebook and did not lie about why the polling place was moved. Mrs. Neff explained, after seeing the Face Book page, she wanted clarification on whether the posting was true and that is what prompted her question. Ms. Still feels the mayor’s statement of “there was nothing wrong with the polling place before and the move was from someone’s encouragement” is an undocumented opinion. Mr. Day stated he has it in writing making the statement a documented opinion. Specifically, the commissioners changed the polling place due to the police department engaging in the 287g program, and the police department being attached to the building where the polling place was located. The commissioners were told “people of color would be afraid to come and vote”, that was the reason for the move, in actuality what was said to the commissioners to make them change the polling place was far from the truth. Ms. Still said the video of the commissioner’s meeting didn’t give that reason and suggested the reason may have been discussed in an executive session. Mr. Day went on to say, the person (Nicole Kilburg) responsible for posting on social media, named her (Ms. Still) as the person who made the complaint to the commissioners, and was not truthful to council. Everyone read what Ms. Kilburg posted on Facebook and was the reason council members wanted clarification. Ms. Still stated that she did not look at the Facebook posting and knew nothing about someone using her name. Mrs. Boyles asked Ms. Still if making minor corrections from “she” to Ms. Bowman and “them” to Bureau of Elections is acceptable, wanting to be clear, so in a month council doesn’t have to come back with a retracted vote. Ms. Still stated “it was not clear to her, but okay”. Vote to approve the minutes with the corrections passed.

Approval for Payment of Bills and Financial Reports –Financial Reports for May 12, 2026 to June 8, 2026. Deposits \$ 262,633.84, Bills Paid \$ 171,338.50-- Total Account Balances \$1,189,410.08. Mrs. Boyles asked for approval of the financial report. Motion made by Mrs. Neff and seconded by Mr. Ginter.

Ms. Still asked Chief Day if we received money from ICE yet? Chief Day responded, no we have not, but he did see on the news where funding was approved last Friday for \$90 billion, and would expect payment soon. All paperwork has been submitted and \$7500 for each officer is included, no bonus amounts were submitted.

Vote to approve the financial report passed unanimously.

Swearing In Fire Police: Mayor

Kyle Zook was sworn in by Mayor Halpin-Brophy

Public Opinion-

--Jeff Staub—moved to Council Report

--Vanessa Ginter-Mt. Holly Springs—Hilltop Community Church

Mrs. Ginter spoke to council about the “rumors” made during last meeting regarding the reasons the prior pastor and his wife left the church. Mrs. Ginter stated the pastors were asked to resign, due to various reasons. The pastors left the same day, and the polling change had nothing to do with them leaving.

Mr. Day asked who the board members were, and was interested in the 20 acres the church owns if they were thinking about selling. Mrs. Ginter said she would get a list of members and was thanked by council for speaking.

-- Pam Still—Mt. Holly Springs

Ms. Still was impressed with Vanessa Ginter speaking, putting her in the same category as two 1897 Audubon Society ladies; (Harriet and Minna) who were against stuffed birds being put on hats, standing up for what they felt was right. Ms. Still went on to say that the polling location at the church worked out well and the church was very accommodating.

--Mandy Taylor-Mt. Holly Springs

Ms. Taylor addressed council with her perception of tone and conduct at the last council meeting. Ms. Taylor is involving herself more in the community, and in understanding the working of local governments. She pointed out that disagreements are part of democracy, and politics, but shouldn't be personal.

Ms. Taylor wanted to address the recent newspaper article about the borough's participation in the 287g program, which focused on commercial vehicle enforcements. Ms. Taylor is trying to understand how the agreement is implemented, to help build trust within the community. Ms. Taylor asked, does the borough define commercial vehicles to include smaller work-related business vehicles? Chief Day explained, any individual turned over to ICE is from their own doing. In every case, the stop stemmed from a traffic violation of a truck being over 6,000 pounds on weight restricted roads (West Pine Street). The road had an engineer study, finding it could only accommodate 6,000 pounds not 80,000 pounds, when drivers are choosing to drive where they are not permitted. Chief Day went on to explain, this is when the truck drivers come into contact with his officers, have scales put under their trucks, and citations are issued. If an individual is suspected of being illegal, ICE is contacted and will verify everything on that individual.

In the past two months, ICE has not taken everybody, if the individual is trying to comply and trying to do the right thing then they are not remanded to ICE agents. Only the individuals not in compliance are taken into ICE custody. Our involvement is only when the individual initiates it on their own. Otherwise, they can travel through this town and we would have no idea who they were. Not once have my officers left the borough, and the longest stop was around 45 minutes. Very minimal time for us keeping the roads safe. Ms. Taylor asked for clarification of commercial vehicles, (anything transporting goods) through the borough, regardless of the street, but the police are focusing on weight restrictions like Pine Street? Chief Day, said that is correct, but to also clarify, you could be driving an RV and selling t-shirts and that would be considered commercial. Ms. Taylor was thanked by council for speaking.

--Chuck Crone-Mt. Holly Springs

Mr. Crone addressed council members on how they handled the last meeting. As an owner of a construction company, he would have handled things much differently. He felt council members were accusatory towards Ms. Still, especially in a public forum. Mr. Crone suggested nobody from council checked facts with the bureau of elections on why the polling place was moved. The mayor stated her husband did call the elections bureau, and knew of others who called. Mr. Crone said he felt committee meetings would be a better forum for discussion without a public audience. Mrs. Neff pointed out that committee meetings are public as well. Mr. Crone said he was disappointed Mrs. Stoner did not mention the letter received by the election's bureau about the polling change. Mrs. Stoner responded by saying, she did say something to Ms. Still regarding the election letter she received from Bethany at elections, that the polling place changed without a reason. This happened the month before after a council meeting, during a conversation she had with Ms. Still and Professor Coplen. Mr. Crone said he never heard Ms. Still mention anything on the polling place being moved, and she works hard for the community. Mr. Day stated that if he (Mr. Crone) wanted to be upset with anyone it should be with Ms. Kilburg who wrote that whole big article on Facebook, saying she was sitting right beside Ms. Still, and she (Ms. Still) was not being truthful to council. That's what initiated council member's questioning why the polling place moved into South Middleton, and exactly what council was concerned about. Mr. Crone said, he would not trust Nicole with anything.

--Cam Baer—Deputy Chief Yellow Breeches EMS

Elicia Bauer—Administrative Officer Yellow Breeches EMS

Ms. Baer read a letter from Bob Weidner- Yellow Breeches EMS to Chief Day and Mt. Holly Springs Borough. Yellow Breeches EMS has been honored to serve the residents of Mt. Holly for the past 30 years, and thanked Mt. Holly for all the support given to them especially the past 3 years. They appreciated all the times Mt. Holly police department responded quickly to any crisis they had, and were always relieved, when the officers arrived within minutes. Chief Day thanked everyone at Yellow Beeches EMS for the service they provided to the community.

--Andrew Dapkins—Mt. Holly Springs

Mr. Dapkins addressed council, about parks, importance of water quality, monitoring, reporting, and PFAS testing in streams. He feels residents should be able to see the data on testing results. He was unable to find the report on our website, Cumberland County website or PA DEP website. He is concerned with lead contamination and their levels. As owner of a business, he feels he cannot promote Mt. Holly Springs as a nature-based recreation, due to habitat, stewardship, and water safety. He would like to see council restore native habitat to our parks, science-based stewardship, and confirm water testing.

Mr. Day responded by saying, in 2021 DEP started to do mandatory testing of the water at the McLand Well-South Middleton Township (our source of water entry), we passed with zero contaminants. Mr. Day stated, he was under the assumption that the test results were on the DEP website since they are the ones mandating the testing. After seeing the recent social media posts, the water reports were pulled and he contacted Susquehanna Environmental Services (who is contracted by our Authority to oversee the water/sewer plant). He was informed that the violations showing are a direct result of turning the results in a day late (to DEP) due to waiting on labs results. Currently there is one lab that does the testing. Mr. Day said he will make sure the water report is posted on our website, also inviting Mr. Dapkins to the next Authority meeting this coming Thursday to ask his questions directly to our engineers.

Mr. Dapkins mentioned native plants in Trine Park. Mr. Day said we have plenty of native plants throughout the park, of the 25 acres at Trine, half is wooded naturally, a pollinator garden has been completed with plants and cherry trees. Mt. Holly has other native areas with 7 ponds. All the ponds back along Mountain Creek have wildlife habitats, and Suzanne Whites property is one of them.

--Rick Coplen—Carlisle

Mr. Coplen passed copies of a "draft game plan" for the public meeting on July 12, 2026. Insurance information was provided and will be forwarded to the school district. Meeting will ask the public to give ideas on how to utilize the school when purchased. Flyers will be handed out at Community Appreciation Day, borough table with information, advertising, website and Facebook page. Mailing notices was suggested which would need council approval to spend funds for the postage. Borough secretary mentioned that we could add information to the water/sewer billings going out in two weeks to all the residents. This would alleviate the cost of postage and still get the word out. Ms. Still inquired about a QR code for a public survey to be included. This would have to go on separate paper to be included in the envelopes with the billing.

Business before Council:

-- Appointments to Authority Board- Mrs. Boyles asked for a motion to approve Andrew Tate and Dylan Coyle to the Authority Board. Ms. Bowman made the motion with a second by Mrs. Neff. Vote to approve passed unanimously. They will be sworn in at the Authority meeting on Thursday, June 11th.

--Approval to Advertise and Seek Applications to Hire Water & Sewer Operators—Mrs. Neff made a motion to approve advertising and seek applications in the hiring of two to three water/sewer plant operators. Mr. Tate seconded the motion and vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Approval to Hire Authority Billing Clerk—Mrs. Boyles asked for a motion to hire an authority secretary to replace Madeline who will move over to the Borough Office, replacing Karen so she can finally retire. Madeline will train the new hire and then move over to be trained by Karen. Mrs. Neff made the motion to hire an authority secretary with a second by Mr. Ginter. The vote to approve passed unanimously.

Ron Baer had a question about online billing and payments. Mr. Day stated that we are ahead of schedule and should be available next billing.

--Approval to Pass Demolition Ordinance 2026-01—Ms. Still made the motion to approve passing the advertised Demolition Ordinance 2026-01, with a second by Mr. Ginter. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Council Members Report:

Park & Rec--Cathy Neff and Lois Stoner:

--Library Allocation- Mrs. Stoner stated, the Park & Rec committee talked about the loss of allocation (\$2000) from the borough budget this year for the library. She said the borough started adding the library fund to the budget years ago and felt that the library could use the funding. Park & Rec committee voted and approved giving the library \$1000 from the Park & Rec account since the library is a big draw for Mt. Holly. Mrs. Stoner went on to say she is hoping the borough includes a match of \$1000 in next year's budget.

--Trine Park Trees- Park & Rec committee voted to add Japanese Lilac trees at Trine Park from a \$300 donation received for these particular trees. She said they may not be native, but they are not invasive either. There are fruit trees, and newly planted cherry trees (at the pollinating garden), as well as the acres of natural wooded areas in the park.

--Tye Dye Event- Due to the hospitalization of Mrs. Bream, the tye dye event for this weekend has been postponed. Looking to reschedule for National Night Out.

Public Works—Gus Ginter: no report

Heath Safety and Welfare: Gay Bowman, Andrew Tate, and Cathy Neff:

--Ms. Bowman introduced Fire Chief Jeff Staub who has a presentation for council on the Fire/EMS Consolidation.

Mr. Staub began by saying he took over for Tim Yeingst as fire chief. He gave updates on the fire department, touching on everything from what areas they cover (66 miles), calls answered (average 700 emergencies/incidents), what they need to be prepared for (hazmat incidents/rescues/wildfires/building fires/auto accidents, etc.). He spoke about the costs associated with funding the fire department (1,049,533.00) and stated that they are at a \$214,000 deficit. He outlined some expenses for the department, basic utilities, safety equipment for every firefighter, apparatus/equipment costs, etc. He spoke about volunteerism which has declined from 360,000 in 1975 to 30,000 in 2025. Just basic training alone takes 249 hours, most are working 2 jobs to make ends meet, family responsibilities, etc., all factor into making the decision whether to volunteer. Mr. Staub spoke about how do we sustain emergency services, by spearheading a discussion, looking for deficiencies and ways to improve. Mr. Staub was thanked for his presentation.

--Rob Kole-Dickinson Twp. was introduced to the group, and spoke about Dickinson Township's role in the consolidation. He spoke about the importance of fire and rescue in the community, and how everything is funded. The survey conducted by Dickinson Township looked at funding, struggles and recommendation of multi-municipal approach. Dickinson Township is very committed and would like to see the three communities of Dickinson, Mt Holly Springs Borough, and South Middleton in unity to start. Mr. Day spoke about population growth and how fair share in paying for the consolidated services will be determined. Will it be based off head count? Mt Holly Springs has stayed at 2,000 residents, Dickinson has grown, and South Middleton has had astronomical growth. Mr. Day also brought Monroe Township in the discussion since the accident involving fire fighter Jerome Guise caused a significant increase to the fire departments workers comp affecting Mt Holly Springs, Dickinson and South Middleton tax payers. Monroe Township does not pay anything toward workers comp insurance percentages, but benefits from the fire department. Taking the fire department budget, all municipalities who pull from these services, basing off head count/census count and dividing into how much each municipality should pay a fair share. Mr. Kole agreed, everyone should be paying their fair share for fire and emergency medical services. Once again, municipalities working together to provide the best in services for our residents. Mr. Kole was thanked for speaking.

Pam Still—Planning Commission:

--Advertising--Public meeting Elementary School which was talked about earlier.

Motion to approve the advertising of the public meeting for July 12, 2026 at 2:00 pm was made by Ms. Still and seconded by Mr. Ginter. Vote to approve passed unanimously.

Ms. Still questioned what our response would be to public questions on costs, etc. Mr. Day answered by saying that the meeting will discuss suggestions from the public on what to do with the school once purchased. Costs would be discussed later once a plan is set for the school. The meeting is not for scoping out every expense, especially not knowing what the public suggestions are. When Mr. Day toured the building, he noticed that the school has been well maintained, from the roof (redone in 2010) to their HVAC system. Was very impressed with the cleanliness.

--Postage for mailing public meeting notices—Ms. Still is requesting approximately \$2000 to mail notices for the public meeting to all residents in Mt Holly Springs. During discussion it was mentioned to include in the next billing of water/sewer/trash which would go to all residents at no additional cost.

--Solicitor—Ms. Still wanted clarification on our solicitor. Mr. Day stated he has a meeting scheduled with Kelso Law on Friday, June 12th.

--PSAB webinar June 16th—Ms. Still wanted to bring attention to council members of this free webinar on what is the roll of council.

--ARLE grant update—Ms. Still and Mandy Taylor are working on the pedestrian grant. A traffic study will need to be completed. Mr. Day suggested, contacting District 8 engineers and they would have all information needed.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Halpin-Brophy

Monthly Police Stat report from May 12 to June 8 was reviewed. Any questions can be directed to Chief Day or Cpl. Carver

Codes/Zoning-Jason Bonawitz

--W.C.C.O.G-(with possible vote)--nothing to report

--Phase I of emergency management classes were completed on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

--Pesticide exam was passed on May 26th

--July/August—Planning and Zoning -Land development plan for 600-604 N Baltimore Ave, John Lane's property along railroad tracks. He wants to build an addition rental building. This will be complicated due to flood plain, etc. Nothing has been filed yet.

--Possible future businesses in Mt Holly:

Event Center looking at the Kids Kountry building

Justin Pittman (Precision Fly) planning a restaurant (he purchased a liquor license)

Robert McAllister (Goddard's old property) still on for Oct 1st to open Serendipity (quilting store) and a café is planned. A meeting has been scheduled for securing grants to help with all the upgrades needed for the apartments and other areas of the property.

Borough Manager Report-Tom Day

-- Pine Street Bridge replacement—UGI slated to cut the gas line and cap it off so new culverts can be placed. County will cover the cost of materials and rental of the large equipment needed. Terry Rickard has pulled his crews from West Virginia and moved equipment here to help with the demolition. This will reduce the road closure time from a week to just a few days. Estimated cost of the project is \$330,000. The county will reimburse \$170,000 with the borough doing in kind for the difference. We are currently advertising for sealed bids to do the paving, which will come out of liquid fuels.

--Senate Bill 1150—The state senate wants to pass a bill that if there are emergency additions to the agenda during a meeting, no vote can be taken. A special meeting must be scheduled and advertised first (or wait until the next scheduled meeting). PSAB sent out emails asking all elected officials to vote NO to the bill.

Other Business:

--Ms. Still wanted to add, if anyone has any 250th celebrations, they can put it on the county website.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Boyles asked for motion to adjourn. Ms. Bowman made the motion with a second by Mr. Ginter. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Recording Secretary
Karen Johnson