

Mount Holly Springs Borough Council-

Meeting Minutes- August 10, 2026

Call to order- Mrs. Boyles called the meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00pm 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. Also present, Deborah Halpin-Brophy, Mayor, Thomas Day, Jr., Borough Manager/Chief of Police, Jason Bonawitz Codes/Zoning, and Madeline Pierce, Recording Secretary. Andrew Tate and Gus Ginter were absent.

Approval of Minutes- The minutes of the Borough Council Meeting from July 13, 2026 were reviewed, with a minor spelling correction from Ms. Still. Ms. Bowman made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, with a second by Mrs. Neff. Vote to approve unanimously.

Approval for Payment of Bills and Financial Reports- Financial Reports from July 11, 2026 to August 7, 2026. Deposits \$394,000.13, Bills Paid \$407,636.17—Total Account Balances \$1,080,812.08. Mrs. Boyles asked for approval of the financial report. Motion made by Mrs. Stoner and seconded by Ms. Bowman.

Ms. Still raised concerns about the \$130,000 received from ICE and if the money could be placed into a separate checking account or line item to keep a separate record. Mr. Day explained that the \$130,000 was placed into the general reserve account and proposed to council to invest \$150,000 into CDs. Ms. Still explained that it is clearly stated the money is to be used towards a new vehicle. Mr. Day explained that there is no time limit for the money to be spent. Ms. Still agreed, but suggested the ICE funds clearly be marked. Mr. Day stated that it was already documented.

Ms. Still had a question from the November Minutes regarding the sound system that was installed. Mr. Day explained the new sound system costed around \$2,200 since an officer did the installation on their time off.

Public Discussion-

--Matt Johnson- Lane Lancaster

Mr. Johnson, representing Church World Service in Lancaster, expressed that the 287(g) program was not a solution to the borough's truck traffic issue. He explained that Mr. Wu did everything the right way, by having a valid work authorization and a pending asylum case, but yet was detained by ICE. Mr. Johnson also stated that other municipalities are facing legal and financial consequences, referencing Maricopa County in Arizona, who currently owes around \$132 million stemming from the 287(g) agreement. Mr. Johnson also stated how Dauphin County

ended their 287(g) agreement following the death of a prisoner and legal disputes. Mr. Johnson asked council members to rethink the 287(g) agreement and was thanked by council for speaking.

--Rebecca Weybright- Manheim

Ms. Weybright spoke to council on behalf of Mennonite Action Lancaster and expressed her sadness and alarm that the Mount Holly Springs Police Department assisted ICE in arresting Mr. Wu. Ms. Weybright expressed that 287(g) agreements endanger community members and break trust between police and the public. Ms. Weybright was thanked by council for speaking.

--Katie Daniels- Boiling Springs

Ms. Daniels addressed council, stating that Mount Holly Springs now accounts for more ICE detentions than almost any other community in Pennsylvania. Ms. Daniels referenced a commercial truck insurance company report, Goco, that indicated 2025 was one of the safest years of commercial truck fatalities. Ms. Daniels stated that Chief Day escalated 32 stops to ICE, where 19 resulted in detentions and raised questions about liability, racial profiling, and whether drivers were being held longer than legally permissible. Ms. Daniels called on council to rescind the 287(g) agreement and was thanked by council for speaking.

--Jen Dieter- Mount Holly Springs

Ms. Dieter addressed several questions towards council, including what prompted the stop of Mr. Wu, why Chief Day reportedly told a Philadelphia Inquirer reporter that only \$1,100 had been received when council emails indicated otherwise, and whether council was prepared to reconsider participation in the 287(g) program. Ms. Dieter was thanked by council for speaking.

--Mandy Taylor- Mount Holly Springs

Ms. Taylor raised concerns about the borough's Facebook page, with only one post per month in recent months, no posts in May, and the last post before April being from November 14, 2025. She asked if council could help post information for residents. Ms. Taylor directed specific questions to President Sherry Boyles, asking what she has done to verify the 287(g) program is effective, properly funded, and not harming people who pose no threat. Ms. Taylor also directed specific questions to Mrs. Stoner, asking if she believes that Mount Holly Springs reputation could discourage people from visiting our town, patronizing our businesses, attending events, or considering our town a welcoming place to live. Ms. Taylor also asked if the program's cost, liabilities, enforcement practices, and effects were presented to the borough clearly. Ms. Taylor was thanked by council for speaking.

--Liz Reilly- Camp Hill

Ms. Reilly addressed council, stating that her borough was considering an ordinance clarifying that administrative warrants are not sufficient grounds for detention. Ms. Reilly also questioned

whether the \$130,000 received from ICE was worth the reputational and legal risks. Ms. Reilly asked council to consider rescinding the 287(g) program and was thanked by council for speaking.

--Jessica St Clair- Carlisle

Ms. Clair cited multiple Bible verses regarding treatment of foreigners and expressed her concerns about a potential lawsuit. Ms. Clair suggested the \$130,000 be held in a trust to cover legal costs for a potential lawsuit. She stated there is a huge difference between administrative and judicial warrants, and that the judicial warrant level should be used due to the liability of the issue. Ms. Clair was thanked by council for speaking.

--Resident Questions- Pam Still

Ms. Still read additional submitted questions on behalf of a community member who wished to remain anonymous. Ms. Still asked questions regarding officer obligations under the 287(g) program, budget allocations for the police department, tracking of ICE related time and resources, racial breakdown of traffic stops, and whether officers have body cameras.

Business Before Council-

--Bids for New Roof and Siding- Borough Garage-- Mrs. Stoner made a motion to advertise for bids for a new roof and siding on the borough garage, with a second by Ms. Bowman. The vote to approve passed unanimously.

--Appointment of Jason Bonawitz for Authority Manager-- A motion was made to appoint Jason Bonawitz as Authority Manager at \$30 per hour, as he has been informally performing the role for several months. However, Ms. Still raised concerns, about the lack of a formal job description, whether the Authority Board had voted on the matter, and the budget implications. Council agreed to defer the vote for one month pending legal documentation and a formal job description from the borough's attorneys.

--Rick Coplen—Mr. Coplen presented an update on the community meeting held on July 12th, 2026 regarding the future of the Mount Holly Springs Elementary School. He reported 68 survey responses and noted the survey would stay open until August 31st. The top community preferences for the school were a community center, youth programs, and recreational spaces. Mr. Coplen explained how a project like this would take time, with primary funding through public, private, and foundation grants, and local fundraising. Mr. Coplen identified 25 volunteers from the July 12th community meeting willing to help. Mr. Coplen also highlighted a \$7,500 PA Department of Agriculture grant for a potential greenhouse, and a PP&L Foundation grant of up to \$20,000. Mr. Coplen also recommended forming a citizen steering committee and a nonprofit entity to apply for private grants not accessible to municipalities. Mr. Coplen was thanked by council for speaking.

Council Member Reports-

Park & Rec—Cathy Neff and Lois Stoner

--*National Night Out*-- Mrs. Neff reported that the National Night Out event at Trine Park is scheduled for Saturday, August 15th, from 3:00 to 6:00pm, featuring tie-dye activities, hot dogs, Summit Therapy Dogs, the National Guard, Lion's Club, Cub Scout Pack 171, Amelia Givin Library, and the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department.

--*Holly Day Festival*-- Mrs. Neff stated there are currently 83 vendors registered for Holly Day Festival on September 19th. Mrs. Stoner discussed council members and borough employees providing a baby picture and a current picture of themselves, for a then and now photo contest to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the festival. Mrs. Stoner asked that photos be turned in by September 1st.

--*Halloween Parade*--Mrs. Stoner stated the Halloween Parade is coming up and that Cindy Thompson was named as Grand Marshal and Scott Gobin as her escort.

Admin, Finance, Budget—Gay Bowman, Lois Stoner, and Sherry Boyles

No report

Public Works—Gus Ginter, Andrew Tate, and Pam Still

--*ARLE Grant*--Ms. Still explained she looked into the Green Light Go Grant and it is a 20% match, and is more for replacement and to maintain traffic signals rather than put a new one in, where the ARLE grant is free. Mr. Day explained that a new one is not being installed, that pedestrian cross lights would be added on to the existing light. Ms. Still asked council if they would rather use the ARLE Grant or the Green Light Go Grant. Mr. Day explained he was content with taking the funds from liquid fuels, as that is what it is used for. Ms. Still stated she would want to ask Ms. Taylor since she is a volunteer helping with this project. Ms. Still also added that PennDOT wanted to know if the borough would agree to pay the \$300 yearly maintenance fee, which Mr. Day stated the borough already does for other existing lights. Ms. Taylor explained she would like to talk to council about the matter privately. Mrs. Boyles asked if Ms. Still and Ms. Taylor would want to put in the work for the grant or use the liquid fuels money. Ms. Still explained she looked up what the liquid fuels money is supposed to be used towards, and explained it stated it should be used towards roads, bridges, etc. Members of council explained that it still would qualify. Ms. Taylor explained that the ARLE Grant is a no match grant, and that to her understanding there is not an immediate need, as she explains there have been no accidents, fatalities, etc., so that there was no rush or time limit for the project. Mrs. Boyles explained that even though there haven't been any accidents, you never know what could happen. Ms. Taylor explained she would like to pursue the process for the ARLE grant to see where it goes.

--*Pelican Street Sweeper*--Ms. Still provided an update that the new Pelican Street Sweeper has been received and that Roadmaster Ed Ginter is currently adjusting it to fit the streets properly.

--*Pay Increase*--Mr. Day reported that a part-time employee of public works, Steve Bloch, requested a pay increase from \$16.18 to \$18.50. Mr. Day explained the employee has been working up to 40 hours a week due to the bridge project and the absence of a summer helper. Additionally, Mr. Day explained that Steve does not just mow all the lawns, but also helps with

any cement projects. Mrs. Boyles asked council to amend the agenda to add the pay increase. Council agreed. Mrs. Stoner made a motion to approve the pay increase for Steve Bloch from \$16.18 to \$18.50, with a second by Ms. Bowman. Vote to approve unanimously.

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

--*Dickinson Township*--Mrs. Neff stated they are still waiting to hear back from Dickinson Township with the next steps of the Multi-Municipality Authority discussed at the previous meeting. Ms. Bowman stated she would email to check for any updates.

Planning- Pam Still

Ms. Still wanted to take a moment to thank those that drove far and to reflect on the borough's 2016 vision statement emphasizing a safe, warm, and welcoming community, and expressed personal disappointment that the Mr. Wu incident had brought negative national attention. Ms. Still referenced the 287(g) memorandum of the agreement's Appendix C, which she explains requires coordination between LEA and the Chief for any media releases, and called for greater transparency and communication with the public regarding the program's operations.

Mayors Report- Mayor Halpin-Brophy

--Monthly Police Stat report from July 13, 2026 to August 9, 2026 was reviewed. Any questions can be directed to Chief Day or Cpl. Carver.

Codes/Zoning Report- Jason Bonawitz

--*WCCOG*--No meeting

--*South Middleton Township Meeting*--Mr. Bonawitz reported that he attended South Middleton's Township Meeting on behalf of Mount Holly Springs Borough and Mount Tabor Preservation Project. South Middleton unanimously approved Mount Tabor's request for a special exception and variance to add a parking lot with an ADA-accessible ramp, accommodating approximately 10-15 spaces.

--*Report and Recommendation of 600-604 N. Baltimore Ave*--Mr. Bonawitz reported there has been significant property improvements made by owner John Lane over the past 30 days, including a new dumpster, cellular-connected alarm system, replaced railings, and cleaned common areas. Mr. Bonawitz explained he feels comfortable reducing his inspection frequency from weekly to monthly. Mr. Lane was present and explained that there is one person causing most of the problems, and apologizes for any concerns he may have caused.

--*Rental Occupancy Report*--Mr. Bonawitz reported that Cpl. Carver was driving down West Pine Street and noticed a rain of sparks coming out of one of the townhomes. Mr. Bonawitz explained that because of the occupancy report, they were able to have the owner on sight in about 7 minutes and were able to prevent what could have been a big catastrophe.

--*32 Center Street-Lot #27*--Mr. Bonawitz reported that the property at 32 Center Street Lot 27 has been posted as condemned. Mr. Bonawitz stated he has seen no improvements and the tenant requested an extension of the vacate deadline from August 21st to August 31st. Ms. Still made the

motion to extend the vacate deadline from August 21st to August 31st, with a second by Mrs. Stoner. Vote to approve unanimously.

--Borough "E360" Website--Mr. Bonawitz reported that due to new ADA regulations, the borough's E360 website that provides all codes and regulations, needs to be updated. Mr. Bonawitz explained that any photo on the website needs to include a verbal description of what that photo is. Mr. Bonawitz explained that he already has it completed, but needs permission to submit. Mr. Bonawitz stated there will be a charge associated with the upgrade, but he is unsure of how much. He explained that it should only cost a few hundred dollars and less than previous upgrades since the attorney's did not need to be involved. Mrs. Boyles asked for a motion to move forward with the E360 website becoming compliant with ADA regulations. Ms. Still made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Neff. Vote to approve unanimously.

Borough Manager Report- Thomas Day

--Budget Preparation--Mr. Day reminded council members that budget season is beginning and asked council members to submit any budget requests.

--East Pine Street Bridge Project--Mr. Day reported that the East Pine Street Bridge project is completed, and that the next step is for Pennsy to mill the street and place the final paving. Mr. Day explained that the borough was awarded a \$170,000 grant from the County. Mr. Day stated that the overall estimated cost of the project was \$330,000, however, the bridge project was finished at a cost of \$115,000. \$46,000 of that was engineering costs, and the remainder was for materials. Mr. Day explained that Terry Rickert stepped up for the community by helping the borough by providing his own crew and equipment for the beginning of the bridge project. Mr. Day also reported that all sidewalks and curbing are back in place. Mr. Day expressed he is looking forward to August 28th, the date Pennsy has to have their portion of the project completed by. Mr. Day explained he will send out notices, making residents aware they will not be able to park on the streets, but that the project will totally be wrapped up by September 1st.

--CDs--Mr. Day asked for council's permission to take \$150,000 from the reserve account and add to an existing CD through Orrstown Bank at the best rate available. Mr. Day explained he would not know the rate until the day it is purchased; however, he explained that CDs were just purchased for the Authority for an interest rate around 4.3% for the year. Mrs. Boyles asked council to amend the agenda to move the \$150,000 to a CD. Council agreed. Mrs. Boyles asked for a motion to move \$150,000 to a CD for one year. Mrs. Neff made the motion, seconded by Ms. Still. Vote to approve unanimously.

Other Business-

- Ms. Still wanted to take a moment to thank Mrs. Boyles and Mrs. Stoner for doing the Mount Tabor Cemetery tour. Ms. Still also stated there was a cherry tree that fell down and is hanging over the memorial garden. Ms. Still also explained how Mount Tabor always gives credit to the borough at the tours due to the boroughs help during times of need. Mr. Day explained that he did talk to Carmen and explained that Ed has been extremely busy with the bridge project, and will get to it as soon as he can.

- Mr. Day reported that solar strobe lights with high pitched frequency were installed at the pollinating garden at Trine Park, due to deer jumping the fence causing damage to the garden and cherry trees.
- Mrs. Stoner reported she had a question asked to her regarding the trail at Trine Park, and how it was over grown. Mrs. Stoner said she explained with the bridge project and everything else going on, it has been very busy. Mr. Day explained they will get to it once things start to slow down.
- Mrs. Boyles expressed how fantastic the Mount Tabor Cemetery tour was and that their next tour is September 12th at 1:00pm.
- Mrs. Boyles reminded council to keep the last Thursday in September and October at 6:30pm open for committee meetings to discuss the budget and anything else needed.
- Ms. Still thanked those again that drove far for coming.

Adjournment-

Mrs. Boyles asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Bowman made the motion, with a second by Mrs. Neff. Members approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Recording Secretary
Madeline Pierce