

**PARKESBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, March 19, 2026  
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Nick Ohar at 7:01 p.m.

Roll call was held. Council Members present were Council President Nick Ohar, Council Vice-President Josh Mellinger, Council Member Monique Baylor, Council Member Todd Brade, Council Member Mel Keen, and Council Member Sharon Wolf. Also present were Mayor John P. Hagan, II, Borough Solicitor John Carnes, Borough Manager Ray Sheller, Police Chief Ryan C. Murtagh, and Fire Chief Joseph Marks. Council Member Margaretta "Rhett" Lipscomb was absent.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

**A MOTION** to approve the agenda was made by Wolf and seconded by Ohar. All in favor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**A MOTION** to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2026, Regular Council Meeting was made by Mellinger and seconded by Wolf. All in favor.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY):** Robert McMinn III of 208 Grant Street requested an update on the parking situation with Grant Street. Police Chief Murtagh stated that earlier this year, the Borough implemented parking restrictions on Grant Street, McGuigan Way, and Grape Alley due to safety issues. In the event of an emergency, the current parking conditions will not allow emergency vehicles, specifically fire department apparatuses, to access these immediate areas. In addition, Police Chief Murtagh reported that he is looking into the possibility of permits and/or designating a certain number of parking spots per household. Moreover, Police Chief Murtagh mentioned scheduling a meeting with the residents affected by the parking restrictions to discuss and design a plan everyone can agree upon.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Treasurer's Report** – John Sardella submitted a written report to council. Mayor Hagan suggested supplying a copy of the Treasurer's report to the public for review.

**Engineer** - A written report was submitted to council.

**Police Chief Report**- Police Chief Murtagh informed council members of the advertisement for the Captain position and the police department is moving forward with

testing. In addition, Police Chief Murtagh paid tribute to PA State Police Corporal Timothy O'Connor and recounted the events that occurred on Sunday, March 8, 2026. Vice President Mellinger requested that a copy of Police Chief Murtagh's speech be included with the minutes. Mayor Hagan spoke to all of those in attendance about the difficulty of losing a best friend. Councilwoman Wolf offered her heartfelt condolences and gratitude for his service and ultimate sacrifice. Vice President Mellinger thanked Police Chief and his officers for their service, courage, and keeping our community safe.

**Public Works Department-** A written report was submitted to council. Borough Manager Sheller informed council members of a maintenance plan for the vehicles and acknowledged new Public Works staff member, Nick Canzoneri, who was in attendance. President Ohar commented on the skill set Mr. Canzoneri brings and the considerable amount of money saved with him doing repairs and not outsourcing. Councilwoman Baylor asked when Grant Street was going to be paved. Borough Manager Sheller reported that new equipment had been purchased and was being picked up tomorrow.

**Fire Chief Report** – A written report was submitted to council. Fire Chief Marks reported the call volume significantly increased. In addition, the dispatch on scene response time has decreased. Fire Chief Marks stated the changes, and new staff have assisted with this faster response time (average time is 7 minutes).

**Fire District Administrator-** A written report was submitted to council.

**Code Enforcement -Code Inspections Inc.-** A written report was submitted to council.

**Mayor** – None

**Borough Solicitor** – A written report was submitted to council.

**Borough Manager** – A written report was submitted to council. Mayor Hagan commented on how informative the Borough Manager's reports were and thanked him for being so thorough.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**A MOTION** to approve the monthly bills and payment of all recurring bills and payroll was made by Mellinger and seconded by Baylor. All in favor.

Councilwoman Keen questioned the savings with outsourcing trash services. Borough Manager Sheller stated when the Finance Committee meets with the Borough Treasurer at the end of April, they can examine this and report back to the rest of council.

**Motion to approve Resolution 2026-59: Fee Schedule for building permits, other applications, and inspections** – A brief discussion was held regarding the revised fee

schedule. Borough Council passed a fee schedule in July 2025. Councilwoman Keen inquired about the dumpster permit.

**A MOTION** to approve Resolution 2026-59 for the revised fee schedule for building permits, other applications, and inspections was made by Mellinger and seconded by Brade. All in favor.

Special Events permits: Jingle and Mingle (Nov. 20-21, 2026) – A brief presentation was given to provide background information for the event being hosted by PAC. Stoltzfus Structures generously donated thirteen sheds to be used for the event.

**A MOTION** to approve Special Event Jingle and Mingle was made by Baylor and seconded by Mellinger. All in favor.

Brandywine Valley SPCA – Borough Manager reported that there was a dispute over being billed for an animal that was out of the borough limits. Councilwoman Keen stated there was a billing issue years ago regarding a similar incident. Mayor Hagan commented that former Borough Council President Brade had rectified issues with duplicate and overbilling.

Parke Mansion – Borough Solicitor Carnes reported that the Borough is no longer directly involved in the project. Forestar supplied the bond and the plans have been recorded. The HOA will be responsible for curbs and sidewalks. The restoration work for the mansion is moving forward.

**Public Comments (Limited to three minutes)** – Jennifer Taggart from Brandywine Quarry addressed council members regarding the situation with the quarry. Ms. Taggart stated the quarry served the community for 70+ years/four generations. According to Ms. Taggart, the quarry is being forced to shut down because of the new development.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**- None

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** to adjourn was made by Baylor and seconded by Brade. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:16p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda Harner  
Borough Secretary  
Next Council Meeting: April 16, 2026

- On Sunday, March 8, 2026, at approximately 8:26 PM, Officer Joseph CAPUANO and Officer Joseph CARBONI responded to the area of Michael Road and State Route 10, West Caln Township, Chester County, for the report of a shooting with an officer down.
- Upon their arrival at approximately 8:31PM, two other officers were attempting to secure this scene, not knowing if there may be another shooter involved. Our officers confirmed that there were two subjects down with apparent gunshot wounds, one of which was Pennsylvania State Police Corporal Timothy J. O'CONNOR Jr. Officers CAPUANO and CARBONI immediately began rendering medical aid to Cpl. O'CONNOR until the arrival of EMS personnel at 8:37PM.
- I was contacted at 8:34PM, advised of this incident and immediately responded. While responding to this incident, I contacted Sergeant KUECH who was off duty and I requested he respond. I also contacted Sergeant Todd Burkhart from the Downingtown Borough Police Department, who was at home, and requested that he and his wife respond to Cpl. O'CONNOR's home residence. This request was made based on personal relationships and the understanding that Cpl. O'CONNOR's wife would be needed to respond to a pending hospital and that she would need someone to watch their young daughter.
- At 8:52 PM, three officers to include myself, conducted an escort for the ambulance transporting Cpl. O'CONNOR to the Paoli Memorial Hospital.
- A connecting road was utilized to Rt 322 continuing Rt 322 to the Route 30 by-pass, to Route 202 to the exit for Paoli Hospital. The two other officers assisting with this escort utilized a leapfrog technique to assure that all intersections were blocked, allowing the ambulance to transport Cpl. O'CONNOR as quickly as possible.
- Once reaching Route 100 and Route 202 exchange, the escort units were joined by several additional marked patrol units from a number of municipal departments.
- At 9:19PM, the ambulance transporting Cpl. O'CONNOR arrived at the Paoli Hospital. The distance from the scene to the hospital is 28.8 miles.
- Upon arrival at the hospital EMS personnel were still active and aggressively working on Cpl. O'CONNOR as he was taken in by the emergency department.
- At 9:35PM it was confirmed that Cpl. O'CONNOR's wife, Casey, was being transported to the hospital by PSP personnel.
- Upon her arrival, I escorted her to a private room. Cpl. O'CONNOR was formally pronounced deceased at that time with a gun shot wound to the head.
- By 11:30 PM all off-duty officers employed by our agency had arrived at Paoli Hospital. This included our Department Pastor Mark BEIDEMAN.

- In the early morning hours of March 9, 2026, Cpl. O'CONNOR's body was transported to the Coroner's Office in West Chester
- From March 9, 2026 through March 17, 2026, officers from the Parkesburg Borough police department assisted in covering for the PSP in a variety of applications. Involved officers also attended CISM and have been frequently visited by Pastor BEIDEMAN.

Captain SMITH's wife Heather, made a custom Teddy-Bear now known as "Timmy-Bear" out of one of Cpl. O'CONNOR's old uniforms. Timmy-Bear was presented to Kenzie during a private viewing on March 16.

- The PBPOA moved to donate while organizing additional donations for the O'CONNOR family. When not working, members of the department were seen around the clock at the O'CONNOR residence, or standing guard with Cpl. O'CONNOR's remains pending his funeral service.
- Tribute was made to Cpl. O'CONNOR by two local businessmen who designed, installed and donated decals honoring Cpl. O'CONNOR.
- When our officers were not working and not tending to the needs of the O'CONNOR family, they have been busy with their own loved ones, digesting this tragedy together and without words, thinking "what if".

From March 9, 2026, through March 18, 2026, members of the Parkesburg Borough Police Department handled 489 calls for service, they continued to make traffic stops.

On March 18, 2026, The Parkesburg Borough Police Department participated in the funeral for Cpl. Timothy J. O'CONNOR Jr. 10 officers from our agency fielded rolls and held post to pay tribute. Through all of these , details and assisting the State Police, not one of these officers put in for compensation.

This event and the outline I just provided to you is solely meant to educate. Police officers are not robots. They have emotions, they hurt, they bleed, and they can die. What they cannot do is stop. Grieving is dealt with while they continue to put on ballistic armor, while their own loved one's breakdown in fear for their safety. Stopping is option because the safety and security of those we protect and serve cannot be compromised.

This morning at 7:57 AM, Officer Jacob WILLIAMS conducted a traffic stop to the rear of the 400 block of West First Avenue, the operator fled from his vehicle and was run down on foot in the area of the train station. This individual was wanted out of Texas for violent felony charges, to include assaulting law enforcement.