

PARKESBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 15, 2026
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Nick Ohar at 7:00 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 Margaretta "Rhett" Lipscomb, 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 Borough Treasurer John Sardella. Council Member Mel Keen was absent.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

A MOTION to approve the agenda was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Baylor. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2025, Regular Council Meeting was made by Lipscomb and seconded by Mellinger. All in favor.

PRESENTATIONS: President's Address – Newly-elected Council President Ohar took the opportunity to welcome everyone and address what will be expected with the start of a new council term. As the new Council President, Ohar stated that each member of Council shares the responsibility to serve the borough with integrity and to make decisions that reflect the best interests of the people who live here. Acknowledging the next few months will bring challenges, President Ohar stated there will be opportunities to build upon what is working, to modernize where needed, and bring forth new ideas to improve this community. (A copy of President Ohar's speech is included at the end of this meeting's minutes).

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY): None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report – John Sardella submitted a written report to council. In this report, the following documents were included: the Profit and Loss Reports for October, November, and December 2025, the Bank and Loan Balances as of December 31, 2025, and the Budget versus Actual Report for January through December 2025. Mayor Hagan emphasized to council members that Mr. Sardella stated at the end of his report that the borough could have a balanced budget in the future, however the problem is debt. Mr. Sardella suggested looking into a long-term option to pay down the debt, which would help the borough get to the point of self-sustaining itself.

A MOTION to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Baylor and seconded by Mellinger. Ayes -5 Nays – 0 Abstain – 1 (Councilwoman Lipscomb)

Engineer - A written report was submitted to council.

Police Chief Report- A written report was submitted to council. Councilwoman Wolf pointed out to council members that the number of accidents, traffic citations and warnings, as well as criminal arrests decreased. Councilwoman Baylor thanked Chief Murtagh and praised the rest of the police department for how they handled the incident that occurred last week in Atglen.

Public Works Department- A written report was submitted to council. President Ohar questioned the work being done on the gates at the lumberyard.

Fire Chief Report – A written report was submitted to council.

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

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

Mayor – Mayor Hagan recited a posting from the Chester County District Attorney Office's Facebook page updating the public on an event that occurred on January 6, 2026, at Glenbrook Apartments involving an Atglen man being arrested after a shooting. Mayor Hagan complimented the excellent job performed by the officers involved and emphasized a tragedy was prevented. Chester County District Attorney Christopher de Barrena-Sarobe praised the local police response saying "Residents should be proud of their police department. They responded to a dangerous incident and quickly arrested the defendant without incident, restoring safety to the community". (A copy of Mayor Hagan's report is included at the end of this meeting's minutes).

Borough Solicitor – A written report was submitted to council. Councilwoman Baylor asked a question about the sale of Borough property at Front Street. Borough Solicitor Carnes reported \$10,400 was netted out to the Borough.

Borough Manager – A written report was submitted to council. Borough Manager Sheller informed council members that he spoke with Cory Brought from Econ about the 2024 grant approved by LSA. The grant was for a trash truck for the Public Works Department. The award was approved for \$100,000 and can be used for another Public Works vehicle. Borough Manager Sheller reported the 2024 audit has begun. Also, Borough Manager Sheller requested council members to repeal Ordinance #486, which adopted the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code, and adopt the 2021 version.

A MOTION to authorize the Borough Solicitor to adopt the 2021 version of the International Property Maintenance Code was made by Mellinger and seconded by Lipscomb. All in favor.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

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

Purchase of points for MS4 project requirements – Borough Solicitor Carnes informed council members an agreement has been reached with Salisbury Township. Initially, council was looking into purchasing stormwater facilities and renovating them or supplying “tree boxes” along Limestone Road. With purchasing the credits, the Borough would be paying a small fraction of the costs if pursuing the other options mentioned.

A MOTION to move forward with purchasing the credits was made by Baylor and seconded by Mellinger. All in favor.

Quiet Enjoyment Rental Ordinance – Borough Solicitor Carnes stated that he revised the Quiet Enjoyment Rental Ordinance per the discussion at the last council meeting. The Ordinance has been advertised and is before Borough Council for consideration and a vote.

A MOTION to adopt the Quiet Enjoyment Ordinance was made by Mellinger and seconded by Brady.

President Ohar requested a roll call vote.

Vice President Josh Mellinger – yes
Monique Baylor – no
Todd Brade – yes

Rhett Lipscomb - no
Sharon Wolf - yes
President Ohar – yes

Ayes – 4 Nays – 2 Motion approved.

Contractor License Enactment – A discussion was held regarding contractors securing licensing from the borough. Borough Solicitor Carnes stated requirements typically including submitting a fee, proof of liability insurance, and workers' compensation. Councilwoman Baylor questioned Police Chief Murtagh about solicitation. There was concern among council members regarding the amount the borough charges and whether this amount is too low. Mayor Hagan pointed out that fees can be altered by Resolution.

A MOTION to authorize the advertisement of the Contractor License Enactment was made by Baylor and seconded by Lipscomb. All in favor.

Public Comments (Limited to three minutes) – None

COUNCIL COMMENTS-

Councilwoman Baylor asked Borough Manager for a status update regarding the grant for the Public Works truck. Borough Manager Sheller reported the borough did receive the grant for \$100,000 and thanked the office of Dan Williams for his support.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION to adjourn was made by Baylor and seconded by Lipscomb. All in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:01p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wanda Harner
Borough Secretary

2026 Council Meeting Schedule:
"3rd Thursday of each month"
Next Meeting: February 19, 2026

First Address as Council President

Good evening, everyone.

It is an honor to call this meeting to order and to welcome each of you to the start of a new council term. To our returning members, thank you for your continued commitment to this borough. To our newly elected members, congratulations — your presence here reflects the trust our residents have placed in you, and I look forward to the energy and perspective you bring.

Tonight marks more than a transition of seats. It marks a renewed opportunity — an opportunity to strengthen our community, to elevate the quality of life for our residents, and to work together with purpose, transparency, and respect.

Before we move forward, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude. To those who supported me and voted for me to serve as council president, thank you. Your confidence means a great deal, and I am committed to honoring that trust through steady leadership, transparency, and hard work.

At the same time, I want to speak directly to those who did not vote for me. I respect your perspective, and I understand that healthy disagreement is part of good governance. My goal is not to win every vote — it is to earn your respect through my actions. I intend to lead in a way that demonstrates fairness, consistency, and a genuine commitment to serving this entire borough, not just those who supported me. I hope that as we work together, you will see that my door is open, your voice matters, and your ideas will always be welcomed at this table.

As your new council president, I want to set a clear tone from the beginning. We may come from different backgrounds, hold different viewpoints, and represent different priorities, but we share one responsibility: to serve this borough with integrity and to make decisions that reflect the best interests of the people who live here.

Over the coming months, we will face challenges that require thoughtful debate, careful planning, and steady leadership. We will also have opportunities to build on what is working, to modernize where needed, and to bring new ideas to the table. My commitment is to ensure that every voice on this council is heard, that our discussions remain constructive, and that our actions reflect the values of accountability, collaboration, and progress.

I ask each of you to approach this term with openness — openness to new ideas, to compromise, and to the possibility that the best solutions may come from working across

our differences. Our residents expect us to lead, not divide; to solve problems, not create them; and to move this borough forward with clarity and purpose.

I am confident that together, we can do exactly that.

Thank you again for your willingness to serve. I look forward to the work ahead and to the accomplishments we will achieve as a united council.

Let's get started.

Office of the Mayor
Borough of Parkesburg
315 West First Avenue
Parkesburg, Pennsylvania
19365

January 15, 2026

The body of this is from the Chester County District Attorneys office. The content is published via their Facebook platform, referencing week of January 5, 2026. I received it via text on Wednesday January 14th from our Chief of Police. I respectfully submit as part of "the Mayor's Report" for recording in the minutes of this session.

I have obtained permission to do so from the author(s).

It reads:

(read article Muniz is pronounced Mewniz)

I had been made aware of this incident on the date of its occurrence, by phone by Chief Murtagh.

This published description confirmed the information I had received.

I acknowledged receipt by return text. I of course added that I was appreciative of the update. Complimented the excellent job performed by the officers' involved.

What I noticed (and shared with the Chief) on reading and what I know needs emphasized is the tragedy prevented. The fact the active assailant was NOT neutralized is to be praised.

Despite injury-,

a dislocated shoulder for one and lacerations incurred for another of our team- A successful conclusion was achieved resulting in

3:47

5G

facebook.com



Chester County District Attorney

6h · 🌐

...

NEWS RELEASE: CHESTER COUNTY DA'S OFFICE WEEKLY UPDATE

Here is a brief update on some of the events that occurred in the Chester County DA's Office during the week of January 5, 2026:

Atglen Man Arrested After Shooting

On January 6, 2026, Jon Muniz, 34, of Atglen, Pennsylvania, was arrested for Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer, Discharging of a Firearm into an Occupied Structure, and other related charges. The Defendant was remanded to Chester County Prison after failing to post \$100,000 bail. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for January 26, 2026.

The criminal complaint (the Defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty) indicates that Parkesburg Borough Police responded to the Glenbrook Apartments in Atglen Borough because a man was shooting a firearm into the air. Officers heard multiple gunshots when they arrived on scene and saw the Defendant on the roof of the apartments with a gun. Muniz was eventually arrested without anyone being struck by gunfire. After the community was made safe, law enforcement conducted an investigation and found ballistic evidence in two nearby apartments.

Chester County District Attorney Christopher de Barrena-Sarobe praised the local police response, saying "Residents should be proud of their police department. They responded to a dangerous incident and quickly arrested the defendant without incident, restoring safety to the community."

the arrest of the assailant (as charged)
Safe keeping of all others in proximity
Confirming no others were injured

In the shadow of other events involving the firing of “guns” by actors in uniform that have permeated the news, internet and our sleep.

This event- this occasion- this potentially lethal offense was I don't quite know the phrase here-

Controlled? Managed? Successfully quelled?

These words do not suffice, really.

Our officers walked into the fray

Overcame physical obstructions. (at the cost of personal injury)

Braved the active scene of “flying” bullets

Enacted a solution that did not exacerbate injury or worse to the neighbors on scene

Understood the danger and restored safety for all

Eliminated the threat-in other words “got the bad guy”-

the praise worthy word here is ----Alive

Justice can only be served, truly, in the living of it.

I have been around for a while. I ventured onto this dais some 34 years ago. I have worked with our Police officers/department practically, since year 1. One could say I have unique insight compared to many who have accompanied me here over the decades.

I can say unequivocally,

That -The Parkesburg Borough Police Department, its officers' present and past maintain and hold sacred their oath

That-The standard of excellence in performance of their duty is and has been a “constant”.

That I have had the pleasure and privilege of being the Civilian CEO of the Police dept. and participated in some way to

building a department that is the envy of others in our County and Commonwealth.

I wish say here this was/is made possible only by the full support of our Borough Councils over the years.

The unwavering support of council members demonstrates- validates- recognition that-

We all-

Councilors, officers, and supporting administration employees benefit from high quality law enforcement enacted daily by our crime prevention professionals.

That daily, it is known and recognized by this body -each and every officer makes every effort to treat every citizen encounter with respect, ALWAYS.

That practice, ladies and gentlemen, is the very definition of "integrity".

Thank you