

MACUNGIE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
General Business Meeting
Monday, August 3, 2026 - 7:30 P.M.

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

The Macungie Borough Council meeting was called to order on August 3, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at the Macungie Institute, 510 E. Main Street, Macungie, PA 18062. In attendance were Carl Sell, Jr., President; Stan Landis, Vice President (via telephone), Greg Hutchison, Member; Megan Sell, Member; Greg Reinbold, Member; Lynette Sell, Member; Tom Ashelman, Member; Bob Sell, Jr., Mayor; Michael Martin, Esq., Solicitor; Joshua Fry, Borough Engineer; and Kalman Sostarecz, Jr., Borough Manager.

President Sell opened the meeting and asked all present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

II. Announcement of Executive Sessions

Mr. Sostarecz announced that an executive session was held on August 3, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. regarding legal and personnel matters.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. July 20, 2026

Mayor Sell stated that the minutes reflect that he had read a resignation letter, but did not include that it was a letter from Cole Surridge.

Vice President Landis stated that in section VII.B. the motion appointing Bernie Reinert to the Planning Commission isn't worded correctly. Mr. Sostarecz stated that it is a typo and will be corrected.

Motion by President Sell to approve the minutes of July 20, 2026, with corrections, seconded by Mr. Reinbold. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Reports

A. Treasurer's Report for June 2026

Karen Billger, resident, asked what the loan payments were for; Mr. Sostarecz stated that in 2018 the Borough took out a \$3 million loan for various projects, and the annual payments are divided among different funds.

Motion by President Sell to approve the Treasurer's Report of June 2026, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Paid Bills Detail Report in the Amount of \$696,226.39

Mr. Sostarecz stated that the reason the amount is higher than normal include the bookkeeper was on vacation for three weeks and there were no bills approved at the last meeting; additionally, the annual loan payment is included, as well as a Refuse/Recycling Bill and a Lehigh County Authority Sewer Bill, all of which combine to a majority of the total. Vice President Landis commented on the PPL Bills. Tim Romig, business owner, commented on the legal bills.

Motion by Mr. Hutchison to pay the bills in the amount of \$696,226.39, seconded by Mr. Reinbold. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Correspondence

None

VI. Reports

A. Council

Ms. Lynette Sell commented on items regarding the Macungie Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Hutchison stated that former Council member Ron Karboski had worked with the dispatch center to be sure the Borough had fire coverage.

Mr. Reinbold asked Mayor Sell if the police department can conduct a speed study on North Buttonwood Street – Mayor Sell stated that he will work with them to use the speed trailer. Mr. Reinbold asked Mr. Sostarecz about the status of the missing speed limit signs on various roads; Mr. Sostarecz stated that the engineer has the list.

B. Mayor

Mayor Sell announced various community events coming up around the borough. President Sell asked about the status of the traffic stop report; Mayor Sell stated that the PD currently doesn't have an administrator so no report can be generated.

C. Solicitor

None

D. Borough Manager

Mr. Sostarecz stated that pursuant to the discussion at the previous meeting, a bid package for the ADA Ramp replacements was advertised; bids are due by the end of the month and it is expected to be on a Council agenda in September for a potential award. Regarding the bumpouts on Rt. 100, he and the Borough Engineer surveyed them and a report will be produced to bring to Council at a future meeting to discuss options. The sealcoating of the parking lots was completed at Borough Hall and the Macungie Institute, and the South Buttonwood paving project was completed by our Public Works crew along with assistance from Alburtis Borough, Upper Milford Township, and Lower Macungie Township; he will send a thank you letter on behalf of Council to those three municipalities. President Sell asked if additional streets would be paved this year; Mr. Sostarecz stated that Locust Street will be completed. Mr. Hutchison asked that a street list be provided.

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. New Business

A. Authorization to Participate in the LVCPC Janitorial Supplies Contract

Mr. Sostarecz stated that the Lehigh Valley Cooperative Purchasing Council, of which the Borough is a member, will be putting out a bid for janitorial supplies. Bidding it out with larger quantities from all municipalities in the Lehigh Valley will hopefully result in reduced costs. The initial ask is to see which municipalities are interested – after the bids are received it would need to come back before Council to award the bid. Mr. Ashelman asked where the supplies are currently purchased; Mr. Sostarecz stated that the majority are from Master Supply, who would be able to submit a bid for the entire contract. Jeff Hartman, resident, asked if the winning bidder would need to supply all the municipalities;

Motion by President Sell to move forward with the letter of interest to the LVCPC for the janitorial supplies contract, seconded by Vice President Landis. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Macungie Volunteer Fire Department Request for Fire Hydrant Access

Mayor Sell commented on the ordinance changes that Council previously made to appoint Lower Macungie Volunteer Fire the designated fire department, but the ordinance regarding fire hydrants was not updated and MVFD per ordinance has access to them.

Tim Romig, president of Macungie Volunteer Fire Department, stated they received a letter from former Borough Manager John Brown in June 2025 stating that MVFD was no longer permitted to access the fire hydrants since they were not the designated fire department for the Borough. At that time they complied without further question. Earlier this year the MVFD was asked if they would allow an easement on their property for the Hickory Street Bridge replacement, and Mr. Romig asked if the Borough would grant access to the Fire Hydrants in return to signing the easement. The Borough, through its Solicitor, did not agree to this. Mr. Romig then approached the Borough Authority, as the owner to the system, asking for their permission. It was learned at that time that the Authority received guidance from the Solicitor that both the Authority and the Borough, through the ordinance and Management Agreement, both hold the authority over who utilizes the fire hydrants.

Mr. Romig stated that the MVFD is well aware that they are not ready to serve the Borough and are still in a rebuilding process, but access to water is important to train and recruit. The department was founded in 1907 and served the Borough well for many years; but then for a period of ten years it was not run well and nearly went under until the former fire chief was removed. They have been in a period of rebuilding and are a recognized entity by the State Fire Marshal. He also stated that Mr. Hutchison is trying to sabotage their rebuilding; he asked that it stop. Disagreement over whether they should rebuild is okay, but it's tough to fight sabotage. He would also like the Council to appoint liaisons to work with them.

There are a lot of community members who feel that having a department active in the community is a benefit, and although they aren't there yet, they would like to continue the rebuilding process to get to that point. When current leadership took over the department was extremely in debt and they had to sell several of the vehicles. They've worked hard to become solvent and work on a very tight budget.

Mr. Ashelman asked how long it will take to be put on the call boxes for other departments; Mr. Romig stated that it's hard to say because other departments are hesitant based on things they've heard and are worried about getting involved in litigation. Whether they respond with other agencies is between the leadership of the agencies, but usually they want to train with a department first to determine their capability.

Mr. Hutchison commented on Mr. Romig coming to Council from 2013 through 2023 asking Council to expose what was going on at the fire department. A discussion was had on the history of the issues with the department.

President Sell would like to see the following provided by the MVFD: a full roster of personnel with titles, personnel, trainings, and certificates held by each person; a list of all apparatus and its general condition; a list of all significant gear owned such as turnout gear, hoses, radios; copies of the last five years of audits and financial statements; a Certificate of Insurance listing the Borough for both Worker's Compensation and Professional Liability; Letters of Intent from other agencies signifying their intent to train with the MVFD; a schedule of training in which water is requested to be used as well as a statement that a flow meter will be utilized to measure the quantity of water and that no water will be used when a drought exists.

Ms. Megan Sell agreed that they are all things they should have, but not just to access water for training. They should have to produce them in the future before they become a designated fire department. Mr. Hutchison stated that he doesn't find it unreasonable. Mr. Romig stated that the Council has no right to the items.

President Sell made a motion to approve the request for fire hydrant access pending the submission of the seven requested items, seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion failed 3-4; M. Sell, Ashelman, Landis, Reinbold – No

Mr. Ashelman stated that he agrees the seven items would be needed in the future, but should not all be required at this time. He is thinking about what is best for the Borough and moving forward, not looking backward. He would be okay with providing hydrant access once a month for training purposes.

Regarding the amount of water used during training, Mr. Romig stated that it will differ each month depending on what equipment is used. Mayor Sell stated that there are fire hydrant meters available to rent.

Ms. Megan Sell made a motion to approve the water usage for training once per month after the receipt of a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as a Certificate Holder, submission of a training schedule, and the blessing of the Water Authority to determine how much can be used especially in a drought situation, seconded by Mr. Ashelman. Motion passed 5-2; C. Sell, Hutchison – No.

Council recessed at 9:10 p.m. and reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

IX. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Risa Donegan, resident, commented on a found exploded firework in her backyard, additional pedestrian crossing assistance needed during Das Awkscht Fescht, discounted Ring doorbells, vacation checks by the Police Department, and animosity toward the MVFD.

Ted Mucellin, a resident of Lower Macungie Township, commented on the Fields at Brookside Development and the walking path and fencing.

Carl & Irene Kiser, a resident of Lower Macungie Township, commented on the Fields at Brookside Development.

Dennis Fritz, Vice President of MVFD, commented on an altercation he had with Mr. Hutchison following the previous Council meeting.

Terry Buss, resident, commented on the vehicles speeding on N. Buttonwood Street and N. Fairview Street.

Robert Smigelski, resident, commented on the changes being requested at the Fields at Brookside.

Ed Heydorn, a resident of Lower Macungie Township, commented on Kay Builders removing his bushes and the Fields at Brookside resident.

Paul Licata, business owner, commented on the MVFD.

Jeff Hartman, resident, commented on the MVFD.

Janet Sell, resident, commented on a new PPL pole installed in the middle of the sidewalk on Main Street.

X. Adjournment

President Sell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hutchison. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Sostarecz, Jr.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kalman A. Sostarecz, Jr.
Borough Secretary