

BOROUGH OF MANSFIELD

July 9, 2025

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Borough Council was held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, Mansfield, Pennsylvania with the following people present:

Robert Fitzgerald
Kelvin Morgan
Robert Strohecker
Steven McCloskey
Karri Verno
Adrienne McEvoy

Casandra Cowles, Borough Manager
Kurtis Tice, Superintendent
Jackie Kurzejewski, Secretary-Treasurer
Kathryn Barrett, Mayor
Zach Stager, Police Chief

Absent: William Schlosser

Visitors: Cheryl Clarke; Wellsboro Gazette

Residents/Business Owners/Employees:
Susan Coole; THRIVE, 17866 Rt. 6, Mansfield, PA

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President Strohecker called the regular meeting of Council to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Strohecker called for recognition of visitors: Susan Coole provided an update on THRIVE and the progress they have been making with the research grant and interview process. They have reached 55-65 interviews and plan to provide their value statements in October. They want to go back to interview some high school students before this presentation. Their next steps are to create action plans for the goals they have set for the community and have set a time in November to present those for approval. The main theme they are getting from the community for improvement is more community events with more involvement with the children. A lot of community members would like to see the bowling alley brought back as well as the skating rink. Many people have also mentioned the issue with transportation to events for those who cannot drive, specifically to church or Walmart. Adrienne suggested talking with Mansfield University about utilizing the Mountie Shuttle for help with this issue. There was also a discussion for funding, grants and possible work with the Calkins property to create a loop through the Mansfield Village apartments so that a bus does not have so much difficulty backing up into the area. Susan plans to look into more information about the ideas discussed above.

McCloskey moved to approve the June 11th, 2025, Council meeting minutes. Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was approved.

The Treasurer's report for the month of June was reviewed. Upon a motion made by Fitzgerald and seconded by McEvoy, the Council approved the report.

Fitzgerald made the motion to approve the bills paid reports for June for the following accounts:
General Fund: \$193,177.80; Sewer Fund: \$77,732.49; Liquid Fuels Fund: \$3,003.96 and Payroll

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Fund: \$99,175.07 and to draw vouchers for unpaid bills. McEvoy seconded the motion, and it passed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Barrett's report was included in the packet. Mayor Barret wanted to give an update from the Library Board that they are actively addressing the issue of the exhaust fumes in their parking lot. They have decided to make it "pull in parking only" and to add signage among the parking spaces. She also wanted to congratulate Melissa Underwood for her amazing job with the Fourth of July festivities. She has heard nothing but wonderful feedback and has never seen so many people attending the parade. She wanted to thank the officers as well for their extra time spent at all the events helping and maintaining safety.

Police Report

Officer Stager noted that trainings were completed in June and that having a bigger police force has helped crime in the area go down significantly. They are happy with their ability to get out into the community more and be involved at events such as the Fourth of July. He was happy to report the Fourth went very smoothly. McEvoy moved to accept the police report. Verno seconded, and it passed.

WWTP Report: Kurtis gave an update about the membranes and confirmed that they are currently getting a complete clean done correctly and the process is almost done. They have spaced out the cleanings as it takes roughly 1 week per train to complete, this allows them to not be all down at once. The electrical issue was addressed and fixed and all four should be up and running next week. The recirculation pump has been replaced and so far, everything is running as expected. McEvoy moved to accept the WWTP report. Fitzgerald seconded the motion, and it passed.

MMA Minutes

The MMA minutes were included in the packet.

Deputy Codes Report

The Deputy Codes report was included in the packet.

Borough Manager's Report

The written report has been included in the packet.

Standing Committee Reports (from May 7th, 2025, committee meetings):

A. Finance Committee: McCloskey discussed the comparison of the finances around the 6-month mark being as expected with an increase in the real estate taxes and overall taxes increasing by about \$63,000-\$64,000. The income earned, being our 3rd or 4th biggest earnings, has decreased about \$2,600 from last year but makes sense with the current economy. A discussion was made about improvements that could be made to the downtown area and possible costs just to get an idea of what the community wants. Fitzgerald gave an update on the sewer and discussed the meeting himself, Kurtis, and Cassie had with Leslie at PennVest. It was suggested that now is a great time to apply for grants and loans as there is funding available. A proposal was prepared with a list of what would need to be fixed immediately for an affordability study. The preliminary number, including labor, to be used withing the first 12 months would be about \$617,000. Long-term replacements/fixes made on a regular basis in the next 10-20 years would involve the IMA agreements. He is hoping to have their funding request to Leslie by Friday July 11, 2025. Fitzgerald also wants to look into grants for infiltration of water once the major issues are addressed. McCloskey mentioned that that revenue increase for the pool was significant, largely due to the \$34,000 donation to help fix the leak.

B. Public Works Committee: Strohecker announced that Big Rock Paving was chosen from the street bids. Center Street, Second Street and Brooks Lane will be worked on first. Townview will be postponed to next year because the work needed coincides with other projects already

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set in place to occur in 2026. He also wanted to thank the workers for putting the mulch down along Main Street and the Garden Club for weeding before the Fourth of July events. He emphasized how great everything looks along Main Street.

Old Business: no old business

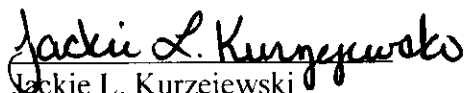
New Business:

- A. Fitzgerald motioned to approve the Act 13 Funds Appropriation of \$69,250.24. McCloskey seconded the motion and it was approved. The funds have been allocated as follows:
 - \$34,625 Arch Pipe
 - \$10,000 Main Street Program
 - \$5,000 Trail Sign
 - \$19,625.24 Salt shed/Retaining wall
- B. McEvoy motioned to approve the Homecoming Parade. Morgan seconded the motion and it was approved.
- C. Morgan motioned to approve Advertising for the Crossing Guard. Verno seconded the motion and it was approved.
- D. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Crossing Guard Wages be increased to \$40 per day. Morgan seconded the motion and it was approved. It was agreed that the contract be reviewed yearly.
- E. Morgan motioned to approve the Final Pay App for St. James, contingent once the remaining repairs being completed. McEvoy seconded the motion and it was approved.

Public Comments – Kathy Barrett attended the TCAB meeting and mentioned the many programs happening at the Blossburg Memorial Library. She would like to bring ideas to the Mansfield Library including the STEM events, reading programs, and family events. Jackie suggested having more weekend events so parents who work can attend or plan for evening events on weekdays when possible.

Correspondence- no correspondence

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.


Jackie L. Kurzejewski
Secretary-Treasurer