BOROUGH OF MANSFIELD

August 12, 2026

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Borough Council was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, Mansfield, Pennsylvania with the following people present:

Robert Strohecker
Robert Fitzgerald
Nichole Book
Karri Verno

Casandra Cowles, Borough Manager
Jackie Kurzejewski, Secretary-Treasurer
Kathryn Barrett, Mayor
Officer Richard Kotch

Absent: William Schlosser, Adrianne McEvoy, Kelvin Morgan

Visitors: Cheryl Clarke; Wellsboro Gazette, Sam Rotella; Southern Tioga School District, Chris Keiser; Hunt Engineering, Williamsport

Residents/Business Owners/Employees: Dina Henninger; 1047 Pickle Hill, Jason Reed; 23 Brooklyn Street, Allan Reed; 23 Brooklyn Street, Jen Nuss; Attuned Counseling, 14 South Main Street, Russ Kessing; 126 North Academy Street, Lot #51

President Strohecker called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Strohecker announced that the purpose of the hearing was to consider an amendment to the zoning code for Christ Church to reside in a Medium-Density Residential (R-2) dwelling. This would be conditional and any new organization would have to go through the same process; it would not become all encompassing.

Strohecker opened the floor for public comment.

- Dennis Packer of Newtown Hill in Mansfield is a member of Christ Church. He said after two years of having their meetings at various locations, it would be nice to have a permanent location that feels like their own.
- Jennifer Nuss, Attuned Counseling, 14 S. Main St., Mansfield, PA addressed Council with the statement "Instead of asking what we will bring to the community, ask why not see what we can do".

With no further public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 6:03 PM.

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President Strohecker called the regular meeting of Council to order at 6:04 PM.

Strohecker called for recognition of visitors: Sam Rotella, Superintendent at Southern Tioga School District, provided a presentation for the Smythe Park & Facilities Improvement Proposal. He began with items that are going to be implemented including portable classrooms behind the high school; both portables will be in the parking lot closest to the back of the school. These portables will be fenced in to help protect the students while in use. They estimate the cost to be around $250,000. The next project is to have all the roads from the entrance of the elementary school on Main Street, past the sports fields and to the high school be paved. After inspection of the current roads, it appeared that the sub-structure was in good condition making the project easier. The estimate for this would be around $1.5 million. Looking to the future they would also like to add in curbing to help prevent the edges of the roads from crumbling as well as adding a sidewalk along the inside of the roadway from school to school along the sport fields. The soccer field needs to be repaired due to the unevenness of the playing field. The plan is to re-sod the entire field and then put a fence around just the playing field to help protect it from possible damage. The price for this project would be around $300,000. The final upgrade would be to the baseball fields including fixing some of the infields to make them more even, updating the press box, a few of the dugouts need repairs or full remodels, and the softball field would have an extension to the fence along the high school parking lot to better protect the field from cars possible driving on the field as well as spectators watching games. The softball field would also get an update to the back stop. Rotella then informed Council of projects he deemed "dream upgrades" that would be looked into after these projects are completed. He would like to see a basketball/pickle ball court installed between the YMCA and Borough Pool entrance. The old basketball court was partially removed as it became part of the parking lot for the high school and YMCA. Because of this one of the hoops had to be removed due to accidents involving vehicles backing into it. The remaining hoop can only be utilized if the parking lot is not full. Rotella said they will partner with Alloy5 to get an architectural plan as well as a cost estimate. To help fund this addition he would like to look into fundraisers and available grants. A community stage is also something he believes would be a great addition for the community. The idea would be to utilize the space between the high school baseball field and little league fields near the concession stand. He does not believe this would be considered something hugely expensive as it would be a stage with the idea that residents would come to watch the event in their own chairs and blankets. He said through some discussions there may be Mansfield Foundation members that are interested in helping fund this project. Rotella let him know that he is open for discussion on any of the projects and is willing to accept any ideas for raising money for these future endeavors.

Fitzgerald moved to approve the July 8, 2026, Council meeting minutes. Book seconded the motion and it was approved.

The Treasurer's report for the month of July has been reviewed. Upon a motion made by Verno and seconded by Fitzgerald, the Council approved the report.

Fitzgerald made the motion to approve the bills paid reports for July for the following accounts: General Fund: $198,645.67; Sewer Fund: $81,439.32; Liquid Fuels Fund: $4,563.98 and

Payroll Fund: $151,746.40 and to draw vouchers for unpaid bills. Book seconded the motion, and it passed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Kathy informed Council that The Mansfield Library will be fixing their landscaping. They will be getting help with their web pages from both the High School and Mansfield University students to help update their site as well as advertising. She also let Council know that Trunk or Treat will be taking place October 24, 2026, starting with a parade at 3pm on Hoard Street. This parade will lead to the First Citizens Community Bank parking lot where Trunk or Treat will happen from 4-6PM. Regular Trick or Treat will happen on October 31st from 6-8PM.

Police Report

Richard Kotch let Council know that they had received two letters of recognition for Officer Pratt for the Life Saving Medal. Fitzgerald asked Mayor Barrett to read the letters aloud for Council and attending visitors to hear. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Police Report. Book seconded the motion and it was approved.

WWTP Report

Book made a motion to approve the Waste Water Treatment Plant Report. Verno seconded the motion and it was approved.

MMA Minutes

The MMA Minutes were included in the packet.

Borough Manager's Report

The Manager's Report was included in the packet.

Standing Committee Reports:

A. Finance Committee: Due to conflicts with members this was combined with Public Works Committee. There was no additional information to be discussed.
B. Public Works Committee: Council was informed that Jimmie Joe is working on completing the Wakefield Terrace drainage. He is looking at possible impacts it will have on Extension Street and Prospect Street.
C. Personnel Committee: Karri informed Council that there are action items in New Business.
D. Safety Committee: A discussion about the need for the emergency siren behind the Borough building was had after many complaints have come in from residents. They have said the frequency causes disturbances, especially for young children trying to nap. A discussion of the E-bike and scooter safety was updated with information provided by Highway Safety after meeting with the Borough Police. They gave updated laws and regulations to the officers that were relayed to the committee. Moving forward, the plan is to prepare fliers for the public to inform them of these laws and possibly hold a public event for residents to attend.

Old Business:

A. Swimming Pool Feasibility Study Grant with DCNR: Chris Keiser from Hunt Engineers attended the meeting. He informed Council that they follow the DCNR standards and it would likely be about one year before the final study is completed. Book made a motion to approve Hunt Engineers to perform the Pool Feasibility Study. Verno seconded the motion and it was approved.

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New Business:

A. Christ Church: Fitzgerald made a motion to approve Ordinance #514 for the amendment of the zoning code for a Church to reside in a Medium-Density Residential (R-2) dwelling. Book seconded the motion and it was approved.
B. Great Mansfield Comprehensive Plan: Fitzgerald made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-6 for the Greater Mansfield Comprehensive Plan. Verno seconded the motion and Council approved.
C. I-99 Revised Road Lighting Agreement: Fitzgerald made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-7 for the streets to be taken over by the business park area at the bypass contingent on the solicitor's review. Book seconded the motion and it was approved.
D. PA Heart & Soul Bridge Loan Request: Cassie informed Council that this would be done through a DCED Grant and the loan would be used in small increments up to $25,000. Book made a motion to approve the loan request. Verno seconded the motion and Council approved.
E. Pension MMO's: Cassie reminded Council that this is how much the Borough pays into the retirement account for Borough Police and Administration. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve 2027 Pension MMO's budget. Book seconded the motion and it was approved.
F. Orebed Street Repairs: These repairs would include resurfacing the road and fixing the drainage issues. Fitzgerald made a motion to award Stuart Lisowski Excavation to complete the Orebed Street repairs at $23,999.00. Book seconded the motion and Council approved.
G. Eliminate Superintendent Position: Verno made a motion to eliminate the Superintendent position. Book seconded the motion and it was approved.
H. Approve advertising for Public Works position: Verno made a motion to approve advertising to the Public Works position. Fitzgerald seconded the motion and it was approved.
I. Approve Streets Lead: Verno made a motion to appoint Julie Thorpe as the Streets Lead. Book seconded the motion and it was approved.
J. Christ Church Pilot Agreement: Christ Church has made Council aware that they are willing to pay taxes on their new location in town. Strohecker informed Council that Finance discussed how to standardize what should be paid. They are requesting that Christ Church pay fifty percent of the assessed property value. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the Pilot Agreement. Verno seconded the motion and Council approved.

Correspondences: no correspondence

There being no further business, Fitzgerald made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM.

Jackie L. Kurzejewski
Secretary-Treasurer