

**BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
February 19, 2026

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Council President Alan Heller opened the meeting at 7:00 pm, welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted there will be no hurtful or harmful speech allowed.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (American Flag)**

Mayor Craig Westover led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was observed.

**IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Present at the meeting were Council members Alan Heller, John McClelland, Bogan Goughler, Larry Baughman, Matthew Carlson, and Mayor Craig Westover. Also, present were Attorneys Brian Spaid and Alex Spaid.

**V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA**

**VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA**

**VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*limited to 3 minutes each*)**

- A. Mark Berringer stated he was there for support.
- B. Matt Cropp stated he was there for support as well as educational.
- C. Ron Blair expressed concerns over parking. He said there are no parking signs along Palmer Avenue. Mr. Blair also expressed concerns that his neighbors reported him to the Police Department over the condition of his yard. Mr. Baughman asked Mr. Blair to clarify his parking concerns. Mr. Blair stated he has been parking in his yard and his neighbors are complaining that they cannot see around his vehicle. Mr. Heller asked Mr. Blair if he would be willing to give his address so the concern could be followed up with. Mr. Blair stated he lives at 39 Murdoch Street, Lot A.
- D. Adam Blount stated there was an overwhelming amount of trash and garbage, especially with the snow melting. He said he has contacted the Zoning Officer in regards to this. He said he had hoped some of those neighbors would bring the garbage over during the annual spring clean up day, but they do not seem to take advantage of that. He said he will volunteer to help neighbors that might not be able to get the items to the dumpsters during the clean-up. He said it mainly seems to be abandoned houses and dilapidated properties. Mr. Speth said there is a program offered through the County Land Bank that helps individuals get dumpsters.
- E. Rebecca Smeal said the group she is a part of, The Village of Rocky Grove, has volunteered to pick up the garbage along Front Street. They have been taking turns. She also said she would volunteer her time during the Annual Clean – Up Day and help bring items for the elderly or those who are not able to bring items over to the dumpsters.
- F. Terri Lowry asked Mayor Westover about the towing policy he talked about at the previous Council meeting. She said she has heard that the Mayor has been speaking to other towing companies outside of the Borough. And she has been waiting on the Mayor to come speak to them. Mayor Westover said he will be speaking with her and Tim in time. He said he is beginning to solicit letters of interest. Ms. Lowry asked if he was going to check if the vehicles will be legal and road worthy. Mayor Westover said he was in the tri – axel business for many years and he is up – to – date with the DOT regulations. He will also want the drivers to be legal as well, including background checks and CDLs. He also said when he was researching a tow policy, he said he found several municipalities around the Commonwealth have had complaints filed against them for only using one (1) towing company. Ms. Lowry said she was just wanting to see what the Mayor had come up with. Mayor Westover said he is in the beginning stages of the policy. Ms. Lowry invited the Mayor to come and look at their shop.
- G. Mary Jane Allen expressed her support for the Police Department and the Chief. Ms. Allen also asked if anyone on Council had any updates on the water situation in Reno.
- H. Tim Lowry asked what the coverage was for the Police Department. Mayor Westover said there is one full – time officer working. He has also been recruiting people and getting applications submitted. He said the State Police have stepped up their patrols and the Sherriff's Department is available also. He said he does not want to reveal the hours or when they are working out of

safety concerns. Mr. Lowry said he heard there were three (3) incidences where back up was needed and the State Police were unable to respond due to being short handed as well. Mr. Lowry asked if there has been any progress made. Mayor Westover said they are close. Mr. Lowry also recommended the Mayor look into the other municipalities' towing policies and what is in other policies. Mayor Westover said he has found all kinds of different policies and he does not want to get too in depth with what goes in the policy. He wants a workable policy.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council recessed at 7:20 pm for an executive session to discuss personnel and legal issues which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege of information or confidentiality protected by the law and any action to follow. The meeting was reconvened at 8:10 pm.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to accept the resignations of part – time police officers David Wilson, Regina DeLoe and Eric McMillen effective February 4, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to accept the resignation of Officer Matthew Johnson effective February 13, 2026, immediately with payout of any and all benefits required under the contract subject to the return of all equipment and keys. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by John McClelland to hire Richard Goldsmith as a part – time police officer effective immediately, but subject to the transfer of his MPOETC number in accordance with the terms of the contract for a part – time police officer pay. Motion carried unanimously.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Speth, Borough Manager

Alan Heller, Council President