

BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 1, 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. Mayor Craig Westover concluded the Moment of Silence with a prayer.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA

VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by John McClelland to move the motion under "Section X., Staff Reports, B. Police" to after Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by John McClelland to allow the Valley Grove School District Superintendent time to speak before the Public Participation section of the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. VALLEY GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

- A. Tessa Simmons, Valley Grove School District Superintendent, introduced herself to the Council and wanted to thank them for allowing her to speak. Ms. Simmons said she had a good conversation with Mayor Westover and Chief Goss in regards to a possible partnership between the Borough Police Department and the school district. She said she is looking forward to working with the community and the new relationships to come.

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

- A. Dick Rial asked Mr. Speth about the status of the mulch at the Rocky Grove Playground. Mr. Speth said it has not been looked at yet, but it is on the schedule. Mr. Rial also said he did not agree with purchasing a bench for the front of the building. He also questioned why the Zoning Officer does not attend the Council meetings.
- B. Suzanne O'Neil questioned why the Zoning Officer did not attend either. Ms. O'Neil also asked what the policy was for the Police Department responding to medical calls. She was told there was a policy change and they are only responding to "echo" calls. She also questioned when it was changed and was the public informed.
- C. Terri Lowry said she has been on Civil Service since 1995 and she enjoys being on it. She said she was unable to attend the last Civil Service meeting, was only given 40 hours notice and it was not rescheduled. She does not feel comfortable that an officer was certified and she has no information, what testing was done, etc. Mayor Westover said she needs to address those concerns with himself, the Chief or the Borough Manager and make an appointment to address those concerns. Ms. Lowry said she is addressing the issue with him and she would like answers. She questioned Mr. Sporer, Civil Service President, about what testing was done. Mr. Sporer said he would defer that question to the Police Chief and/or the mayor. And he can not publicly state what was discussed in the meeting since it was not a public meeting. Ms. Lowry questioned if the meeting was advertised. Mr. Sporer said it was not a public meeting. Mr. Spaid said he is not the Civil Service Solicitor and can not advise as to their protocol.
- D. Adam Blount presented Council with concerns over blight issues within the Borough. He also requested to have the Zoning Officer attend the meetings. He also wanted to inform the Police Department that there are numerous drivers running stop signs within the Borough.
- E. Bridget Baker asked if the Police Department has hired a clerk yet and has it been advertised. Mr. Speth said it has been advertised. She also raised concerns over Mr. Speth's comments at the previous meeting regarding the vandalism at the Rocky Grove Playground. She also

expressed concerns over the Police Department and their use of the ENRADD. Ms. Baker did not agree with the cost of the bench and concrete.

- F. Joe Sporer wanted to address concerns with Ms. Lowry's comments regarding the Civil Service Commission. He stated he felt that he, Ms. Lowry and Mr. Goughler could work together for the betterment of the Borough, but he feels that is not the case. He addressed Ms. Lowry's comments regarding that the Civil Service Commission is not following the rules. Mr. Sporer said the last full – time officer certified by the Civil Service Commission was not 21 years of age; even though Borough officers are to be at least 21 years of age. He also said he has requested that last five (5) years of Civil Service Commission meeting minutes, which he has not received. Ms. Lowry said she was going to bring them to the meeting. Mr. Sporer said he notified Ms. Lowry and two (2) members of the commission would make up a quorum. And he said he knows there were several times that Ms. Lowry did not notify Mr. Goughler about Civil Service meetings. Mr. Sporer said Ms. Lowry has been personally attacking him for months and has repeatedly disrespected him in the Council meetings and does feel she is prejudice towards him. He requested that Council remove Ms. Lowry from the Civil Service Commission.

IX. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT(S)

- A. Dan Marvin, Reno V.F.D., said the Annual Car Show is scheduled for July 11, 2026, from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. The department has responded to 94 calls year – to – date and 15 calls since the last Council meeting. He informed Council that the ambulance has been relicensed and are good for one (1) year. Mr. Marvin said they are typically three (3) renewals, but since the County does not have a written 24 – hour coverage plan in place they were only able to get a one (1) year certification.
- B. RJ Christy, R.G.V.F.D., presented Council with the department's monthly report. He stated the department responded to 16 calls in June and the annual Fireman's Fair was held last week and it was a good turnout. Bingo will continue to be held on Thursdays. He said there will be new extrication tools delivered in August. There is also an auction scheduled for July 19, 2026. Mayor Westover asked Mr. Christy to explain their medical response protocol to address Ms. O'Neil's previous question. Mr. Christy said they have not been QRS certified for the time he has been at the department and they will respond if Community Ambulance Service has an extended response time and/or if they are requested to respond.
- C. Mayor Westover swore in Mike Zinz as Fire Police.
- D. Mr. Heller thanked the Fire Department for continuing to hold the Fireman's Fair each year and all their hard work.

X. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Maintenance Foreman:
1. Mr. Freer updated Council that pipe and spill boxes has been installed and the paving will begin soon.
 2. Mr. Freer also presented Council with the recommended bids for the Liquid Fuels bids, as recommended by him. The bids presented were: 1.) 1, 500 tons 9.5 MM Mix (Fine Graded) Superpave asphalt mixture design, wearing course, awarded to IA Construction, at a pick – up cost of \$86.35/ton, total cost of \$129,525.00, 2.) 500 tons 19.00 MM mix Superpave asphalt mixture design, binder course, awarded to IA Construction, at a pick – up cost of \$73.75/ton, at a total cost of \$36,875.00, 3.) 500 tons 25.0 MM Superpave asphalt mixture design, base course, awarded to IA Construction, at a pick – up cost of \$68.40/ton, at a total cost of \$34,200.00.
 3. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to award the asphalts Liquid Fuels bid as recommended by the Maintenance Foreman. Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Police Chief:
1. Mayor Westover presented the Police Department's monthly reported. The mayor said the department responded to 57 incidents, 6 adult arrests and 1 juvenile arrest. 67 traffic citations were issued and 42 traffic warnings were issued. He also said himself and the Chief attended a meeting with the County in regards to the ATV Ordinance and questions/concerns about what ATV riders can or cannot do while riding or what paperwork is needed. The County informed them that each municipality is different and the information is given to residents when they apply for the ATV riding permits. He also said there were PennDOT representatives in attendance and there have been some State roads that are being approved for ATV riding, as connector roads. PennDOT will

be responsible to post the proper signage. The mayor also said there are still no clear answers in regards to electric bikes and scooters and how to enforce those.

C. Administrator/Special Projects:

1. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve G & G Builders to install a new interior door with wire safety glass window, in the Police Department, at a cost of \$3,228.00. A roll call was taken. Mr. Carlson opposed the motion. Mr. Goughler, Mr. Baughman, Mr. Heller and Mr. McClelland voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
2. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by John McClelland to approve the annual stipend in the amount of \$2,500.00 made payable to Robert McClintock, for his role as the Borough EMA Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Motion by John McClelland, being duly seconded by Matthew Carlson to approve the purchase of a bench from Ely Associates, at a cost of \$1,815.00 and a cement pad and framing materials at an approximate cost of \$517.00.
 - a. Mr. McClelland asked to address the concerns brought up in regards to the bench before a vote was taken on the motion. He said there were two (2) benches in front of the Borough Building for approximately 50 years and were removed due to the condition of the benches. Mr. McClelland wanted a bench installed for appearances and a place for anyone walking to sit.
 - b. Mr. Baughman expressed concerns over the cost of the bench and there maybe other options available.
4. Motion by John McClelland, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to table the motion to approve the purchase of the bench until October. A roll call was taken. Mr. Carlson opposed the motion. Mr. Goughler, Mr. Heller, Mr. Baughman and Mr. McClelland voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

D. Zoning Officer:

1. Mr. Speth stated the Zoning Officer has received 10 trash complaints, 2 property – use inquiries and 5 high grass complaints.

E. Solicitor:

1. Mr. Spaid addressed a concern that was brought up at previous Council meetings regarding the alleyways in Reno. He stated he sent the residents a copy of the MOU that was drafted by Attorney Woodard and spoke with them as well.
2. Mr. Spaid also addressed concerns over data centers coming into the Borough. He said that is an issue that would need to be addressed by the Borough's Planning Commission and an amendment made to the Borough's Zoning Ordinance. He is not sure if they would be able to have an answer for them by the next Council meeting.
3. Motion by Matthew Carlson, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to direct the Planning Commission to meet and present to Council an amendment to the Sugar creek Borough Zoning Ordinance to address data centers. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. COUNCIL REPORT

- A. Larry Baughman wanted to address the concern brought up about the Police Department not responding to medical calls. He said there was a medical call this afternoon, in his district, and the Police Department did respond to the medical call.
- B. Alan Heller asked if Mr. Freer and/or Mr. Speth had researched the speed bumps and Liquid Fuels. Mr. Freer said he has not.

XII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2026 Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- A. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by John McClelland to approve the payment of bills/issuance of checks as presented by the Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

XIV. OLD BUSINESS

XV. NEW BUSINESS

XVI. CORRESPONDENCE

XVII. BOARD OF APPEALS

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council recessed at 8:01 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 8:54 pm.

XIX. NEW BUSINESS CON'T.

A. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by John McClelland to approve Police Officer Tony McIntyre for full – time status. A roll call was taken. Mr. Carlson opposed the motion. Mr. Goughler Mr. McClelland, Mr. Baughman and Mr. Heller voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion by Larry Baughman being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Speth, Borough Manager

Alan Heller, Council President