BOROUGH OF SUGARCREEK
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 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 Zoning Officer Larry Moyer and Attorney Brian Spaid.

V. DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA

VI. COUNCIL CHANGES TO AGENDA

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

A. Leann Highfield presented Council with a request to hold a Homecoming Parade and Bon Fire at the R.G.V.F.D. parking lot, for the Rocky Grove High School.

B. Christy Jakubowski said she researched the cost of the traffic light in front of Rocky Grove High school and it would cost around $250,000 - $500,000. Mayor Westover said it would probably run closer to $500,000 - $1,000,000. Ms. Jakubowski said there are grants available to pay for it and she will also be speaking with the school board about it.

C. Donna Bowen expressed concerns over the delayed response time for first responders in regards to a neighbor's recent medical emergency. Ms. Bowen said she would have liked to have seen police respond to medical calls. And she was told that the police department no longer responds to medical calls and questioned when did that change. She also expressed concerns over the lack of visibility of the new police department, other than Officer Goldsmith. Ms. Bowen said she was told there were no EMT's at the fire departments either.

D. Adam Blount wanted to address some positive changes he has seen with the blight. He said he has seen properties improve. He also said it is ultimately up to the residents to clean up and fix the issues. And to ask neighbors for help.

E. Scott Kennedy wanted to address the corruption on Council and abuse of power. Mr. Kennedy said there is a member on the Council that attends a local club's breakfast on a regular basis. The cost of the breakfast increased $1.00 and the above-mentioned Council member refused to pay the increase and no longer attends that club's breakfast. He said that Council person should learn to live within their means and it is a clear abuse of power and he should resign. He also expressed concerns over a Council member who took a picture of a female co – worker. Mr. Kennedy then addressed a Council member's DUI arrest in January, then a special meeting was held in February. He found this suspicious. He also said this individual plead guilty to the charges but then allegedly used his position to get the charges dropped with then – Chief Wenner. Mr. Kennedy said that person then decimated the police force by breaking federal and state laws. And due to everything that happened, the Borough is now being sued, Mr. Kennedy said. He asked who is going to have to pay that bill, he said it will be the tax payers of Sugarcreek Borough. Mr. Kennedy said this individual should resign. He said it is clear that this Council cannot be trusted to do its elected job ethically, transparently and morally. He said they will be disbanded and elections are coming and he is working hard to find candidates to run against them.

VIII. VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT(S)

A. Tina Whitman was sworn in as fire police, for R.G.V.F.D., by Mayor Westover.

B. Scott Sanderson, R.G.V.F.D., wished to address the response time concerns which were brought up in the Public Comment section. He said there are only a few people who can respond to such calls and the department does not want to burn these individuals out and lose

them. Mr. Sanderson said Ladies' Night is October 24, 2026, doors open at 6:00 and they will be assisting with the Homecoming parade and bonfire. Mr. Baughman also said there is Bingo every Thursday and an auction is scheduled for Sept. 13, 2026, at 1:00 PM. Mr. Sanderson said trainings will be continuing as well.

C. Dan Marvin, Reno V.F.D., said the departments have responded to Echo response calls and have saved numerous individuals. Ms. Bowen asked if it was a lack of personnel. Mr. Sanderson said they are working on building the department back up. Mr. Marvin said the ambulance will not be available this weekend and the following weekend. He said the department has notified Community Ambulance. There will be a member attending fire school Sept. 12 & 13, 2026, as well as three (3) members attending a HAZMAT refresher training on Sept. 27, 2026. The next dinner is scheduled for Sept. 27, 2026. Mr. Marvin said the department responded to 10 calls since the previous meeting and 125 calls year – to – date.

VIX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Maintenance Foreman:
   1. No report.

B. Police Chief:
   1. Mayor Westover presented Council with the department's report. Mayor said they had 71 incidents, 77 traffic citations and 39 traffic warnings issued for the month. The mayor also said with the new school year beginning, the department will be monitoring the schools and following buses to enforce that cars are not passing school buses with the red lights are on. He also wanted to address response call issues brought up. Mayor Westover said the PA Dept. of Health regulates who can respond to medical calls. The police are entry – level first responders. He said some police departments have EMT's, but the Borough does not. The Borough PD can offer support for the ambulance and EMT's on calls. The mayor said the Borough is lucky to have both volunteer fire departments with medical response capabilities. Mr. Marvin said they will take all the help they can get. Mayor Westover said there are grants that will pay for EMT training tuition.
   2. Mr. Kennedy asked why Chief Goss has not been attending the last 3 or 4 Council meetings, like the former Chief. The mayor said the Chief is working. He said it was his decision to have the Chief working but be available in the building if he is needed.
   3. Mr. Spaid said he spoke with Rich Winkler, Civil Service Solicitor and with their current workloads, they both felt it was best for Campbell Durrant to handle the updates to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations.
   4. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by John McClelland to retain the services of Campbell Durrant for the revisions to the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, with a limit of $3,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Administrator/Special Projects:
   1. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to approve Resolution No. 3 of 2026, Resolution of Approval Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application FFY 2026, which includes Housing Rehab - $63,553, Blight Demo/Clearance - $20,000 and Admin (18%) - $18,340. Motion carried unanimously.
   2. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve the Cooperation Agreement between the Borough and the County regarding the administration of FFY 2026 Community Development Block Grant Funds. Motion carried unanimously.
   3. Motion by Alan Heller, being duly seconded by John McClelland to approve Resolution No. 4 of 2026, which states the Sugarcreek Borough Police Department will contribute zero percent (0%) to their pension fund, beginning January 1, 2027. Motion carried unanimously.
   4. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to approve the sale of the 2014 Ford F – 350 and 9' Western plow, on Municibid, to Jason McMaster, at the high bid of $12,700.00. Motion carried unanimously.
   5. Mr. McClelland asked who the current internet provider was for the Borough. Mr. Speth said it is USA Choice. Mr. Heller asked how much the Borough currently pays for internet service. Mr. Speth said it will be a savings overall and it will be a better system for the Borough's internet flow.
   6. Motion by Bogan Goughler, being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to approve switching internet services to Starlink and the purchase of the Starlink Kit, which

includes a mini – router and the satellite receiver, at a one – time cost of $2,235.54 for the equipment and a monthly fee of $155.00 per month. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Mr. Carlson questioned if the price of the mulch was just to dump the mulch. Mr. Speth said it was to place it and spread it. He stated they also did repairs, similar to what was done at the Reno Playground.
8. Motion by John McClelland, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve the payment of $9,686.00 to McGregor Excavating, for the mulch that was placed at the Front Street Playground. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Motion by Matthew Carlson, being duly seconded by Larry Baughman to approve the request by the Valley Grove School District – Homecoming Committee to hold a homecoming parade and bonfire, on Oct. 14, 2026, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Trick – or Treat hours for the Borough will be held on Sat., Oct. 31, 2026, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

D. Zoning Officer:

1. Mr. Moyer presented Council with his report. He also said the Planning Commission met to discussion data centers. They will be meeting again about it. Mr. Baughman asked if they are leaning towards an ordinance. Mr. Moyer said they are in the beginning stages of discussion.
2. Mr. Carlson asked Mr. Moyer and Mr. Speth if they received the pictures he took and e – mailed to them about a house in Sugarcreek. Mr. Moyer said he did not receive the e – mail from Mr. Carlson. Mr. Speth asked for a reminder of which house. Mr. Carlson said it was a house in Sugarcreek that neighbors were complaining about. Mr. Speth said he was only aware of complaints on the house that was just purchased through the County Landbank. Mr. Carlson said he will do the work and get the address.

E. Solicitor:

1. No report.

X. COUNCIL REPORT

A. John McClelland expressed his approval of the new awnings.

B. Alan Heller said he spoke with the County Commissioners about renaming Red Bridge in honor of Charlie McDaniel. He said they were in favor of it and possibly splitting the costs of the new signs. Mr. Spaid said Mr. Heller can work with the County on drawing up the resolution.

1. Motion by Larry Baughman, being duly seconded by Matthew Carlson to pursue the renaming of Red Bridge to the Charles McDaniel Memorial Bridge. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Motion by John McClelland, being duly seconded by Bogan Goughler to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2026 Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mr. Carlson asked what the status was of the bench(es) for the front of the building. Mr. McClelland said it is on hold until the Oct. 7, 2026 Council meeting. He said he will be reaching out to the high school and Vo – Tech and hopes to have a report at next month's meeting.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

XV. CORRESPONDENCE

XVI. BOARD OF APPEALS

XVII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council recessed at 7:44 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 9:33 pm.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS CON'T.

A. Motion by Matthew Carlson, being duly seconded by Alan Heller to authorize Officer Wes Paxton to attend the Intelligence Liaison Officer free training at Seven Springs, Sept. 28 – 30, 2026, at no cost, except for dinner, mileage and wages. Motion carried unanimously.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Motion by Bogan Goughler being duly seconded by Alan Heller to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Speth, Borough Manager

Alan Heller, Council President