BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING – COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 9, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.

The Borough of Wyomissing Council held their regular meeting in the Borough of Wyomissing Council Chambers on the above date and time. Council President William S. Jenckes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following persons present: Stephen D. Brunner, Ronald C. Stanko, Jennifer L. Reimer, Frederick R. Mogel, Jana R. Barnett, and Richard A. Weinhoffer; Mayor Frederick C. Levering, Treasurer David L. Reeser, Borough Solicitor Christopher Hartman, Borough Manager & Economic Development Coordinator Michele Bare, Borough Engineer Representative Nick Perilli, Public Works Director James Babb, Police Chief John Phillips, Recreation and Communications Director Randy McKinley, and Borough Secretary Melissa Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Executive Session was held before the Council meeting to discuss personnel matters for a former Police Department employee.

VISITORS:

Rick Tomlinson – 7 Junco Dr
Doug Gruver – 1746 Parkside Dr South
Amanda Kusant – 1609 Delaware Ave
Charles Epler – 1609 Delaware Ave
Danielle Kelly – 1433 Cleveland Ave
Alyssa Heck – 1561 Dauphin Ave
Kathy Heck – 535 Lauers Lane
Jennie Maher – 714 Wyomissing Blvd
Debra Rogers – 34 Wyomissing Hills Blvd
LuAnne Bell – 72 Wellington/ 15 Tewkesbury
Angela Adler – 1544 Cleveland Ave
Adam Berkeley – 1544 Cleveland Ave
Genevieve Pallas – 1639 Meadowlark Rd
Kathy & Eric Nazarenus – 36 Wyomissing Hills Blvd
Mark Macrina – 125 Plymouth Ct
John Gantz – 102 South Park Rd
Kendra Lefler – 1517 Reading Blvd
Dave Peshler – 1710 Cleveland Ave
Chris Valente – 618 Lake Ave
Tom Dougherty – 1919 Squire Ct
Eva Vlastos – 52 Wellington Blvd
Lisa Strohl – 1135 Albright Ave
Chris & Tanya Grilli – 1805 Squire Ct
Sue Colon – 21 Wyomissing Ct
Missy Orlando – 1318 Girard Ave
James Brown – 1328 Girard Ave
Daniel Macrina – 306 Evans Ave
Tricia Nierle – 935 Wayne Ave
Nicole Wentzel – 1501 Cleveland Ave
Christine Allen – 1325 Girard Ave
Nancy Brant – 1324 Girard Ave
Patricia Lamanna – 1325 Girard Ave
Vicki Jenckes – 1914 Sturbridge Dr
Kristie L Brunner – 1918 Sturbridge Dr
Tim McDonough – 21 Hummingbird Rd
Mauren McDonough – 21 Hummingbird Rd
Jesse Willman – 1323 Garfield Ave
John Baker – 1325 Garfield Ave

R. Esposin – 1627 Farr Rd
Byron Yatron – 439 Parliament Dr

PUBLIC COMMENTS (agenda items):

Dan Macrina, 306 Evans Ave. provided public comment in favor of the Fire tax, questioned the EMS tax and the desire for more information about it since the EMS unit was removed from Wyomissing's fire station, budget concerns, the need for Council to better understand mutual aid in the fire service, and the concern that bonuses were not considered across the board. It was shared that the EMS unit was moved due to space restrictions with Wyomissing's apparatus.

Missy Orlando, 1318 Girard Ave thanked Council for their work, and felt more facts were needed to help residents understand the tax increase and the fire and EMS costs. It was explained with a fire personnel example that not only does the Borough have to consider salaries, but also health benefits when hiring. With the fire and EMS tax, the Borough is obligated to spend those funds on fire, police, and EMS services.

Tanya Grilli, 1805 Squire Ct provided public comment regarding the budget, the concern of unsustainability if operations continue this way, as well as comments pertaining to the airspace lease agreement for the refuse dumping location.

Nicole Wentzel, 1501 Cleveland Ave provided public comment regarding the increases to taxes and the budget deficit, rejecting the tax increase and finding alternatives, and having meetings after hours for the public to attend.

Tricia Nierle, 935 Wayne Ave provided public comment about postponing the vote about tax increases and wait for the new Council to decide.

John Baker, 1325 Garfield Ave provided public comment pertaining to how the Borough communicates with residents.

Tim McDonough, 21 Hummingbird Rd thanked Council for awakening the Borough

Adrian Jadic, 48 Cardinal Rd provided public comment in regards to the budget, tax increase, water and sewer increase, fire and EMS tax, fee schedule, wages and bonuses, the proposed 2026 budget deficit, and filling the Fire Chief vacancy.

Councilmember Reimer reminded the public that having specific tax classifications such as road, fire, and EMS, requires the Borough to only spend those funds on approved expenditures within those classifications.

Lisa Strohl, 1135 Albright Ave provided public comment about not increasing taxes, and not giving bonuses and raises, and had a question about the Western Berks Ambulance Association membership.

Tom Dougherty, 1919 Squire Ct provided public comment in favor of tax increases for fire and EMS if the public is getting a service out of it, was opposed to bonuses for salaried employees, and questioned the bonus for the Borough Manager in the aspect of overseeing the fire department.

Kendra Lefler, 1517 Reading Blvd provided public comment against wage increases and bonuses.

Byron Yatron, 439 Parliament Dr provided public comment against the tax increase due to the retiree and fixed income status.

Jesse Willman, 1323 Garfield Ave provided public comment against the tax increase and questioned why Kenhorst hasn't had a tax increase in 15 years.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ZONING ORDINANCE (Ordinance 1456-2024):
Borough Solicitor Christopher Hartman called the hearing to order at 7:37 p.m. by providing an introduction to the process of the hearing, the purpose of the hearing, administrative procedures leading up to the hearing, and the presentation of the proposed Zoning Ordinance for the revision to the Zoning district designation. The Ordinance amends the Zoning district designation for a 15,821 square foot portion of the property at 5 Wyomissing Boulevard, from the current R1 to town center, and would allow a residential component by right, and other classifications such as office space, by special exception. This request came from the property owner as a desire to separate this parcel from the remainder of the property, and sell when ready. The Wyomissing Borough Planning Commission as well as the Berks County Planning Commission have reviewed the proposed Ordinance amendment to meet the legal requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
Tim McDonough, 21 Hummingbird Rd questioned the value of this transaction to the Borough and the tax designation, as well as the parking concern.

Borough Solicitor Hartman shared that if the property were to be sold, it could be a tax benefit to the Borough if the new owner does not have tax exemption status. Valuation of the property would be determined once the permit would be issued when change in use occurs. This change will make it possible for the property to undergo a commercial use, and that no specific project has been determined yet. Depending on the project the new owner may want to take on, they will need to go before the Zoning Hearing Board. Procedurally, adjoining property owners would be notified, and a public advertisement posted. It was unclear if Atonement would be exempt from transfer tax.

Adrian Jadic, 48 Cardinal Road provided public comment regarding the procedure for rezoning then subdividing not being normal, that Town Center Zoning was not justified, and outgoing Council is getting this done quickly.

Councilmember Stanko provided comments in regards to the procedures already followed for this request and expressed concern about parking on the parcel.

Solicitor Hartman indicated the procedure presented before Council this evening, was not an unusual practice.

The Public Hearing for the Ordinance amendment to the Borough of Wyomissing Code of Ordinances adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ORDINANCE NO. 1456-2025- AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, CHAPTER 27 ENTITLED "ZONING", TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING TO REZONE A 15,821 SQUARE FOOT PORTION OF THE PROPERTY AT 5 WYOMISSING BOULEVARD, AT THE INTERSECTION OF WYOMISSING BOULEVARD AND PENN AVENUE, FROM THE R1 LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO THE TC TOWN CENTER RESIDENTIAL/OFFICE DISTRICT.

Councilmember Barnett made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brunner to adopt Ordinance No. 1456-2025 as to the rezoning of the 15,821 square foot portion of the property at 5 Wyomissing Boulevard, 6-1, motion carries. Councilmember Stanko opposed.

COUNCIL MINUTES: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the minutes of the November 11, 2025 Council meeting and November 17, 2025 Joint Finance & Administration and Council meeting.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT:
Borough Engineer representative Nick Perilli had no further review of the report, other than noting that the West Lawn interceptor project would begin in the next week or two.

POLICE DEPARTMENT & MAYOR'S REPORT: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Police Department & Mayor's report for November 2025.

Mayor Frederick Levering shared with Council and the public that he, Police Chief Phillips, and Borough Manager Michele Bare reviewed the Police Department as a whole over the last year and where the department stands. The department underwent some changes with retirees and obtaining new personnel, but overall, the quality of the department is good.

Police Chief John Phillips reviewed the report.

Chief Phillips indicated that while one entry-level officer accepted a conditional offer, the officer then declined due to an offer received from the Pennsylvania State Police. He indicated that the second qualified and eligible candidate on the list was given a conditional offer that was accepted. Due to the candidate not having yet completed all the necessary pre-entry conditions, Chief Phillips was unable to provide a name. A question arose as to the Lawndale Road traffic study, and Chief Phillips indicated it was not yet received.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Fire Chief's report for November 2025.

Borough Manager Michele Bare reviewed the report.

A question arose as to the limited increase of fire safety inspections since last month, and why former Fire Chief Holmes who works for the Borough's third-party code enforcement agency, is

not the one performing fire safety inspections. Borough Manager Bare again reiterated that Kraft Municipal Group assists with the Zoning Use and Occupancy inspections including fire inspections which are the initial inspections for a business. The annual fire safety inspection covers similar parameters, but on a yearly basis and performed by fire personnel.

Borough Manager Bare lastly reminded Council and the public to stop by the fire station sometime to learn more about their operations, and to check out the gear, equipment, and fire apparatus.

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Infrastructure committee report dated November 17, 2025.

Councilmember Brunner reviewed the report.

Councilmember Stanko made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to authorize Change Order No. 2 from Construction Masters Services, LLC., for final quantity adjustments in the amount of -$8,484.80 for 2025 Street Work, all in favor, roll call vote, 7-0.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stanko to authorize payment of Payment Application No. 3 from Construction Masters Services, LLC., in the amount of $73,058.92, for 2025 Street Work, all in favor, roll call vote, 7-0.

Councilmember Reimer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stanko to authorize payment of Payment Application No. 1 from Forino Co., LP, in the amount of $42,941.00 for the 50/50 sidewalk program work, all in favor, roll call vote, 7-0.

Councilmember Stanko made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to authorize payment of Payment Application No. 7 from Construction Masters Services LLC., received in the amount of $31,623.50, for the Stone House project work, all in favor, roll call vote, 7-0.

LIBRARY BOARD: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Library Board report dated November 17, 2025.

Councilmember Weinhoffer reviewed the report.

Councilmember Weinhoffer shared various prior and upcoming fundraising activities, with discussions among the Board to have alcohol during an event. He also pointed out that the Library report featured circulation statistics.

A question arose as to Library Board seats being held specifically for West Reading residents. Councilmember Weinhoffer explained that the Library was revising their bylaws to allow up to two West Reading residents on the Library Board. He shared that all voting positions need to go through the Library nominating committee, and begin as non-voting members, and have the potential to move to voting members. At this point, there are no seats being held specifically for West Reading residents, and all vacancies are advertised.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Personnel committee report dated November 18, 2025.

Councilmember Mogel reviewed the report.

Councilmember Mogel explained that the reasoning for the administrative wage increase request is to catch up to the Borough unions, as each contract when negotiated, has one year of salary catch up in comparison to the market. In regards to bonuses, these were proposed due to wages not spent in other categories, and for work that staff performed above and beyond their normal job descriptions.

RECREATION BOARD: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Recreation Board report dated November 18, 2025.

Councilmember Weinhoffer and Recreation and Communications Director Randy McKinley reviewed the report.

Recreation and Communications Director Randy McKinley shared that Lighting of the Greens went well with much vendor success, and a great turnout of people. He pointed out that there will be several event subcommittees that will be active year-round for event planning. Council President Jenckes thanked Randy for a job well done.

Councilmember Weinhoffer clarified the meeting minutes, noting that the Recreation budget for 2026 will remain at the 2025 budget levels.

PARK AND SHADE TREE COMMISSION: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Park and Shade Tree Commission report dated November 19, 2025.

Councilmember Reimer reviewed the report.

Councilmember Reimer pointed out that the Commission spoke about the proposed park bench program concept, of which will be discussed again during the January 2026 Commission meeting. She further briefly explained the park stewardship plan, sharing that Borough Manager Bare was successful in helping to obtain grant funding.

Councilmember Reimer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to approve the list of revised trail names for the parklands, and the accompanying leaf silhouette cut out for the sign holders, all in favor, 7-0.

Councilmember Reimer made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to approve the planting of a tree in the parklands in memory of former employee Kevin Lutz, contingent upon the expenditure being that of the Parks and Maintenance Association, not the Borough, all in favor, 7-0.

FIRE AND POLICE COMMITTEE: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Fire and Police committee report dated November 24, 2025.

Councilmember Jenckes reviewed the report.

Councilmember Jenckes reminded Council and the public that Wyomissing currently has an ISO rating of 3, of which is on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the best.

Councilmember Barnett made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Reimer to authorize changing the run cards for the Wyomissing Fire Department to reflect the following; the shift from Ladder 79 to Engine 79 in various call classifications due to that type of apparatus being more useful, and saving the wear and tear on the Ladder; necessary updates due to the new EMS dispatching policy; ensuring that proper resources are being dispatched to the Borough for emergency calls; and also encompass the changes to the mall's run card, taking it back to the pre-fence response plan, all in favor, 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 1455-2025- AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 15, PART 4, SECTION 401, ENTITLED "PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS", TO AMEND THE EXISTING PROHIBITION OF PARKING ON HILL AVENUE, NORTHSIDE, BETWEEN PARK ROAD AND READING AVENUE, AND AMENDING SECTION 403, ENTITLED "PARKING TIME LIMITED IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS, CERTAIN DAYS AND HOURS", TO CHANGE A PORTION OF THE NO PARKING ZONE TO 15 MINUTE PARKING ON A PORTION OF HILL AVENUE, NORTHSIDE, BETWEEN PARK ROAD AND READING AVENUE

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to adopt Ordinance No. 1455-2025 to allow for temporary parking in the 900 block of Hill Avenue, with the understanding that Brickstone Co. and RP Management will cover costs, all in favor, 7-0.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Finance and Administration committee report dated December 4, 2025.

Councilmember Brunner reviewed the report.

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to authorize payment of the 2025 fourth quarter MMO in the amount of $161,832.18, all in favor, roll call vote, 7-0.

Several varying concerns arose from Council and the Treasurer upon the motion for bonuses being brought forward. It was first shared that while bonuses feel warranted, one could not discount resident concerns expressed earlier. Another concern was that bonuses are proposed for four salaried people who are paid fairly and competitively, and improving workflow is part of the

job, not going above and beyond. It was also noted that residents were heard and if there is too much spending then there should not be a bonus or raises. Lastly, it was shared that with bonuses, they are not factored into future wages. There is an opportunity to look at tasks and ensure staff is fairly compensated, or if a future salary adjustment is needed.

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to authorize bonuses as per the October 30, 2025 memo, for Phyllis Smith, Greg Capriolo, Melissa Miller and Michele Bare, to be paid in 2025, as also recommended by the Personnel Committee, roll call vote, 5-2, motion carries. Councilmembers Stanko and Weinhoffer opposed.

Upon the motion for wage increases being brought forward, it was noted that the Borough's salary structure for administrative personnel overall aligns with the Pennsylvania State Association of Borough's salary survey. A second comment was made that the Borough spent more than what should have been spent, and now wants to spend more on salary increases.

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to authorize 4% wage increases for Administrative staff, effective January 1, 2026, as also recommended by the Personnel Committee, roll call vote, 5-2, motion carries. Councilmembers Stanko and Weinhoffer opposed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-15- A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING CHERRY BEKAERT AS INDEPENDENT AUDITOR OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to adopt Resolution No. 2025-15 as to appointing Cherry Bekaert, formerly Herbein + Company, Inc., as the independent auditor for 2026, all in favor, 7-0.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to authorize the Cherry Bekaert, formerly Herbein + Company, Inc., audit fee of $19,450, all in favor, roll call vote, 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-16 - A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING WATER RATES

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to adopt Resolution No. 2025-16 as to setting new water rates effective January 1, 2026, all in favor, 7-0. It was reiterated that the Wyomissing Hills section of the Borough is not subjected to this increase due to their water system being managed by PA American, and that this is a pass through cost due to increased water costs.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-17 - A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING SEWER RATES

Councilmember Stanko made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Reimer to adopt Resolution No. 2025-17 as to setting new sewer rates effective January 1, 2026, all in favor, 7-0. It was noted that this too was a pass through cost due to increased sewer costs.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-18- A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING REVISING AND UPDATING THE BOROUGH'S FEE SCHEDULE

Councilmember Barnett made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to adopt Resolution No. 2025-18 as to establishing Borough rates for 2026, all in favor, 7-0. A comment was made that new Council should revisit the fee schedule.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20 - A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING RESOLUTION 2024-19 TO REVISE THE LIST OF ACCOUNTS BY ADDING ACCOUNTS FOR THE FIRE TAX SAVINGS FUND AND THE EMERGENCY SERVICES TAX SAVINGS FUND AND TO APPOINT THE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES ON THE BOROUGH'S TOMPKINS COMMUNITY BANK DEPOSITORY ACCOUNTS

Councilmember Moge made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to adopt Resolution No. 2025-20 as to adding Fire Tax and Emergency Services Tax savings accounts and review the bank signatories, 6-0, motion carries. Councilmember Brunner abstained from the vote due to the fact that he used to work under Tompkins, and the public may not know that he changed agencies.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-21- A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA WAIVING THE APPROPRIATION LIMITATION FOR THE TAX SUPPORTING AMBULANCE, RESCUE AND OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES SERVING THE BOROUGH FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING SALARIES, BENEFITS OR OTHER COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE AMBULANCE, RESCUE OR OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICE

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to adopt Resolution No. 2025-21 as to waiving the appropriation limitation under Section 1302(a)(9)(ii) for the purpose of paying salaries, benefits or other compensation of employees of the ambulance, rescue or other emergency service, all in favor, 7-0. It was explained that the Borough was paying Western Berks Ambulance Association, the municipal membership rate which covered fees for balance billing instead of the household membership rate. Another reason for this is due to the county not having an EMS system in place, and no support provided by the county for EMS operations.

ORDINANCE NO. 1459-2025- AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, CHAPTER 1 ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION AND

GOVERNMENT," BY ADDING A NEW PART 21 ENTITLED "CREDIT CARD USAGE FOR BOROUGH SERVICES" TO AUTHORIZE THE ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT CARD AND OTHER ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS FOR BOROUGH SERVICES AND TO AUTHORIZE THE IMPOSITION AND COLLECTION OF ASSOCIATED CONVENIENCE FEES FROM THE PAYOR.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to authorize advertisement of Ordinance No. 1459-2025 as to the imposition and collection of associated convenience fees from the payor for credit card transactions, all in favor, 7-0.

Treasurer David Reeser pointed out two corrections in his motions during the Finance and Administration meeting, noting that his opposition during the meeting was for bonuses, not wage increases. The minutes were adjusted prior to the meeting, with the corrected meeting minutes displayed for Council approval.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the Borough Manager's report dated December 9, 2025.

Borough Manager Bare indicated that Western Berks Water Authority Board and Joint Municipal Authority Board meeting minutes were made available in Council packets.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-25- A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, TO APPROVE AMENDMENT OF THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR THE WESTERN BERKS WATER AUTHORITY TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE AUTHORITY UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2075, AND TO APPROVE THE FIFTH SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WESTERN BERKS WATER AUTHORITY AND THE BOROUGH OF SHILLINGTON, BOROUGH OF WEST READING, AND BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, TO EXTEND THE SERVICE AGREEMENT UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2050

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brunner to adopt Resolution No. 2025-25 as to extending the life of the Western Berks Water Authority being the term of the PennVest loan, all in favor, 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-22- A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING NAJLA A. BATHISH TO THE ZONING HEARING BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF **WYOMISSING**

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Reimer to adopt Resolution No. 2025-22 as to reappointing Najla Bathish to the Zoning Hearing Board for a six-month term to expire June 30, 2026, all in favor, 7-0. It was noted that the replacement for the term was publicly advertised.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-23- A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING JOSEPH T. ZALEWSKI TO THE BOARD OF THE JOINT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF WYOMISSING VALLEY

Councilmember Stanko made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Reimer to adopt Resolution No. 2025-23 as to reappointing Joseph Zalewski to the Board of the Joint Municipal Authority with a term to expire December 31, 2030, all in favor, 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-24- A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING DAVID L. REESER TO THE BOARD OF THE WESTERN BERKS WATER AUTHORITY

A motion is needed to table, approve, or deny adopting Resolution No. 2025-24 as to reappointing David Reeser to the Board of the Western Berks Water Authority with a term to expire December 31, 2030, all in favor, 7-0. It was pointed out that there was reference to JMA in the WBWA Resolution to be corrected before signing.

ORDINANCE NO. 1457-2025- AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 1 "ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT", PART 4 "PENSION PLANS", SECTION B "NONUNIFORMED EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN" BY AMENDING SECTION 421, ENTITLED "DEFINITIONS", SECTION 424 ENTITLED "RETIREMENT BENEFITS", SECTION 425, ENTITLED "DEATH BENEFIT", SECTION 426, ENTITLED "VESTING AND SEVERANCE OF EMPLOYMENT", AND SECTION 431, ENTITLED "TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT OF PLAN", TO REDUCE THE VESTING REQUIREMENT FROM TEN YEARS TO SEVEN YEARS, AND TO CLARIFY THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING A DISABILITY PENSION BENEFIT

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to adopt Ordinance No. 1457-2025 to revise the nonuniformed pension plan language for vesting requirements, all in favor, 7-0.

Upon the motion to consider the 2026 proposed budget being brought to the table, several comments and concerns were raised by Council. While the proposed budget includes a deficit, it was noted that deficit reductions occurred over the course of the year under various circumstances, and also pointed out that grant reimbursements were supposed to be received that have not yet. Reserve accounts were established to help with future planning, and there is approximately 3 months worth of operating costs. Overall, costs have increased, collective bargaining agreement demands have increased, healthcare has increased; all contributors to ever-growing expenditures.

Another comment was provided that each budget meeting that occurred, expenses were cut, leading to a proposed tax increase to help bridge the deficit gap. It was also noted that over the years, services provided or cost increases for services provided were not covered by incoming revenue. The fund balance needs to slowly increase of which taxes should have been incrementally increased over the years to support this. Programming and services come at a cost, but it was noted that 68% of the budget is personnel costs. It was further mentioned that the decline in tax valuation for the Berkshire Mall, former Crown Plaza, and Inn at Reading, played a role in decreased revenue to the Borough. It was lastly pointed out that incoming Council should have the opportunity to participate in the budget discussion. Council was reminded that

legally, a budget must be passed by the end of the year. The new Council can opt to open the budget as well as the tax rates in the new year.

Councilmember Barnett made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brunner to approve the 2026 proposed budget including a 1.25 mil tax increase, an additional water fund overhead transfer of $100,000, or $750,000 for the total water fund overhead transfer, and a budget deficit of $938,679, 2-5, motion does not carry. Councilmembers Stanko, Weinhoffer, Mogel, Jenckes, and Reimer opposed.

ORDINANCE NO. 1458-2025- AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WYOMISSING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2026

Councilmember Barnett made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Reimer to table adopting Ordinance No. 1458-2025 to establish the 2026 tax rate, all in favor, 7-0. Council and the public were reminded that only 10% of the collected tax revenue stays in the Borough. 20% is passed to the County, and 70% to the school district.

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to accept the retirement notice of Phyllis Smith, effective January 2, 2026, all in favor, 7-0.

Upon the motion to hire an outsourced CFO/Business Manager, a question arose as to Phyllis' willingness to stay on longer so the Borough does not incur the outsourcing fee, and it was shared that while Phyllis has agreed to help intermittently until February 2026 with reporting requirements, she would not be staying on after that.

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Reimer to authorize contracting with Transcend Finance for outsourced CFO/Business Manager duties at an hourly rate of $185, including assisting in finding a replacement Business Manager, if needed, until a replacement Business Manager is hired, contingent upon the Borough Solicitor's review comments being incorporated into the agreement, 6-1, motion carries. Councilmember Stanko opposed. It was reiterated that Borough Manager Bare spoke with three outside agencies, of which Transcend was the only agency that also had headhunting services.

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Brunner to authorize commencing the hiring process for the Business Manager position, all in favor, 7-0.

Councilmember Brunner made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to authorize payment of Payment Application No. 3, in the amount of $31,597.42, to Gordon H. Baver, Inc., for the Berkshire Heights Playground project, all in favor, roll call vote, 7-0.

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stanko to adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of Wyomissing and Teamster Local Union No. 429 for the Maintenance and Parks employees, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028, all in favor, 7-0.

Councilmember Mogel made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to authorize designating the Borough Manager as the Borough official with the authority to change the run cards for the Wyomissing Fire Department, all in favor, 7-0.

Borough Manager Bare recognized Public Works employee Logan Templin for his extraordinary efforts to assist an elderly patron of a local Borough business, as well as the work of the entire Public Works department during the snow event for handling snow removal, a fallen tree, and a blocked sewer, all on a skeleton crew.

Councilmember Stanko made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Barnett to table reaffirming the agreement with Employee # 29, all in favor, 7-0.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS: On motion duly made, seconded and passed, Council approved the November Treasurer's Statement of Operation and all financial statements.

Treasurer David Reeser reviewed the report noting that the fund balance is reasonable, reviewed PLGIT investments, and noted that year to date revenues are below budget, as are expenditures.

ACOUNTS PAYABLE: Councilmember Stanko made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to ratify and approve the Accounts Payables report for November 2025, all in favor, roll call vote, 7-0.

General Fund	796,517.44
Road Tax Fund	348,977.67
Water Fund	186,017.73
Sewer Fund	136,755.44
Refuse Fund	133,851.65
Liquid Fuels Fund	25,041.30
	$ 1,627,161.23

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:
Due to the Tax Collector's absence, there was no further review of the report.

Councilmember Stanko made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mogel to approve the November 2025 Tax Collector's report, all in favor, 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT (non-agenda items):
Angela Adler, 1544 Cleveland Avenue provided public comment pertaining to the public wanting to be heard and involved, meetings held at times people are unable to attend, the facilities that exist for recording as well as physical locations to move meetings to when there are large crowds, getting information to the public, providing bonuses instead of repairing the pond, and the need to collaborate with residents and prioritize what the leadership is here for.

Amanda Kusant, 1609 Delaware Ave provided public comment pertaining to the public who got up and spoke, as well as elected officials speaking when others are speaking.

Tim McDonough, 21 Hummingbird Rd requested an update on the round-a-bouts and the Berkshire Mall. As the chair of the Economic Development committee, Mayor Levering spoke about the round-a-bouts, the proposed locations, noting that when Federal funds are involved, the State must consider round-a-bouts in efforts to help minimize environmental impacts, and that some Borough money will be used to relocate utilities. He also shared that Abrams Realty is in the due diligence period to purchase the Berkshire Mall. Their proposed plan is to level the entire mall except Boscov's, and have freestanding box stores and smaller stores. It was noted that the project may need a Zoning overlay, but the developer is in the process of refining their plan.

The Wyomissing Borough Council meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Miller
Borough Secretary

Approved by:

Kristen M. Gajewski
President, Wyomissing Borough Council