

Borough of Robeson Council

Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2025

The regular advertised meeting of the Borough of Robeson Council was held on Monday, August 4, 2025 at the Robeson Borough Hall located at 75 S. Brooke Street Robeson, PA. The following Council members attended:

Harvey W. Marshall, President - Absent
Mark Spotts, Vice President
Matthew Miller, President Pro-Tem
Jame Burrus
Jerry Laboranti
Michael Martin
David Bright - Absent

Also in attendance; South Heidelberg Police Chief Matthew Hook, Solicitor Andrew George, and Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Vice President, Mark Spotts with the pledge of allegiance.

Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Jame Burrus to approve the August 4, 2025 Council meeting minutes. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

Bills:

- A motion was made by Jame Burrus to pay and ratify the bills from August 5, 2025 to September 2, 2025. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

Police Report

- Police Chief Matthew Hook gave Council a summary of his August police report.

Public Safety

- Fire Chief John Christian informed Council that the Pioneer Hose Company had thirteen calls for the month of August and three hundred calls to date. John Christian also stated that the Pioneer Hose Company chose to donate \$275.00 toward the Playground Replacement Project even though Council voted for them to keep all profits.

Scheduled Guests:

- None

Solicitor

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to adopt Ordinance 2025-2 which vacates Berks Street in the Borough. The vacated portion of the road will be split in half between the adjoining property owners with an Easement Agreement also included. Seconded by Jerry Laboranti. Motion carried. Matthew Miller abstained.

Executive Session

Council entered into an Executive Session at 7:19 PM to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting reconvened at 7:30 PM with no official action being taken at this time.

Engineer

- The Council reviewed the monthly Inspector's and Engineer's Reports.

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Planning Commission

- The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on September 17, 2025 if necessary.

Manager

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Borough pension plan. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Michael Martin to approve the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Western Berks Regional Police pension plan. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.
- Borough Manager Elizabeth Miller reported that there will be additional interviews taking place in the future in search for a Part-Time Secretary/Clerical Assistant.
- A motion was made by Jerry Laboranti for the Borough to support Crime Alert Berks with a \$250.00 check. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Finance Administration:

- The Finance Committee reported that they are in the process of completing the budget for 2026.

Personnel:

- A motion was made by Michael Martin to accept John Schittlers Letter of Resignation effective August 28, 2025. Seconded by Jerry Laboranti. Motion carried.

Streets/Highway/Building/Sewers Committee:

- A motion was made by Matthew Miller for the Borough to contract with a Structural Engineer recommended by Technicon Enterprises to assess the road separation on South Church Street. The amount will not exceed \$4,000.00. Seconded by Michael Martin. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Matthew Miller to accept M&A Excavating LLC's \$6,800.00 proposal to repair an inlet and pipe repair on Freeman Street & Furnace Road. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.
- The Council had a discussion regarding what the Borough could reach out to Reading-Berks Auto Club Foundations Opportunity. This item will be back on the agenda next month under old business.

Parks and Recreation:

- Matthew Miller read his Chairmans Report for the Council which included the success of the August 31st Car Show.

Shade Tree Commission:

- No new business at this time.

Robesonia Community Library Report:

- Leslie Pirl Roth provided Council with a spreadsheet and PowerPoint regarding library funding.

Old Business

- Elizabeth Miller stated that the Borough is waiting for an official quote from General Code on ordinance codification.
- Council will continue to review the information provided by Technicon Enterprises regarding a Test and Learn Enforcement Program and will discuss at next month's meeting.
- After a discussion, Council referred the issue of the damaged road on South Pearl Street back to the Streets Dept. to ensure it is repaired correctly.
- Council decided to display signage on the remediation property site. Council will ask for an update from the Road Master at next month's meeting.

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- The Borough Manager reported that Borough Council email addresses will be available for Council Members this upcoming week.
- A meeting will be set up with Council Members and John Ravert from the Shade Tree Commission to review and recommend to Council on how to proceed with the Shade Tree Ordinance.
- Jerry Laboranti offered to research some grant funding opportunities regarding the remediation property and will report back.
- Mark Spotts suggested that for Council to consider the possibility to put up a no jake break sign on Penn Avenue in the Borough, more residents from the Borough should express their desire for one and possibly start a petition.

Council Member Reports

- Marshall:
 - After a discussion, Jame Burrus made a motion for the Borough to split the bill to update the Western Berks Joint Planning Commission equally with the other municipalities. The amount the Borough would pay is \$4,141.91. Seconded by Matthew Miller. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by Michael Martin to enter into a contract with NRG at \$0.089 for twenty-four months for the Boroughs electric contract. Seconded by Jame Burrus. Motion carried.
- Spotts:
 - Mark Spotts provided an update on the Boroughs Comcast Franchise Renewal Agreement which is being prepared by Cohen Law Group.
- Laboranti:
 - Jerry Laboranti asked for the possibility to appoint an alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board be added to the October agenda for discussion.

Authorities: The following Reports/Minutes were received.

- Womelsdorf-Robesonia Joint Water Authority Meeting Minutes & Treasurer's Report
- Robesonia-Wernersville Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes
- Western Berks Ambulance Report

Public Comment

- Jared Renshaw discussed the possibility of the Borough implementing a fire tax in the future.
- David Randler made a statement regarding the successes of the Boroughs Car Show.
- Yuri Topolnicki thanked Parks & Rec for a positive community car show.
- Tracy Rice offered budget and grant recommendations.
- Beth Sattizahn made a statement regarding the Boroughs Car Show.
- Cindy Murdough offered a recommendation that the Borough allocate money for No Nonsense Neutering in the 2026 budget.

Adjourn of Meeting

A motion was made by Michael Martin to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM. Seconded by Jerry Laboranti. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Miller
Borough Manager
Robesonia Borough