

## PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 09, 2025, at 6:00PM

Mr. Cunningham began the work session by wishing everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

Mr. Hogan shared thanks to the three fire departments and the police department for their involvement with the Santa parade. Additional thanks were given to Santa and Rudolph. He shared that it was a nice event, enjoyed by all who attended. He ended by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Morehart extended his appreciation to those who voted for him. He shared season's greetings with everyone and expressed that he is looking forward to the coming year(s).

Ms. Eroh shared that the Planning Agency's Food Drive has been a success so far. Approximately twenty-one boxes of food were collected and dropped off. She further explained that all donations are being distributed within the area of zip code, 18651. Special thanks were shared for the retail locations that participated. Collection will continue throughout the winter months with drop-offs remaining during operating hours at locations: Plymouth Public Library, Plymouth Borough Municipal Building, Fire Departments and VFW (after 5 PM). She went on to discuss agenda item #5 regarding CourseVector, a website host. She explained that the current website we are using through Civic Plus is a little too large and we don't have the ability to manipulate it ourselves without an in-house IT department. We're not able to utilize it fully, for the expense. We spend a lot of time reaching out to the host for assistance, on hold and going back and forth with them. Through CourseVector we will be able to internally manipulate the site as desired, it will be more user friendly and about half the cost. We hope to have the new site running by February. She ended by wishing everyone a Happy Holidays.

Mr. Thomas echoed the seasonal sentiments, wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Dixon thanked Ms. Eroh for her explanation and research, as well as Lori Bolesta. He shared that there are a lot of kids enrolled at Wyoming Valley West on partial/full lunch due to income and there is a collection going on for cereal boxes to go home over the winter break with each kid at the State St school. He thinks that it is a wonderful way to serve the community with. He discussed the recent snowfall. He reminded residents that it is winter, and we will get snow several times this season. Plymouth Borough's DPW will continue to take care of the streets well, but also, several of our roads are maintained by PennDot. Residents are not to throw the snow onto the street when they are shoveling their sidewalks. If you do that, the snow is just going to come back onto your sidewalk when they plow again, instead pile it up in a section, or put it on your own property. We've got to be able to get to the curbs to keep open the drains. Residents are encouraged to know the snow emergency routes; we will look at posting on the website. He finished by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Mr. Kobusky noted that Mayor Coughlin is absent tonight, due to his work commitments with PennDot. He shared that we will be holding a special meeting on Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM regarding the tax ordinance, 2026 budget and any unfinished business. We will advertise as required but wanted to share.

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Regular meeting was called to order, "The Pledge of Allegiance" was recited, and a moment of silence was observed with special memoriam of Mike Kostelansky, Plymouth Borough's former, long-time solicitor.

Roll was called:

Present: Mr. Earl Cunningham; Ms. Alexis Eroh; Mr. Thomas Hogan; Mr. Adam Morehart; Mr. John Thomas; Mr. William Dixon; Mr. Ron Kobusky

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There were no citizen's comments regarding agenda items.

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#### CITIZENS' REQUESTS AND COMMENTS REGARDING GENERAL ITEMS:

Ms. Judy Rittenhouse – 690 Lee St. – Clarified as co-president of general federation Women's Club, Plymouth that is spearheading the cereal giveaway, supported by several civic organizations, local businesses, council members and residents. They will send each child home with a full box of cereal during winter break. Additional appreciation was shared for the support received.

Mr. James Ziller – 215 Henderson St. – Proposed budget, Per Capita Tax – are there any consideration on removing this tax, as we only get a small amount? ((Mr. Kobusky explained that we still generate some revenue there. residents over 65 do not have to pay, and our tax base is an elderly population.)) Makes more financial sense to combine with existing. Parking meters we only bring in \$1,500.00 but cost us \$1,000.00 to maintain. ((Mr. Thomas replied that we used to have a very active business district with lots of meters, which was a response to business owners upset about parking. We have looked at overnight parking restrictions and/or limited hours. But there needs to be more income/cost ratio for us to pursue further. Discussion was had referring to the way Forty Fort handles their meters.)) DUI is listed as \$0.00, why? ((Mr. Kobusky advised it is funded by Luzerne County DA, we don't know until the last minute if we will participate or not, so we CAN'T account for it either way.)) Utility Bills states that the police department will spend \$1,200.00 on gas/oil; he inquired if we have negotiated for any cost savings? ((Mr. Kobusky clarified that refers to this entire municipal building. Additionally, UGI has the monopoly on this region for gas and electric utilities. We do receive some cost savings between the library, DPW Building, and Municipal building but much of our utilities are traffic/street lights, and those typically come from our liquid fuels funding. Dynergy is utilized to reduce costs, as well.)) He inquired if we are swapping lights out for led and will we see any cost savings for that? IS Ugi projecting our rates to be reduced as they switch them out? ((Mr. Kobusky EXPLAINED THAT as the streetlights need to be replaced UGI is switching them over. He can find out if we can expect to see any reduction.))

Mr. Rich Caryle - 68 Peirce St. – wanted to bring to our attention that at the curb of vine street and pierce street is regularly getting damaged by some of the larger trucks. He has repaired it the past three times, can we fix it next time? ((Mr. Dixon advised he would touch base with him following the meeting to further discuss this issue at Peirce and Palmer, possibly have UGI relocate utility pole.)) He brought up the garbage trucks beep around 5:30 AM, he thought he should touch base with

Captain Thomas regarding the noise. ((Ms. Eroh advised that the noise ordinance is 6 AM – 10 PM.)) He also inquired that he hadn't seen the ambulance donation in a while, did they do away with that? He ended by stating that they did a nice job with the Christmas lights around town.

Ms. Donna Williams – 103 Girard Ave wanted to express her gratitude for everything that council did to help her out getting housing for her brother. She was notifying everyone that he has since passed away. She is seeking additional assistance to help close out affairs through the VA Hospital. (Mr. Dixon advised she would touch base with her afterward. All of Council expressed their condolences.))

**NAME?** - 175 Nottingham St. – expressed that he has a lot of issues with renters this year and thanked Mr. Cunningham for this help. He wanted to share that when they paved Nottingham – they have been blocking rain Literes Drains. Provided photos. Further discussed adding Swales. ((Mr. Dixon offered to touch base following to get more information.)) He also wanted to bring to the attention of law enforcement a vehicle on the street that has had an orange tag on it since 11/18/25, when can they remove?

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1. Motion was made to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Street Department and Office Personnel, dated November 3, 2025, between Plymouth Borough and Local Union 401 which was negotiated between the parties for the contract year commencing January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028. I further move authorize the President of council, Ron Kobusky, Councilman John Thomas and Councilwoman Alexis Eroh to sign the agreement on behalf of the borough, and authorize the Borough Secretary, Maryann Lang to affix the Borough Seal to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

OTQ: Rate increases for NUF employees over three-year contract \$1.25/\$1.25/\$1.00; DPW boot allowance increased \$50.00; A clothing allowance for a heavy coat, not to exceed \$200.00 per contract for DPW; and one additional personal day given to all NUF employees.

Motion: Mr. Dixon 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Cunningham Vote: 7 yes

2. Motion was made to approve the addendum (effective January 1, 2026) to the collective bargaining agreement between The Borough of Plymouth and the Plymouth Borough Police Association for the contract January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026.

OTQ: This has been discussed over the last several council meetings. The rate of one officer salary is being split to increase all members' rate.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Thomas Vote: 7 yes

3. Motion was made to accept 2026 Insurance proposal from Frank P Crossin Agency, Inc. for \$113,283.00

OTQ: This is for all insurances needed; flood, fire, police, building, cyber, etc.

Motion: Mr. Dixon 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Morehart                      Vote: 7 yes

4. Motion was made to enter contract with MuniPay, on behalf of Tax Collector Barbara Dellario. The contract provides a no cost service to the municipality to enable the residents to pay online utilizing a card purchase for their tax payments.

OTQ: The tax collector did a lot of research among other Luzerne County tax collectors; this will be a fantastic opportunity for the residents to make payments in a way that may be more convenient for them.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Morehart                      Vote: 7 yes

5. Motion was made to approve contract agreement for municipal website with Course Vector for \$3,933.75.

OTQ: Alexis previously explained this during work session.

Motion: Mr. Dixon 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ms. Eroh                                      Vote: 7 yes

6. Motion was made to approve the sale of 1995 Chevy Dump Truck for \$750.00 to J-L Used Auto Parts Inc. and remove from Borough's Insurance Policy.

OTQ: It was not passable at inspection.

Motion: Ms. Eroh 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Cunningham                      Vote: 7 yes

7. Motion was made to approve the purchase of 2001 Ford F-550 Bucket Truck from Geyer Auction Companies for \$12,555.00.

OTQ: We have one which is nearing the end of its usability. Based on research, at auction this one is a good investment; and it goes 10 feet higher.

Motion: Mr. Cunningham 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Morehart                      Vote: 7 yes

8. Motion was made to accept the estimate from All Door Sales Inc to replace four commercial garage doors at Department of Public Works Building for \$26,000.00.

OTQ: One door is damaged and not operational. Cost of repair was estimated at \$4,300. The cost of replacement was around \$6,500. Another door recently had a section damaged and was repaired. These are the original doors from 1975, and we will continue to see them need repair due to age and use. These are necessary upgrades for both efficiency and safety.

Motion: Mr. Dixon 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Thomas                                      Vote: 7 yes

9. Motion was made to approve proposal from Aircon for replacement of heating coil serving Police Station for \$4,058.00.

OTQ: Coil was damaged and then repaired several years ago during a freeze. It's not repairable now and the coil needs to be replaced. The unit is about twenty years old; we are hoping to get a few more years out of it.

Motion: Mr. Thomas                                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Hogan                      Vote: 7 yes

