

## PLYMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REGULAR MEETING-MAY 13, 2025, at 6:00PM

Mr. Cunningham spoke on behalf of himself, Red's Subs and Polish Connection and thanked the police, our firefighters as well as the out-of-town firefighters and everyone else for the quick and efficient response to the fire at these establishments on Easter Monday. The fire was knocked down quite quickly with minimal damage to these businesses.

Mr. Hogan reminded all that school will be out soon, so watch for children playing and crossing streets, and please watch your speed.

On behalf of himself and the whole Hogan family he extended a big thank you to all the emergency services who came out to fight the fire on Easter Monday. Truly amazing response with no loss of life.

Mr. Morehart reported that the Coal Creek Wall Replacement Project has wrapped up and is now completed including fencing. It looks phenomenal and if you have not had a chance to go up to see, please take some time to go up and view it. He again thanked Luzerne County for seeing the importance of this project when they awarded us the County ARPA Funds. Also grateful for the support and patience for the inconvenience from all citizens.

This is one of several infrastructure projects that his council has brought to the table to improve and restore Plymouth one thing at a time.

Last year council decided to go with a "per cat" basis for billing from the SPCA. This proved to be a good option for us. In the past we were paying a couple thousand dollars when we were billed "per capita". The first quarter of 2025 there were five stray cats turned into the SPCA.

Also, the TNR program is still ongoing. Once you have your appointment for the stray cat, you can come to the borough building to pick up a voucher to have it spayed or neutered. Keep in mind that if you sign out a voucher, use it. If you do not or cannot use it, please return it to the municipal office for someone else to use it.

Ms. Eroh said her and Lori Bolesta met with Ed from Edwards Landscaping to address the lot on Main St by the library parking lot. They discussed a scaping plan as well as the soil because every time we put a tree there it dies. He will get back to them with a quote. She said they let the landscaper know they hoped to have it done by the end of June or into July. She will bring the quote to council for approval when she gets it.

Planning agency met last Wednesday and discussed the new trash cans and having a poster contest with a "pick up Plymouth" theme. They would celebrate and choose a contest winner on September 27<sup>th</sup> for "World Clean Up Day". They are working on the rules and regulations for that contest and will be out to the public soon. The plan is to have this run through the library where contestants could drop off their posters.

The agency recently launched the "Plymouth Pointer's" program. Every Thursday on their Facebook page they will offer little tips and how to items. They introduced the program with information about the yard waste program in town. If you have any tips you would like to share, submit them to the agency and they will be considered them for the next posting.

Mr. Kobusky commented on the landscaping at the lot on Main St. by explaining that they talked about putting a community Christmas in that space and have different groups from town decorate it each year.

Mr. Dixon let residents know that there is a shred event coming up on June 7 from 9am – 12pm. 3 “copy paper “size boxes per resident.

WVSA will be in town May 27<sup>th</sup> – May 30<sup>th</sup> for street sweeping, so watch for the signs and please move your vehicles by 7am. on those days.

He also informed residents that PAWC would be in town in month of May (25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>) flushing hydrant lines. You could have brown water and low pressure. Rinse your lines with cold water first as not to harm your hot water heater.

Tomorrow he and Mr. Cunningham will attend the LSV COG meeting. The fuel station for the members is open and will yield considerable savings. The COG was just in town and made repairs to two of our streets that were in desperate need. The borough does not have to pay for labor when the COG comes to do work. We are just responsible for the supplies and lunches for the workers. Saves use a lot of money. Thank you to all the volunteers from the other towns who came to help.

Mr. Kobusky added that beginning tomorrow the fueling station will be open and he said that all borough vehicles must go to the COG fueling station for their fuel. Everybody has been trained and has a key to get into the fueling station whenever they need gas. This will be a big savings for the borough.

Mayor Frank Coughlin thanked everyone who came out on that rainy Saturday for the annual clean up...St Vincent Knights of Columbus, the three dedicated fire departments, the members of council that could make it, and most of all our citizens here in town. This program works because of these volunteers, and it has a big impact on illegal dumping and litter in general. PennDot picks up this garbage at no cost to the town.

He said he has gotten permission from council to contact the engineer about turning the basketball courts by the dike into Pickle Ball courts.

On Memorial Day, the Shawnee Cemetery has a memorial service for the veterans that have passed. It is at noon on May 26<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day) and invites all to come out to honor and show respect to those that have passed.

There were 651 police calls. This is up from the previous month. He asked that Captain Thomas expand on this.

Captain Thomas explained that the calls vary and include everything from traffic stops to domestic and criminal calls. Every time an officer is dispatched, the call is recorded. In addition, officers also have walk ins (when people come to the station), phone calls, as well as speaking with citizens while out on patrol. Often if these conversations are for advice or something simple, that is not recorded as a call. Sometime calls can take a very long time. Please understand the paperwork that goes with each of these calls, so if you do not see us on the streets, be patient. Chances are we are busy elsewhere or back at the station doing the reports.

Captain Thomas added that the Annual Community Day is on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> at Community Field. Please come out and meet the officers and enjoy the day and support the event. Everyone is invited! It will be posted soon.

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Meeting was called to order, and a moment of silence was observed after the Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

Roll was called and all council members were present.

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

There were no requests or comments regarding agenda items.

Requests and comments regarding general items:

Mr. Pat Smith, President of Plymouth Historical Society (PHS) said the society is looking to apply for an America 250A Grant for \$10,000 for 2026 education and celebration historic events and milestones in Plymouth Borough. This is a match grant, and they are asking the Borough to commit to the match. Council has agreed to open the agenda and add a motion for a vote. Ms. Helen Kobusky said she will write and submit the grant. She added that a resolution would not be needed but rather a letter of support for the borough.

Ms. Crystal Corrigan, President of Coal Kickers Youth Soccer is asking for another, larger field for the older kids to play on for the fall season. Currently, the fields they are using are not large enough for the U14 kids who play on a U19 size field, so they must play all their games at an away field. Council will look into finding them a larger field to play on and work out a schedule that works for everyone who needs to use these fields.

AGENDA VOTING:

Because the council was just presented this evening with the request for a grant for the Historical Society and the short timeline for the submission of the grant, a motion was made to open the agenda.

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

Motion was made to support the grant submission and to pledge the matching funds of \$10,000 and sign a letter of intent by council president to be submitted with the grant.

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

Motion made to accept the regular meeting minutes from April 8, 2025.

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

Motion made to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement dated May 12, 2025, between the Firefighters Local 840 which was negotiated between the parties for the contract year January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2029. I further move to authorized President of Council, Ron Kobusky, Councilman John Thomas and Councilman Earl Cunningham to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Borough and have the Borough Secretary, Gail Burdulis to attest to the same and affix the Borough seal to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. This contract is contingent on the Firefighter's signing this contract. In the event it is not signed, the contract as written is null and void and cannot be used against the borough in any court proceedings, arbitration, or any other proceedings. \*Contract attached

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

Motion made to hire part-time summer help for the Street Department. Said employee/s will be at an at will employee and receive \$12.50 per hour for each hour worked and work 24 hours per week. They will receive no benefits of any type, including but not limited to sick time, vacation, holiday pay or health insurance coverage.

\*On the question: This will be posted to the website and the Facebook page.

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

Motion made to approve an annual donation of \$6,000.00 to each of the three Plymouth Borough Fire Departments: No. 1; No. 2 & No. 3 for a total donation of \$18,000.00.

\*These are all budgeted items.

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

Motion made to approve a donation of \$7,500.00 to the Plymouth Public Library and another \$1,500 to the Shawnee Cemetery Preservation and \$1,500 to the Plymouth Historical Society.

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

Motion made to pay the invoice of \$7,870.87 from Berkheimer Tax Innovations for postage incurred with mailing of the 2025 interim Per Capita Tax bills.

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

Motion made to pay the final invoice for \$97,814.26 to Kriger Construction for work performed on the Coal Creek Wall Replacement Project. This invoice will be paid out of the Coal Creek Grant.

\*On the question: With the recent rains, some of the small stones were washed out from between the wall and the road blacktop. This is a drain area, and the contractor will come back and take small stone out and replace it with larger stone that will not wash out. There was no damage to the wall.

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

Motion made to pay PennEastern Engineers \$22,084.62 for inspections at the Coal Creek Wall Replacement Project. This will also be paid out of the grant money the borough received for this project.

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

Motion made to pay invoice for \$10,264.86 to Sig Saurer for the balance of an order placed for police guns & ammunition.

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

Motion made to pay Bassler Equipment Co. \$4,475.00 from Liquid Fuels funds for the purchase of a Core Drill/w stand for the street department.

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

Motion made to accept the April Fire and Police reports:

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

Motion made to pay the following monthly bills:

GENERAL FUND:	25-277GF – 25-375GF
LIQUID FUELS:	25-079LF – 25- 103LF
RECREATION FUND:	25-016RF – 25-024RF

\*On the question: Mr. Thomas votes yes on all bills except 25-374GF which he has a contractual financial interest.

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

Motion to adjourn made by both Mr. Morehart and Mr. Cunningham.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail Burdulis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gail Burdulis, Plymouth Borough Secretary

Approved June 10, 2025