

**ASHLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

July 8, 2026

7:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by President Cooney starting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: President Cooney, Mr. Bernodin, Mrs. Groody, Mr. Spieles, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Schmoltze, Mr. Menne, Mayor Kutz, Solicitor Price and Fire Chief Orth were present. Borough Manager Snyder was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kerri Kehler of the Pioneer Tunnel asked why the Traffic Plan for Pioneer Day was not on the Agenda along with the two signs for the Tunnel.

Mr. Kehler also mentioned the pamphlets for the Tunnel that shows the hours of operation along with other events were not displayed in the Office.

Mr. Kehler requests 3-4 barricades from the Borough for Pioneer Day.

Mr. Kehler asked if the Traffic Plan, which never changes needs to be approved of for every event, Solicitor Price told him Yes it does.

Denise Ulceski of 1814 Center St. wanted to thank any and all who helped with the planning of the Funeral Procession for Trooper Pahira.

Mike Kane of 131 Center St. commented on status of getting the speed limit lowered to 25 mph. Mayor Kutz explained that it is a lengthy process and the State will be coming in to do a Traffic Study.

Mr. Kehler commented on the car that is parked on Sth. 20th. St where there are signs posted No Parking Either Side. Chief Daley told Mr. Kehler to call the police when he sees the car parked there.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by 1, Mr. Schmoltze, 2 by Mr. Bernodin for the approval of the Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2026.

The motion carried Unanimously.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

- POLICE CHIEF
- FIRE MARSHALL
- DEP. HEALTH/CODE OFFICER
- FIRE CHIEF
- TREASURER
- WATER COMMITTEE
-

A motion was made by 1, Mr. Bernodin, 2 by Mr. Spieles to accept the Officers Reports.

The motion carried Unanimously.

BILLS AND TRANSFERS:

General Government Committee approved by Mr. Menne.

Public Safety Committee approved by Mr. Bernodin.

Utility Committee approved by Mr. Schmoltze.

Street Committee approved by Mr. Schmoltze

Recreation committee approved by Mrs. Groody.

Health Committee approved by Mr. Spieles.

Building Committee approved by Mr. Reilly.

Insurance Committee approved by Mr. Menne.

Blight Committee approved by Mr. Reilly.

A motion was made by 1, Mr. Spieles, 2 by Mr. Schmoltze to pay the Bills.

The motion carried Unanimously.

On the question, Mr. Menne suggested an amendment to motion to pay all the invoices except for Miller Environmental for the Management Fee for the Water Treatment Plant.

A friendly amendment between Mr. Spieles and Mr. Schmoltze was agreed upon.

BUSINESS:

1. Solicitor Price spoke about the Games of Skill. Until Legislature decides whether these machines are or are not legal, It would be wise of the Borough to do nothing with the Ordinance and also wise for the Borough to not collect the fees for those machines. According to the Supreme Court the Borough would be taxing something that is illegal.
2. Ashland Fire Department reports of June 17th. Solicitor Price mentioned that residents living at a certain property had unnecessary comments towards the Fire Departments in regards to a call made to a certain address. The issue was reported to the Borough Ins. carrier since it may be an identification of a potential claim.
3. Municipal Leins. There was discussion in the past for the Borough to file suits before a district justice for municipal delinquencies. The contract with Portnoff states that they are the Boroughs Only and Official collector. In an email sent to Attorney Kelly who is the Attorney for Portnoff, Solicitor Price told Attorney Kelly what the Borough wanted to do and is awaiting a response.
4. Amotion was made by 1, Mr. Schmoltze, 2 by Mr. Bernodin to forgive back taxes on 1239 Center St. in the amount of \$8,700.00 for Borough taxes and \$2,600.00 in Municipal Leins for the purpose of having the property be owned either by the Borough or the Washington Ambulance Co.
The motion carried Unanimously.
5. DEP Permit renewal, Solicitor Price informed everyone that this is the permit for the WWTP. DEP has given the Borough some rather strict conditions and feels that DEP should give some relief as to these conditions. Attorney Baucus and Mr. Cuff are involved with this and there is a conference call scheduled later on in the month of July. Solicitor Price will report back at the August Meeting.
6. Solicitor Price mentioned that Mr. Cuff is to come up and inspect the Higher Ups Wall, while Mr. Strauss mentioned to Solicitor Price about the drains in the wall being cleaned.
There was a long discussion about the Washington Fire Co. and the issue with the Ladder Tk scrapping the approach ramp while backing in. The Safety Committee witnessed the scrapping while on site for a meeting concerning this.
A motion was made by 1, Mr. Bernodin 2 by Mrs. Groody to allow the Borough engineers to check into this problem and possibly find a solution.
On a question, Mr. Cooney asked if the truck could be pulled in instead of being backed in, the answer was no, the Ariel will hit the ceiling.
The motion carried Unanimously.

7. On the topic of the possible sale of 1321 Spruce St., there was no motion to obtain an appraisal, but rather check the County Reassessment value of the property. If valued at \$6,000.00 or less then proceed with the sale.
A motion was made by 1, Mr. Reilly, 2 by Mr. Spieles to check with County Reassessment to find out the value of the property.
The motion carried Unanimously.
8. A motion was made by 1, Mrs. Groody, 2 by Mr. Spieles to allow the American Hose Co. to change their Chicken BBQ at Memorial Field from Sept. 5th to Sept 12th, contingent on the Ashland Black Diamonds not having a game that day.
The motion carried Unanimously.
9. A motion was made by 1, Mr. Reilly, 2 by Mr. Spieles to rescind the motion to check with County Reassessment to find out the value of 1321 Spruce St. and to also not proceed with the sale if County Reassessment is \$6,000 or less.
The motion carried Unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:47 pm a motion to enter into Executive Session was made by 1, Mrs. Groody, 2 by Mr. Spieles.

At 8:40 pm a motion to exit Executive Session was made by 1, Mr. Schmoltze, 2 by Mr. Bernodin.

At this time a motion was made by 1, Mr. Menne, 2 by Mr. Schmoltze to hire Mr. Daniel Lahr at the starting rate of \$24.00 per hr. with all benefits that current employees receive along with having a 90 day probationary period.
On a question, Mrs. Groody made it clear to Council that Mr. Lahr used Mrs. Groody's name on the application but is not related to her in any way.
The motion carried Unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Schmoltze mentioned that the Sanitation Crew should pick up bags of building materials that were dropped off in the parking lot at the west side of Memorial Field. Per Solicitor Price it would be unlawful to enter onto private property and remove such items without the owners consent.

A motion was made by 1, Mr. Reilly, 2 by Mr. Spieles to approve the Traffic Plan and signage submitted by Ashland Community Enterprises.

The motion carried Unanimously.

Chief Orth thanked the Safety Committee for getting together and looking at the issue at the Washington Fire Co. and also gave an update on the serious leak on the Reservoir Rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Kehler from the Pioneer Tunnel requested to borrow three barricades for Pioneer Day.

ADJOURN:

A motion to adjourn at 8:52 pm was made by 1, Mr. Menne, 2 by Mr. Bernodin.

ATTEST

William R Snyder Ashland Borough Manager.