ASHLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 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, Mr. Spieles, Mr. Schmoltze, Mayor Kutz, Solicitor Price, Police Chief Daley, Fire Chief Orth and Code/Health Officer Lyden. Mrs. Groody, Mr. Reilly, Mr. Menne and Fire Chief Orth were absent.

At this time there was a presentation by Benesch Engineering concerning the water situation. The representatives were Jennifer Kovelonek and Douglas Weist.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard Korn of 412 Peter St. about the Boil Advisory.

John Brown of 2015 Center St. asked about his water pressure, it was explained to him about how the system works.

Rosita DeCarlo of 600 N 9th St. had questions about the testing of the water and how long the boil advisory will be in effect.

Rebecca Korn of 412 Peter St. mentioned about having dirty water quite often.

Richard Korn of 412 Peter St. thanked Council for having this meeting and for all they do.

Mary Kay Seiler of 415 Center St. asked if the Borough should think about getting another water company, Solicitor Price explained that that is a topic for executive session because it would contain personnel matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by 1, Mr. Bernodin, 2 by Mr. Schmoltze for the approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 16, 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. Spieles, 2 by Mr. Bernodin to accept the Officers Reports.
The motion carried Unanimously

BILLS AND TRANSFERS:

General Government Committee approved by Mr. Bernodin.
Public Safety Committee approved by Mr. Bernodin.
Utility Committee approved by Mr. Bernodin.
Street Committee approved by Mr. Schmoltze
Recreation committee approved by Mrs. Spieles.
Health Committee approved by Mr. Spieles.
Building Committee approved by Mr. Spieles.
Insurance Committee approved by Mr. Bernodin.
Blight Committee approved by Mr. Spieles.

A motion to pay the bills was made by 1, Mr. Spieles, 2 by Mr. Schmoltze.
The motion carried Unanimously.

BUSINESS:

A motion was made by 1, Mr. Schmoltze, 2 by Mr. Bernodin for the Borough to NOT re-sign a 5year contract with Miller Environmental but will entertain a lesser amount and also allow Solicitor Price to send Miller Environmental a letter stating so.
The motion carried Unanimously.

Solicitor Price mentioned that the Billing System had been "scrubbed" by LB Water Services.

A motion was made by 1, Mr. Bernodin, 2 by Mr. Spieles to have the Garbage Truck frame and underside of hopper sand blasted and epoxy coated by Evans Painting with a quote of $2,500.00, and have the dump trucks frames inspected as well.
The motion carried Unanimously.

Solicitor Price spoke about the Knecht case and stated that Mrs. Knecht will be representing herself in court. Council was asked if they should allow Attorney Baucus to continue working on this case. All agreed to have him continue without the need for a motion.

Solicitor Price mentioned he was given permission to move forward with collections on water bills.

Revisions to the Little League were sent out and it was noted that the deadline to renew their grant is at the end of the year.

Todd Geist confirmed in writing that there is insurance coverage for Police Officers when engaging with Federal Agents.

A resident of Ashland sent the Borough a letter of his intentions to sue the Borough for 1,000,000.00. That letter was sent to the Boroughs Ins. carrier and Solicitor Price.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Borough Manager Snyder mentioned that the Fire Relief Funds for 2026 came in with an amount $11,136.56 which were divided evenly between the Washington Fire Co. and American Hose Co.
A motion was made by 1, Mr. Schmoltze, 2 by Mr. Bernodin to allow the Ashland Area Rotary Club, American Legion and Historical Society to hold the annual Old-Fashioned Christmas on Saturday Dec. 5, 2026 from 1pm until 8pm.
The motion carried Unanimously.

A motion was made by 1, Mr. Bernodin,2 by Mr. Schmoltze to allow the Ashland Area Rotary Club to hold a Santa Clause is Coming to Town Event and Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2026 starting at 6pm.
The motion carried Unanimously.

Washington Fire Co. was awarded a grant in the amount of $328,571.42 with Fire Co. contributing amount of $16,428.58 for a total budget of $345,000.00.

A motion was made by 1, Mr. Spieles, 2 by Mr. Bernodin to accept Resolution 2026 10 – 1, Ashland Borough Pension Plans.
On the question, Mr. Bernodin asked if the amounts were enough to cover the Plans or will the Borough need to contribute to it.
The motion carried Unanimously.

At this time there was a short 5 minute recess.

At 8:05 pm a motion was made by 1, Mr. Bernodin, 2 by Mr. Spieles to Enter Executive Session.
At 8:30 pm a motion was made by 1, Mr. Spieles, 2 by Mr. Bernodin To Exit Executive Session.

Executive session consisted of NPDES permit status, negotiations with DEP and pending claims on water and sewer bills.

The Authority approved Mr. Baucus to continue moving forward with negotiation with DEP and the NPDES permit.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments at this time.

ADJOURN:

At 8:38 pm a motion to adjourn was made by 1, Mr. Spieles, 2 by Mr. Bernodin.
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The motion carried Unanimously.

ATTEST

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William R Snyder Ashland Borough Manager.