TOWANDA BOROUGH

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2026

The Towanda Borough Council Regular Meeting was held on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Municipal Building, 724 Main Street, Towanda, PA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Eberlin, Mr. Roof, Mr. Saring, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Kovalcin, Mr. Christini, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Parks, and Mrs. Hatch

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS:

Fred Smith (Borough Solicitor), Barry Thrush (Code Enforcement), Fire Chief Bill Sheets, Daily Review reporter, Shane Mize, Kevin Doupe, Borough Manager Stacy Schoonover, Secretary/Treasurer Leigh Lattimer, Nick Hughes, Beau and Leesa Ryck, and Jayde Allen

PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Shane Mize – President of Porchfest
Mr. Mize reported that Porchfest was successful and thanked Council, volunteers, and local law enforcement for their support.

Nick Hughes – Treatment Court
Mr. Hughes requested assistance in finding a location for an October 30 Treatment Court commencement event involving community organizations and a Touch-A-Truck.

Kevin Doupe – Thomas Street
Mr. Doupe raised concerns that the vacant storefront art display program had stalled despite an existing ordinance and prior coordination with artists and businesses. Council discussed the implementation of the program.

Beau & Leesa Ryck and Jayde Allen – Towanda Turn Around Project
The Towanda Turn Around Project, a downtown Main Street cleanup, is scheduled for October 10. Borough coordination and support remain available.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the September 8, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Kovalcin and seconded by Mr. Saring. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the September 17, 2026, Special Meeting/Public Hearing Minutes was made by Mr. Kovalcin and seconded by Mr. Saring. The motion carried unanimously.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Sheets reported the following:

- The department had a busy month with 16 calls: 7 in the Borough, 4 in Towanda Township, and 5 mutual-aid calls.
- The new truck's plates have arrived, allowing the department to begin driving and training with it. The Chief hopes to put the truck into service next month.
- The department is holding off on selling the existing tanker until the new truck is ready. Three or four potential buyers have expressed interest.
- There has also been interest in the old engine, including from antique collectors.

FIRE BOARD REPORT

Mr. Parks reported that there is interest in purchasing the old engine and tanker and that the sales would generate funds for the department.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

- The department received four additional Axon body cameras at no charge, bringing the total number of body cameras to eight.
- The 2016 patrol car is ready to be sold. The cameras and computer have been removed.
- A recent barricaded-person incident in the Borough was resolved peacefully after approximately two hours.
- Testing for the open police officer position began September 28.
- The department is now compliant with the Attorney General's requirements regarding the release of confidential information.
- The department has been very busy with investigations, including matters involving Children and Youth Services.
- The owner of an inoperable vehicle that has been parked on William Street for several months was asked to remove it. If the vehicle is not removed, the department plans to arrange for towing.

POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Saring reported the following:

- The department is currently down two officers, resulting in a shortage of approximately 80 hours per week.

- Problems with the County's CentralSquare records management system were discussed. The system has not worked as intended, and the County may be considering another records management system.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- Council requested that future reports distinguish quality-of-life cases from other violations.
- Vacant storefront enforcement was briefly discussed.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

- The townwide street sign replacement list has been sent to Bradford County Planning and Mapping.
- Approximately $1,200 in unclaimed funds was claimed for Towanda Borough.
- A $20,000 fire grant application was submitted for thermal imaging cameras.
- Stop-sign markings were added at Kingsbury and William Streets near the school bus stop.
- A motion to advertise for bids for garbage collection was made by Mr. Kovalcin and seconded by Mrs. Miller. The motion carried unanimously.
- A motion to list the 2016 police car for sale was made by Mrs. Hatch and seconded by Mr. Parks. The motion carried unanimously.
- Towanda Area School District student window painting will begin October 15.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- A motion to approve Resolution 2026-14, terminating the Borough's agreement with CentralSquare Technologies, was made by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Saring. The motion carried unanimously.
- A motion to amend the agenda to add Council consideration of reconvening the Beyond Addiction conditional-use hearing was made by Mr. Kovalcin and seconded by Mr. Parks. The motion carried unanimously.
- Beyond Addiction had not submitted additional evidence regarding its conditional-use application. A motion to reconvene the hearing on October 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. and provide the required notices was made by Mrs. Hatch and seconded by Mr. Christini. The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- The Finance and Administration Committee reviewed the bills, including higher-than-usual expenses related to paving and the truck purchase.
- A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Kovalcin and seconded by Mrs. Hatch. The motion carried unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

- Mr. Christini reported that the Planning Commission did not meet during the month of September.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 20 to review the sewer plant application for consistency with the Towanda Borough Regional Comprehensive Plan.

RECREATION REPORT

- Riverfest was successful and well attended, with no significant problems reported. The beer garden and bingo both drew strong participation.
- Council discussed requiring outside organizations operating those activities in future years to cover their own banner and permit costs.
- Planning is underway for fall events, including the Pumpkin Roll and Trick-or-Treat.

LIBRARY REPORT

Minutes enclosed.

TMA/WTMA REPORT

Minutes enclosed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kovalcin. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Lattimer
Towanda Borough Secretary