

**Towanda Borough
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026**

The Towanda Borough Council Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday Sept. 8, 2026 7:00pm 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), Code Enforcement Barry Thrush, Fire Chief Bill Sheets, Daily Review reporter, Shane Mize, Kevin Doupe, Manager Stacy Schoonover, Secretary/Treasurer Leigh Lattimer

PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS

Kevin Doupe- Temporary Street Closures:

Kevin expressed support for keeping the current ordinance that allows the Mayor or Police Chief to approve temporary street closures, Council and the Mayor noted that after reviewing Borough Code 305-22 Temporary Changes, they saw no specific problem with the current process and intent to continue allowing the Mayor or Police Chief to approve temporary closures, with council oversight as needed. They agree there is a need to clarify expectations and planning requirements (e.g., defined "temporary", advance notice, traffic control plans and cost for areas like Merrill Parkway) and will refer those details to Finance & Administration for further discussion

Shane Mize- President of Porchfest

S. Mize thanked Council for its support and Borough employees for their assistance with Porchfest 2026.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the August 3, 2026, regular meeting 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 20 calls: nine in the Borough, three in Towanda Township, and eight mutual-aid calls.
- The new pumper-tanker was displayed at Riverfest and then returned to the company in Montrose for minor finishing work.
- Firefighter training on the new apparatus was scheduled for the evening of September 9.
- Once the new pumper-tanker is placed into service, the department will complete the remaining work on the old tanker, obtain a price, and advertise it for sale.

FIRE BOARD REPORT

Mr. Parks reported that the Fire Board met. As noted by the Fire Chief, the new pumper-tanker has arrived. Once personnel are qualified to operate it, the apparatus will be placed into service and will be a valuable asset to the department. The department plans to sell the two older trucks and return the proceeds to the Borough.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Miller presented a \$1,000 check from the Millstone AMVETS Riders Post 187 for the ongoing maintenance of Bradford County Veterans Memorial Park.
- Mayor Miller is participating in the "Mayor for the Day" school fundraiser.
- Mayor Miller thanked the volunteers and staff for a successful Riverfest.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

- New computers are being installed in the new police vehicles. Axon equipment will be installed shortly afterward.
- The department continued its community outreach through Riverfest, Law Enforcement Day, and a YMCA event.
- Two e-bike pursuits occurred. The operators fled on foot but were apprehended. Both were charged with DUI.
- The department will work on restoring its statistical reports, including citations, assists, and mental-health calls.
- The department is currently two officers short, and the hiring process is underway

POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Saring reported that the committee met and reviewed current police matters. The committee found no issues of concern and noted that everything was in good order.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

- No major issues were reported, and routine enforcement continues.
- Council was reminded of the September 17 special meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

- Repairs to the YMCA building are progressing. The roof has been completed, and work on the wall and drain remains on schedule.
- A \$100,000 Main Street Matters grant application was submitted in partnership with The Progress Authority. The matching grant would be used for storefront improvements on Main Street.
- Resolution No. 2026-11, establishing the Police Pension Plan's 2027 Minimum Municipal Obligation, was presented. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Saring and seconded by Mrs. Hatch. The motion carried.
- Resolution No. 2026-12, requesting authorization to apply for a Statewide Local Share Account grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for improvements to Tommy Fairchild Park, was

presented. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Kovalcin and seconded by Mr. Parks. The motion carried.

- All scheduled street paving has been completed and approved by PennDOT.
- The Gravely mower will be advertised for sale on Municibid.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Smith reviewed the following zoning matters:

- Approval of Joseph McGee's low-impact, home-based sports memorabilia business.
- The September 17 special meeting concerning Beyond Addiction's conditional-use request for 424-428 Main Street, located in the C-2 Central Business Zoning District

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- The committee reviewed the monthly bills, including large expenditures such as the new dump/plow truck, which will be reimbursed with LSA grant funds. The committee reported no concerns.
- A motion to approve payment of the bills as listed was made by Mr. Kovalcin and seconded by Mr. Saring. The motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

- Mr. Christini reported that the Planning Commission met on August 18 to hold a public hearing concerning Beyond Addiction's conditional-use request for 424-428 Main Street. Following the hearing, the Commission issued a formal recommendation to Borough Council.

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

- There was no meeting in August. Meetings will resume in September.

TMA/WTMA

- Minutes enclosed

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by M. Christini. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Leigh Lattimer
Towanda Borough Secretary