

White Haven Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2026

President John Klem called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm Roll call vote was taken and the following members were present: Julie Fallon, John Klem, Bob Lamson, Tom Szoke, Zane Writer and John Zugarek. Absent: Charlie Best. Also present: Mayor Tim Janosco, Police Chief Nick Ganz, Attorney Sean Logsdon, Borough Manager Linda Szoke, Engineer Dominic Yannuzzi, and Road Master Sean Reynolds.

Public hearing was then opened for the amending of Chapter 10, Fire prevention part 5, amending chapter 5, code enforcement parts 3 and 4, and amending Chapter 18-part, 4 parking section 404. Attorney explained the changes to each of the ordinances and then opened the floor for any questions. Resident Chris Roberts asked about smoke detectors. Since this is to existing rental units, the question is an issue for the building code official and not part of this ordinance. Resident Joan Swerdon asked what caused the changes for the rental units. Attorney explained that there were changes in the laws and entering a property that required the borough to make changes so the ordinance was still in compliance. Also listening to feedback from landlords, council looked at the entire process so it wasn't just one item that caused the change. Annual inspections were always done; council is just changing the process on how we are doing them. With no further questions at 7:10 pm the public hearing was closed by a motion from Lamson and seconded by Zugarek. Roll call vote was taken: Fallon -yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, T. Szoke-yes, Writer-yes, Zugarek – yes. The motion passed.

The minutes from the July 27, 2026 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Fallon and seconded by Lamson to approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Fallon-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, T. Szoke-yes, Writer-yes, Zugarek-yes. The motion passed.

President Klem then opened the meeting for public comment on agenda items. There were no public comments tonight.

Engineers Report

- The new stop signs were installed on 940/437.
- Library needs an extension for the contract because there were delays in getting some products.
- Power house road is going to be advertised and bids will be received September 8th trying to get all the way from 940 to the end. Bids will be in on Penn Bid and will send

them to Linda. Possibly call for a quick special meeting to vote on it. Lamson asked if we could get them done all this year. Dominic felt it could be done.

- Dominic reviewed the 5 grants so it is going to take some time to get them all working together to go out for bid.
- Chemung street paving bids came in; we will be able to do 4 sections and drainage. Bid was from American Asphalt paving for \$257,596.50. They were the only bidder for this project. A waiver was obtained so we don't have to go out to bid again. The borough has \$251,000 from community block grant. Dominic is going to ask for additional CBG funding if its available. If it's not the borough will use liquid fuels to take care of the shortfall. A motion by T. Szoke and seconded by Lamson to approve the bid and if CBG funds are not available to use liquid fuels for the project. Roll call vote: Fallon-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, T. Szoke-yes, Writer-yes, Zugarek-yes. Lamson had a question about Dennison Township was looking at drainage for that same area and if the borough would get additional water after we do this work? Dominic sent an email asking for plans from their engineer to see what working they are looking at completing.

Attorney's Report

- Casella contract addendum to establish regular collection day is Wednesday and this is Resolution 12 of 2026. A motion by Lamson and seconded by Fallon to approve Resolution 12 of 2026. Roll call vote: Fallon-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, T. Szoke-yes, Writer-yes, Zugarek -yes. Motion carried. This motion also includes being reimbursed for advertising, signage and legal fees by Casella.
- Amending the Rental property ordinance per the public hearing for Ordinance 1 of 2026. A motion by T. Szoke and seconded by Zugarek to adopt ordinance 1 of 2026. Roll call vote Fallon-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, T. Szoke-yes, Writer-yes, Zugarek-yes. Motion carried.
- Amending Chapter 18 parking regulations for Northumberland Street to accommodate date change for trash pick up in the borough and parking as discussed in Hearing. Motion made by Writer and seconded by Zugarek to adopt ordinance 2 of 2026. Roll call vote – Fallon-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, T.Szoke-yes, Writer-yes, Zugarek-yes. Motion carried.
- Amending Chapter 10 for emergency services and billing. A motion was made by Zugarek and seconded by Lamson to adopt ordinance 3 of 2026. Roll call vote: Fallon-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, T. Szoke-yes, Writer-yes, Zugarek-yes. Motion carried.
- T. Szoke asked attorney if he had gotten the ruling from the Ethics board regarding Garage time doing work on borough vehicles. Attorney Logsdon stated that he had the response with him and reviewed the request. The request was regarding T. Szoke being on council and if the ethics act would impose any prohibition or restrictions to

Tom while he serves on Council and works on borough vehicles. The brief answer is that the ethic act does not prohibit the individual or auto shop from doing work while serving on council. If it came up for the borough council had to vote to use the repair shop for a project then it would not be appropriate for him to vote for the repair. The full opinion is available if anyone would like to read it. Lamson then asked if this modifies where we take vehicles or are we going to continue to go elsewhere. Attorney Logsdon stated it would just be a matter of if Toms business would be available to work on equipment. There is no conflict of interest of Tom working on vehicles.

Managers' report

- Most of what we have is under the consent agenda. Linda did state that she had been speaking with some council members regarding zoning and code enforcement for a couple of months now and has submitted the resignation making it effective December 31, 2026 to give council plenty of time to find replacements but also to make sure that no zoning applications get automatically approved in the absence of someone doing this position.
- The MMO forms are in for the retirement plans for both uniform and non-uniform employees. This shows us what we will need to send in for the 2027 budget towards the employee retirement. As a reminder we do get money from the Pension relief fund to help off set that actually costs listed.
- The Lions are asking permission for the annual Halloween Parade
- The winter agreement is in for plowing this 2026-2027 winter season

Tax collectors - reports on file

Code Enforcement – reports on file

Street Committee

- Sean has a quote for the garage doors for \$6450.00. Sean also requested to hire Ethan Heithus to help the department get finished before the snow starts.

Police chief/committee/Mayor

- Chief Ganz spoke about National Night Out and how nice the event was. Thank you everyone for their help and donations.
- T. Szoke said we received a resignation from part-time Officer Ercolino. We also have a directive in the consent portion of the agenda that needs to be approved. There will be a police committee this coming week.
- Mayor Janosco also repeated on the need for officers. Lamson asked about how things are going in the Francis Walter Dam. So far, the feed back has been positive. The

residents have stopped and thanked the officers for being in the area. People just seeing the cars is calming the traffic down.

White Haven Fire – report on file

White Haven ambulance – report on file

Building and Grounds – nothing further tonight

Finance – Linda state we are holding our own and doing ok so far.

Recreation – nothing further, waiting to hear on DCNR grant for Lehigh Park

Planning – no meetings scheduled.

A motion by T. Szoke and seconded by Zugarek to approve the following items:

- Accept resignation for Zoning and Code enforcement positions effective 12/31/26
- Approve the annual MMO pension plan for uniform \$11,295.27
- Approve the annual MMO pension plan for non-uniform \$20711.13
- Adopt resolution 11 of 2026 for rate of pay for part-time officers from \$22.00 per hour to \$24.00 per hour
- Hire Ethan Heithus for part-time laborer public works @ \$17 an hour
- Adopt Resolution 13 of 2026 amending police directives to include Directive #43
- Grant permission to the White Haven Lions to hold the annual Halloween Parade on October 18 with rain date of October 25th, 2026.
- Approve the 2026-2027 winter agreement for snow plowing with Penn Dot for \$19,909.21. Year 3 of 10
- Adopt Resolution 14 of 2026 for the application of Luzerne County LSA grant to apply for an Ambulance for the White Haven Ambulance
- Approve quote for \$6,450 from F&L Doors for the Borough Garages
- Approval to extend the library contract with Richard Angelo for 30 days without penalty.

Roll vote: Fallon-yes, Klem-yes, Lamson-yes, T.Szoke-yes, Writer-yes, Zugarek-yes. Motion carried.

President Klem asked for Lamson, Best and himself as the executive committee to sit with Linda to go over the resignation of zoning and code enforcement. We will report back at our next meeting.

Payment of the bills. Linda just reminded council that the bills look high but its because the grants for the library project and the funds just pass through the borough. Lamson asked about the Sunoco Wex and if the was one month for the police. Linda stated its one more for police, streets, fire and ambulance. Lamson made a motion to pay the bills as presented and it was seconded by Fallon. All in favor, the motion carried.

Comments from citizens on non-agenda items – there are none tonight.

Attorney asked for a brief executive session for a Personnel matter after the meeting.

A motion was made at 7:50 pm by Lamson and seconded by T. Szoke all in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Szoke
Borough Manager