

**West Brownsville Borough
Regular Meeting
September 9, 2025**

President, Randy Tobak, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by Roll Call.

Council Members present were: Mr. Black, Mr. Braddock, Mrs. King, Mr. Pflugh, Ms. Stimmell, Mr. Tobak, Mr. Toth and Mayor Lacey. Also present were: Solicitor David Tamasy, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer Eddie Beck, Tax Collector Garnet Wooten, Engineer Jamie Harshman, Planning Commission Chair Stephen Bucar and Secretary Regina King.

Approval of the Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Black and seconded by Mrs. King to approve the agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Braddock and seconded by Ms. Stimmell to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment –

Bob Opel of 22 Main Street was in attendance to let council know that he did some more research on the sidewalk ordinance enforcement issue that he brought to council last month. He presented it to council and requested that they review the information that he provided to each council member. He is also requesting that council contribute input on restoring the sidewalks for public access on the first two blocks of Main Street. He is also requesting council have open discussion on enforcement of all ordinances that mandate the homeowners to maintain the sidewalks. He is concerned with parents and kids having to walk on the highway because there isn't sidewalks.

Ralph Anderson of 1135 McCrory Lane, California is in attendance to make council aware that there is a rat issue at the playground in Blainesburg. He has rentals on Washington Avenue and is seeing them running on the playground. Mr. Braddock told him that he would have the Street Commissioner look into it.

Shelby Ferguson of 320 Middle Street was in attendance to complain about the stray cats that are nuisances and are being fed by his neighbors on both sides of him. Mr. Tobak stated that this is an issue in the entire borough. He asked Mr. Beck if anything had been done under the quality of life ordinance. Mr. Beck stated that he is not going to act on anything unless there is a complaint form filled out. Mr. Ferguson asked why a complaint form is needed if he is there in person complaining. Mr. Beck stated

that was what the ordinance states. Mr. Tobak stated that it is becoming a public safety issue because when the food is out, it also attracts other wild animals and then rabies and other diseases becomes an issue. Mr. Beck will follow the ordinance if he gets a complaint.

Tax Collector Report – Garnet Wooten presented the tax collector report.

A reminder mailing was sent out for unpaid taxes.

A motion was made by Ms. King and seconded by Mr. Pflugh to accept the tax collector report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Secretary King reported the following account balances as of September 8, 2025:

Account	Balance as of September 8, 2025
General	\$ 153,931.42
Capital Improvement	\$ 2,208.60
Fire Fund	\$ 9,052.45
Act 13 Fund	\$ 36,776.89
Municipal Shares	\$ 80,207.80
Center West Settlement Fund	\$ 104,895.76
State Fund	\$ 29,869.81
Street Fund	\$ 28,771.74
War Memorial Fund	\$ 3,273.32
Second Blvd	\$ 24,909.55
Escrow Fund	\$ 5,048.44
Total Cash on Hand	\$ 478,945.78

The following unpaid invoices were presented for payment:

Harshman CE Group - \$577.50 – General
Harshman CE Group - \$455.00 – Municipal Shares
Harshman CE Group - \$195.00 - Municipal Shares
Harshman CE Group - \$525.00 - Municipal Shares

Secretary King reported:

The yearly salary survey from PSAB was presented if anyone wanted to look at it.

PSAB also sent copies of the updated Title 8 Statutes if anyone is interest in a copy.

The Washington County Tax Claim Committee sent the annual reports if anyone wants to see them.

The storage room roof is leaking again. Mr. Braddock will get in touch with Dunlevy Construction to have them come back and look at it.

A motion was made by Mr. Braddock and seconded by Ms. Stimmell to accept the secretary report and pay the unpaid invoices from the specified accounts. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sewage Authority Report – Mr. Pflugh stated that the annual audit was done. No issues except internal controls because it's one person. The new billing system is being put in. The new bills will look different and the account numbers will be different. The secretary was supposed to send a mock up of the new bills so that it could be put on social media to let everyone know to be on the lookout for them. Online payments will now be accepted.

A motion was made by Ms. Stimmell and seconded by Mr. Braddock to accept the sewage authority report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report - Mr. Tamasy presented the updated job descriptions to council for review.

Ordinance No. 2025-372 Water Boulevard right of way was discussed. A public meeting was held before the regular meeting to allow residents to ask questions. Several residents showed up with some claiming that they owned those properties. They were told to send a copy of the deeds and or taxes that they are claiming to have been paid on those properties so that the solicitor and engineer can review them. The Ordinance was put on hold until information from anyone claiming property is received and reviewed. Mr. Harshman, borough engineer explained how the survey was done.

We are still in litigation with Columbia Gas. They are still not allowed to dig in town unless there is an emergency. Mr. Tamasy will call and try to get the PA One Calls clarified so that emergencies can be distinguished from routine excavations.

A motion was made by Mr. Braddock and seconded by Mr. Pflugh to accept the Solicitor's report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Public Welfare- (Chair – Debby King, Co-chair - Pat Toth) Mrs. King asked if there are permits for the house on 519 Middle Street that was previously condemned to allow repairs. Mr. Beck from code enforcement stated that a permit has been issued to repair the roof and clean the junk out of the house. He is not allowed to do anything else until he contacted the borough engineer and send them plans from an architect to show how repairs will be done to correct the reasons for the condemnation. Mr. Harshman stated that they have reached out to them and they are waiting on plans from the home owner so they can be reviewed.

The sink hole on Main Street was discussed. Mr. Braddock contacted Senator Fetterman's office and has had no response. He called Representative Reschenthaler's office and they called him twice and said they will try to get in touch with Senator Fetterman's office but so far no response. Engineer Harshman looked at the area to give his recommendations. The railroad will not call him back. He has tried several people with no success. The repairs to the tracks that were done recently seem to have made the problem worse or coal spilling all over Main Street. Several options were discussed that included calling the news stations and calling the DEP. They are in agreement to call the DEP.

Public Works – (Chair – Von Braddock – Co-chair – Jim Pflugh) Mr. Braddock wants to get the trailer weighed with the equipment on it to see if the weight is under 26,000lbs. so that the Street Commisisoner and the other street worker won't need to get their CDL License. Officer Beck stated that the placards on the equipment are used instead to determine the weight. It doesn't matter what a weigh station weight is. Mr. Braddock will check the placards. Mr. Braddock said that he can call Albert or Todd to move equipment. They will check to make sure the trailer is inspected also.

A motion was made by Ms. Stimmell and seconded by Mr. Toth to authorize Mr. Braddock to be able to call Albert or Todd to move equipment when needed. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Braddock reported that the Jefferson Avenue and Pittsburgh Road is now complete. Engineer Harshman gave the details on the project. The invoices have not been approved yet. The inspectors did a daily report and it will be forwarded to Borough Secretary, Regina.

Mr. Braddock brought up about the zero turn mower being replaced. He would like to get estimates on a commercial zero turn to replace it. Street Commissioner Berrish will call and get estimates on a replacement at Middletown Tractor and some other places for the budget meeting.

Mr. Braddock requested availability from Albert so the project on Monroe can be completed.

Mr. Braddock is also requesting Albert to get the trucks ready for winter and do whatever preventative maintenance that is needed completed.

Mr. Tobak brought up about the road restoration that is needed from Jackson and Eighth Street on the sewage line that was put in for the new modular. Bob's Plumbing did the work and they need to follow the street opening ordinance. Mr. Tobak stated that Todd used to take care of that as the Street Commissioner, is Gavin going to enforce the ordinance or will the police need to assist him on the enforcement? Mr. Braddock is requesting that Officer Beck assist him in getting that done because Street Commissioner Berrish is not familiar the street opening ordinance and is still learning. Mr. Tobak stated that the water company needs also needs to repair the one on Main Street around the 200 Block.

Mr. Braddock is having a meeting with the water company next week to go over the plans of their project to replace their line under the river. He will ask them about repairing that section on Main Street.

Recreation – (Chair – Andrea Stimmell – Co-chair – Von Braddock) Ms. Stimmell reported that she spoke with the Mayor of Brownsville and their trick to treat is going to be Saturday, October 25 from 4-6pm. She would like to set ours as the same.

A motion was made by Mr. Braddock and seconded by Mr. Pflugh to set Trick or Treating in West Brownsville Borough for Saturday, October 25th from 4-6PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

She also researched about having a movie night at the Blainesburg Playground. She found that a license is needed to be able to show the film. She reached out to Swank Motion Pictures to get the details. The cost of the license is \$300 for up to 100 people. They also offer discounts for multiple movies. The film company will provide advertisement fliers that can be copied and put on social media. She would like to do it either the Saturday before trick or treat or right after trick or treat. Mr. Braddock is offering to pay for the license and allow the usage of the electricity from his building for the first movie. After that, if it goes over well, council can discuss the license fee payment. Ms. Stimmell stated that they are also going to provide popcorn. The fire company will also be there with drinks and snacks for sale.

A motion was made by Mr. Black and seconded by Mr. Toth to allow the movie night. Mr. Pflugh stated that we should probably contact the insurance company to make sure nothing else is needed on their end. Secretary King will contact them. All in favor. Motion carried.

Budget & Finance – (Chair – Jim Pflugh – Co-chair – Dick Black) Mr. Pflugh reported that he is looking to set a date to have the budget meeting to do the General Fund budget. A date of Monday, October 6th at 5:30PM was decided. Mr. Pflugh, Mr. Black, President Tobak and Secretary King will be there.

Mr. Pflugh also stated that a multi municipal plan meeting will be on September 23rd at noon with the DCED representative, Stephanie Edwards and Brownsville Borough, Brownsville Township and West Brownsville Borough to come up with some plans on how the communities can come up with a plan to help each other.

Personnel – (Chair – Pat Toth, Co-Chair – Debby King) Mr. Toth reported that interviews were held for the Street Department position. The personnel committee and Mr. Braddock was in attendance. They are recommending Ronald Costello for the position. Mr. Tobak wanted to know if the job description and pay was presented to all the candidates. Mr. Braddock stated that everything was presented to them.

A motion was made by Mr. Pflugh and seconded by Ms. Stimmell to offer the Street Department Position to Ronald Costello at \$18/hour with a \$150/month insurance stipend and a 6 month probation period. All in favor. Motion carried.

Planning – (Chair – Dick Black, Co-Chair – Andrea Stimmell) – Mr. Black stated that he is not happy with the sign fee that was included with Resolution No. 9 of 2025. He feels it's not fair. He feels it may deter development in the borough. Mr. Tobak stated that this revised Resolution has already been passed and discussed already. He wants to know why it is coming up now again. Mr. Black feels that the fee shouldn't be based on the overall project cost. Solicitor Tamasy stated that the borough went through a period of about 5 months to overhaul all of the pertinent ordinances for development and also created the planning commission. He asked for input or any changes and nobody spoke up so he also stated that the sign fee was not changed and was the same as the original fee schedule that was already in effect.

Engineer Report – Mr. Harshman gave his report that was included in the packets.

Mr. Harshman is asking for a motion to advertise bids for the Second Boulevard project. The easements are not in place yet. Solicitor Tamasy has given the easements to Mr. Braddock to get them signed.

A motion was made by Mr. Braddock and seconded by Mr. Pflugh to authorize Harshman Engineering to advertise for bids for the Second Boulevard Project. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Harshman stated that Russell Standard is supposed to be coming in next week to do the seal coat repairs. The contact is Jake. Jamie will call him again to confirm. Mr. Braddock requested that they let him, Mr. Pflugh, Mr. Tobak and Street Commissioner Berrish know when they will be here so someone can make sure they do all the repairs properly. Jamie will call them.

Mr. Harshman explained the easements needed for the Second Boulevard Project and an alternative plan if they can't be obtained.

A motion was made by Mr. Braddock and seconded by Mr. Pflugh to accept the Engineer Report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Report – Mr. Holp, Vice President, reported nothing new.

A motion was made by Mr. Pflugh and seconded by Mr. Braddock to accept the Planning Commission Report. All in favor. Motion carried

Code Enforcement/Zoning Office Report – Mr. Beck stated that the code enforcement/zoning report is the packets for review.

Mr. Tobak asked if there is anything new on the house on the 3rd Street Extension. Mr. Beck reported that they did apply for a permit. A couple of windows were boarded up and nothing has been done since. Mr. Beck will follow up on that property.

A motion was made by Mrs. King and seconded by Mr. Black to accept the code enforcement/zoning report. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor's Report – The monthly police report is in the packets.

Mayor Lacey reported that the safety cage has been installed in the police truck.

He would also like authorization to purchase materials to finish the police evidence room. Materials of insulation, drywall or OSB board will be needed. Officer Beck also stated that he will paint the outside wood since the siding hasn't been done yet. Mr. Tobak would like the siding to be finished as soon as possible while the weather is still nice. Officer Beck said that he could finish it but would need some help with the drywall. Mr. Braddock said to let Gavin know when he needed him and he could help. Insulation will be needed for the ceiling also.

A motion was made by Mr. Pflugh and seconded by Mr. Braddock to authorize the purchase of materials up to \$750 for the repairs in the evidence room out of the General Fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Braddock and seconded by Mr. Toth to accept the Mayor's report. All in favor. Motion carried.

President's Report – nothing.

Old Business – Mr. Braddock stated Bobby Cross, who asked council last month to purchase a drain box and pipe to repair the existing pipe/old cut in half water heater, is willing to finish the pipe installation all the way to the intersection at no labor cost to the borough if council will purchase the pipe.

Mr. Braddock made a motion to authorize the purchase of 8 more sections of pipe to finish the job on Monroe and Fourth out of the Street Fund. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business – nothing.

Announcements – The Tri County Borough Association meeting flyer is in the packets.

Adjournment –

A motion was made by Mr. Braddock and seconded by Mrs. King to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Regina King, Secretary

