

BOROUGH OF WHITAKER
MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
June 10, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

David Funk, President of Council, called the regularly scheduled council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

David Funk, President of Council, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECORDING OF MEETING

Dave Funk, Vice President of Council, read the following statement, "This meeting is being recorded for a matter of record and in assistance in the preparation of the minutes."

ROLL CALL

Council Present: David Funk, President of Council; Christopher Prilla, Vice President of Council; Matt Pasquantonio; Richard Lassige; Robert Silvasy; Albert Race.

Others Present: Joseph Dalfonso, Solicitor; Michele Lippert, Borough Secretary

Council Absent: Dan Urban

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dave Funk, President of Council, announced that an Executive Session was held on June 3, 2025 regarding litigation and personnel issues.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2025 Council Meeting:

- Motion – Rich Lassige
- Second – Chris Prilla
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: The financial report for May 2025 was presented by Bob Silvasy.

Motion to accept the financial report and pay the bills as presented.

- Motion – Al Race
- Second – Rich Lassige

Dan _A_ Matt _Y_ Rich _Y_ Dave _Y_ Bob _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

Streets, Roads & Property:	Al Race reported that the PW crew wants to give credit to Sue for what she took care of during the storm. Normal cutting & weeding of borough properties moving along. Matt Pasquantonio added still a little to do regarding the public works building.
Recreation:	Bob Silvasy reported there have been some issues with people getting into things down at the ballfield. Bob reported that someone tampered with the electric box and he will be putting another lock on it.
Police & Personnel:	Rich Lassige reported that three officers will be sworn in after the meeting. Al Race reported there was a bit of water that came in downstairs during the storms and that he authorized PW to get a dehumidifier.
Health & Sanitation:	Rich Lassige reported 21 notices were mailed out, 11 went to the Magistrate, 5 complied, 5 are pending. 14 door knockers, 12 complied, 2 went to magistrate.
Fire & EMS:	No Report.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Whitaker Sewage Committee:	Rich Lassige reported PAMS sent out 11 shut off notices. Sue found where the water is coming from that is going to 837, will need to talk to the engineer. Rich believes it is a 24" pipe with 4 catch basins that run into it, 8 to 10 feet wore away that is on the hillside.
Planning Committee:	No Report.
Tax Collection Committee:	Secretary Lippert reported next meeting is September 2025.
Recreation Committee:	Chris Prilla reported they are still getting information gathered for the restrooms.
Mayor's Report:	Mayor Jensen reported for the month of May; Whitaker PD answered 76 calls; PSP answered 9 calls for a total of 85 calls.
Solicitor's Report:	No Report.

Engineer Report: Dave Funk read the report for May 2025.

Bldg. Insp/Code Enforce Rprt: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- Motion to purchase a 2025 F550 with an upfitted steel body dump bed and winter tire chains from Shultz Ford. For the amount of \$81,270., utilizing the LSA grant that was awarded January 14, 2025.
- - Motion – Matt Pasquantonio
 - Second – Chris Prilla

Dan _ A _ Matt _ Y _ Rich _ N _ Dave _ Y _ Bob _ Y _ Al _ N _ Chris _ Y _

MOTION CARRIES

- Motion to purchase an upfitted complete plow & spreader package from Steel City Motor & Plow for \$_____, utilizing the LSA grant that was awarded January 14, 2025.

There was a counter Motion to table the Motion

- Motion – Rich Lassige
- Second – Dave Funk

Dan _ A _ Matt _ N _ Rich _ Y _ Dave _ Y _ Bob _ Y _ Al _ Y _ Chris _ Y _

MOTION WAS TABLED

- Motion to enter into an additional two-year agreement July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027, with Zach Cain (XPEL) for nuisance wildlife control at a monthly fee of \$300, contingent on solicitor's approval.
 - Motion – Matt Pasquantonio
 - Second – Rich Lassige

Dan _ A _ Matt _ Y _ Rich _ Y _ Dave _ Y _ Bob _ Y _ Al _ Y _ Chris _ Y _

MOTION CARRIES

- **Motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Kimberly Maywood as a part-time probationary police officer upon the condition that all necessary qualifications as set forth in the Police Policies & Procedures Manual are met.**
 - Motion – Rich Lassige
 - Second – Chris Prilla

Dan _A_ Matt _Y_ Rich _Y_ Dave _Y_ Bob _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- **Motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Yvonne Battiste as a part-time probationary police officer upon the condition that all necessary qualifications as set forth in the Police Policies & Procedures Manual are met.**
 - Motion – Al Race
 - Second – Matt Pasquantonio

Dan _A_ Matt _Y_ Rich _Y_ Dave _Y_ Bob _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- **Motion to accept the quote from Park Plumbing for \$615.00 to repair the backflow at the ballfield restrooms, also includes backflow testing.**
 - Motion – Bob Silvasy
 - Second – Chris Prilla

Dan _A_ Matt _Y_ Rich _Y_ Dave _Y_ Bob _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- **Motion to hire William Litzinger for summer help effective immediately through the start of school year of 2026 for public works at \$11.00 per hour.**
 - Motion – Al Race
 - Second – Matt Pasquantonio

Dan _A_ Matt _Y_ Rich _Y_ Dave _Y_ Bob _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

- **Motion to change PAMS' authorized lien amount from \$1000 to \$500.**
- - Motion – Rich Lassige
 - Second – Dave Funk

Dan _A_ Matt _Y_ Rich _Y_ Dave _Y_ Bob _Y_ Al _Y_ Chris _Y_

MOTION CARRIES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▪ **Whitaker Community Cares meetings and events:**

- Regular – The next meeting is June 19 at 7 p.m. at the fire hall.
- Whitaker Fall Festival on September 27, 2025, 1pm – 6pm.

CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION

Michael Bogesdorfer - 213 Mifflin Street, Terrance Ryan - 180 Frank Street, Louanne Davis – 223 Frank Street and Dillon Martin – 223 Frank Street.

The above residents wanted to express their dissatisfaction with Council's decision to remove the 2 speed bumps that were in the borough on Mifflin & Frank, although they all stated that cars still did not slowdown in those areas.

(Names input from residence identification later in the meeting)

Louann stated a black truck comes barreling down on Frank no matter who's in it, it almost hit animals, it almost hit people, children most importantly. Louanne feels the borough should have gotten more speed bumps instead of taking them out. She thinks that the borough should not have taken them out because of one person's complaint.

Councilman Matt asked if the speed bump slowed anyone down?

Louanne stated that he witnessed someone get hit by a vehicle, she almost got hit going to work, she almost got hit going down the street, walking her dog, she is tired of it.

Matt feels that this is a police presence thing not a speed bump thing. If people see more police in the borough they will slow down.

Dillion stated the police do not go down Frank Street.

Terrance stated how can council take them out because of one resident when they have been there for 5 years, one person complains and the borough removes them, why weren't more put in? He stated he drives the city every day and every neighborhood has speed bumps in them, why can't we get them?

President Dave Funk stated, let me interrupt you, you need to state your name and residence, Terrance Ryan 180 Frank Street. Dillon Martin 223 Frank Street, Louann Davis same address, then President Funk stated OK I didn't mean to interrupt you.

Louanne stated that while it is nice that we now have police, she stated they have issues with someone down on Freidel setting off fireworks at random hours during the weekdays and no matter how many times you confront them, they keep doing it. Her neighbor has PTSD from being in the Military and he just recently had an episode and this stuff is triggering to that, and if they call police, grant it now we have police, but if they call police they wait forever for someone to show up.

Terrance then spoke up that he wants an answer why council took out the speed bumps for one person, that is what he wants to know,

Dillion stated he wants to know as well.

Mike Bogesdorfer wants to know too, he stated they speed like it is nobody's business and he can't even get out of his driveway sometimes.

Then Louanne stated half the time they do not stop for the kids getting on and off the buses.

Everyone started talking over each other, unable to determine what is being said.

Councilman Matt Pasquantonio stated that meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month, Terrance said that is why we are here now. Matt continued that a lady showed up who lives right outside the speed bump on Mifflin, she could not pull out of her driveway without hitting the speed bump, she would sit there everyday not able to enjoy having the windows open because of cars hitting the speed bump and that sometimes she couldn't sleep because of the noise when cars would hit the bump. Mike interjected that he lives two doors from here and he has the same problem, ***everyone started speaking over each other again***, Solicitor Gina Russo and President Funk advised one to speak at a time,

Terrance stated ok you made a point, are the speed bumps really stopping the cars from going? OK did it really stop her backing out of her driveway?

Councilman Matt stated she was hitting the speed bump dead on.

Terrance stated it was only this high it's not going to do nothing; they needed newer bumps in there. Councilmen Matt stated OK your right it is not going to do anything and you guys are complaining about something that was not doing anything anyway.

Terrance brought up other neighborhoods including Squirrel Hill that have speed bumps and theirs do slow cars down, **more talking over each other**...then Louanne asked if there could have been a compromise and move the speed bump from in front of her house. Then she stated I get it, you didn't want to deal with the lady, but why move it from Frank Street, what was the reason for that? President Funk stated people did not even slow down.

Terrance stated because we need more of them.

President Funk stated no it is not a matter of needing more, first you need law enforcement here to do something about the speeders. We can't do anything about, like you can't do anything about it.

Councilmen Matt stated to be honest the residents of Squirrel Hill are wanting to sue the city because of the damage the bumps are doing to their cars.

Dillion stated what about the messed-up roads destroying my car? We elected not to do anything about the roads around here, Frank Street extension in going to be undriveable within the next 2 years.

Councilmen Matt stated Magnolia is getting done that we are doing the roads in sections.

More talking over each other...President Funk had too again state one at a time.

Mike Bogesdorfer stated we had funding last year for these streets and roads what happened to that? Still not here, you have an engineer sitting on his butt.

Councilmen Matt stated, Mike you sat in that seat right there, and Mike said I know I did and I argued about it all of the time, Matt stated we are in the same position we were the last time. Mike stated well get him off his butt and get it done. Matt stated you don't think I haven't tried to have this guy in here every month, then you're mistaken because I have been.

Mike stated then get a new one then, like we wanted to do.

Councilmen Matt stated we can't do anything about it right now buddy.

Mike stated nothing is still not getting done, just like the PW building, Matt stated he is doing his best. Mike stated and the restrooms down there and everything, nothing is getting done.

Matt stated we have a bid on the garage, Mike stated yeah after 5 years. Where are things at now? We don't have nothing down there, Dave Funk stated we don't have enough funding to complete it all.

Mike stated it is getting ridiculous.

Louanne then brought up 216 Frank Street with the grass, she was advised they are going to court next month, she asked if it is going to be taken care of then, Councilmen Rich Lassige advised he hopes so. She said because the owners are terrible to get a hold of and the tenant that was there harassed everyone including animals.

Terrance stated Ok so we have more police they are not going to be on Frank & Mifflin everyday so cars are still going to fly, why can't we put speed bumps back in?

Matt stated if that is the theory, then speed bumps would have to go in all over town.

Terrance stated they should be put in on the main roads, Frank Street, Hamilton, Mifflin, the ones where cars are always flying. You can almost get hit coming around S bend every day because they are flying. They don't stop at the stop sign at Frank & Cherry; it's a roll through. You better attention if not..., the black truck she is talking about lives on...uhm.. Louanne spoke up and stated he lives on Freidel, Terrance stated or Sherman, Louanne stated there are two black trucks that fly down the street, and Terrance said and they just fly. We sat out there, me & Dan, he came by us doing about 35 and we were yelling...Louanne stated if you yell at them, they flip you off and keeps barreling down the street.

Dillon stated we are going to complain about road nose from the speed bump, I have to hear road noise from him speeding up and down the road.

Talking over each other again.

Someone spoke up and said it will slow people down if we have officers on the streets, and someone else stated and there has to be consequences, they have to be pulled over and given

speeding tickets...that needs to be done, can't be just let them do. Illegally parking, all of the stuff they need to be held accountable.

Terrance stated I think you still need to put the bumps back in because there are not going to be cops there all of the time and they don't come up and down Frank Street.

President Funk stated he sat and watched the speed bumps, they never slowed anybody down, maybe you, maybe some people in the audience here, but nobody else.

Terrence stated that is why I said they need more.

Mike asked when did you see them Dave?

Dave stated he sat up on Bouquet Street and watched them a couple of years ago.

Mike said well now they are all slowing down, if you be there in the morning or the evenings between 3-5 o'clock you'll see them go flying over there. Dave stated he didn't see anybody even slow down. Mike continued to state you will see people flying over it, flying over it. Same thing with the stop sign at Cypress, they don't stop there, they come right around.

More talking over each other.

Dave then acknowledged another resident, OK sir go ahead...

Jim Malloy – 128 E Schwab Avenue – There are 9 little kids that live on my street, they put the 15 MPH signs up, I think they read them as 51 MPH, because they fly up and down that street. Somebody is going to get hurt. Another thing the alley behind my house, my yard floods every time it rains hard because the alley slopes down on the side of my garage, it fills my yard up and the neighbor's yard up. I asked the borough about 4 years ago about it and they stated if they get some extra asphalt, they could put a curb up or something, who do I see about that? They asked Sue about it, she stated she knows his area very well and could probably make a curb with cold patch. ***Crowd started talking over each other again,*** President Funk stopped them and let Mr. Malloy finish...One thing I haven't heard brought up yet is the little kids selling water on the corner. I witnessed a little girl about this big, she was on the opposite corner of Broc & Newts and this car came up Spur Road, she ran across the street to get another bottle of water, and this guy, I don't know how he missed her...there are at least 5 or 6 kids out there selling water, running out to the car...somebody is going to get killed there. The mayor stated she has addressed this with the Chief, Mr. Malloy stated they were there today, he saw them selling water as he was coming to the meeting.

Kathy Geczi – 139 Chalfont Street – What can we do to stop that? President Funk stated there is not much the borough can do about it, there are no parents around and they won't tell you who their parents are or where they live.

Louanne Davis – 223 Frank Street – Who are we supposed to contact when there are loose animals? She was advised it is Who Rescued Who. Another thing how do we get Duquesne Light to take us serious about our power lines? They are not in good shape, birds have died on the power lines, because of the exposure, Kelly Prilla advised to call the PUC (Public Utility Commission). She then asked if the Summer Meal Program would be happening this year, she was advised the borough has not had that for many years, and they tried recently but were not able to get any volunteers.

Irene Antol – 121 East Mifflin – Wants to commend the Public Works Department for the work they did after the storms, removing the trees off of the road, they did a wonderful job.

Someone spoke up and said she thinks Sue is one of the hardest working people she knows, everyone agreed and they all gave her applause.

Dave Lippert – 122 Grant Avenue – Since we now have more police working, how about they start sitting at some of these stop signs and start tagging these people. It might make them start stopping & slowing down on these streets that everyone are complaining about, instead of sitting at the station or down on the Avenue or in the parking lot of the Fire Department, how about

getting them out on these streets and start tagging them, especially with 2 cops on...start pulling these people over. The mayor advised that she has that handled.

Someone asked if the new cops could be introduced to them?

The mayor called them up and they introduced themselves to the audience with a little of their background... Welcome Yvonne Battiste, Kimberly Maywood & Ian Clinton.

The Mayor then swore them all in.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

- Motion – Chris Prilla
- Second – Bob Silvasy
- Voice Vote – All in Favor

MOTION CARRIES