



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM
COUNCIL MEETING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHAMBERS



Tuesday, September 9, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Minutes

ORDER: 6:00_____ p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG:

ROLL CALL: Susan Clark, Scott Dadowski, Lou Ann Homa, Kevin Bertock, Brian Nolan, Ray Kerr, Maggie Smith, and Mayor Bob Lang.

ALSO

Borough Solicitor: Eric H. Dee;

Borough Manager: Dwight D. Boddorf;

PRESENT: **Code Enforcement Officer:** Anthony D. Bruni; Absent with Cause

Police Department: Jeremy Howell

PRESENTATION: N/A

CITIZEN COMMENT SECTION 1: Open to any comment **on the current** agenda. (3-minute time limit)

EXCEPTIONS TO OPEN MEETINGS (65 Pa.C.S.A. § 707):

1. N/A

MINUTES: 08-12-2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
RK;BN-7-0

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Communication from PA Department of Labor and Industry.

COMMITTEE and DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mayor Report	<i>For both Boroughs: 52 major crimes, 245 calls, 31 arrests, 11 traffic citations, 4 non-traffic.</i>
President Report	<i>ALOM Board of Directors Meeting on 9-4-2025. There were discussions about allowing bids and advertisements to go online and not print.</i>
Solicitor Report	N/A
Police Chief Report	N/A
Code Officer Report	2025.08 Monthly Report



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Engineer Report	2025.08- Engineer Report If draining your pool, allow your pool to dechlorinate first by keeping it uncovered and waiting ten (10) days after its last chlorination to allow the chlorine to dissipate in the air.
Manager Report	Finance Update: Budget prep for 2026 is underway, and as you'd expect, utilities are a big focus. On the water side, our distribution pipes are really at the end of their 100-year lifecycle. We've started restructuring and combining parts of the system, and we're putting more emphasis on cross-training so staff can cover different roles when needed. On the electric side, demand and supply costs have gone up and will keep going up. This year, we switched suppliers to save money, and we've also been trying out doing more of the consulting work in-house instead of outsourcing it. We're still working toward bringing the lineman role back in-house as well. Currently, we're paying \$165 per hour for one contracted lineman, excluding overtime, which adds up quickly. I'm also pulling together updated cost figures in case Council would prefer to shift back to outside consultants for oversight, IT, specialized legal counsel, and planning. For example, an early estimate for the electrical contract consultant is around \$100,000 per year and or \$255.00 per hour. Either way, the Borough is making a strong effort to stay ahead of repairs and long-term planning for our utilities. Part of that is spreading out rate increases gradually over four or five years, instead of hitting people with big jumps all at once. Upcoming Events: ▪ Other Updates: ▪ Tree trimming ▪ Park Signs ▪ Remaining docks removed Reports and Updates: 2025.07 - League Link: July 2025 (last updated) 2025.08 - PELRAS Update 2025.08 - Allegheny County Council 2025.08 -PME Ae-Newsletter Sheriff Sale Listings (2025): 2025.08 Bid List 2025.08 Sale Results



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Business

Postponed Business:

- Discussion on street closures.

New Business:

Consent Agenda Items (Bundled together for motion)

- Motion to approve consent items 1-3
 1. Motion to pay the Borough bills for the month of August 2025.
 2. Motion to accept the bid of N. Leslie for the open Public Works Laborer position and to ratify the hire effective August 25, 2025.
 3. Motion to accept Compass Minerals America as the lowest responsible bidder through the SHACOG Purchasing Alliance for rock salt with a primary bid price of \$88.32 per ton.

RK/BN; 7-0

- Discussion on the 7th and Ormond project.
- Motion to approve the remaining 7th and Ormond Project funding commitment.

SD/ BN; 7-0

- Motion to approve purchase of StatTrak Data Collector for \$5,519.58
*Note: Works with the current All Traffic Solutions Cloud and counts traffic data only.

Borough Manager Boddorf stated the following:

The Borough would like to acquire a StaTrak Data Collector to track traffic counts, speeds, and flow patterns. This tool gives us accurate data to better understand roadway use, improve safety planning, and strengthen grant applications that require up-to-date traffic information.

On the 10th Avenue radar, we have a traffic count of 163,099 vehicles for August 2025

LH/MS; 7-0



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- Motion to approve change order for park bollard project for approximately \$20,000.00
*Note: cost per bollard is the same, but we are recommending reducing the space between the bollards to ensure safety, which will add more bollards to the project.
SC/RK; 7-0
- Motion to adopt [Resolution 25-16: 2026 MMO](#)
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, RATIFYING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2026 MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS (MMO)
SC/MS; 7-0
- Motion to adopt [Resolution 25-17: 2026 Water Rates](#)
RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF TARENTUM, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DESIGNATING THE 2026 WATER RATES AND ESTABLISHING A FOUR-YEAR PLAN TO PHASE-IN UNIFORM WATER CONSUMPTION RATES AND METER-SCALED BASE CHARGES, INCLUDING AN INCREASE TO THE EAST DEER CONTRACT RATE, AND REPEALING ALL RATES INCONSISTENT HERewith.
*Note: Recommendation to freeze **residential** water rates until 2029.

Borough Manager Boddorf stated the following:

I want to give you an update on the proposed water rate restructuring. Right now, our model is outdated and inequitable. Large commercial and institutional users are paying significantly less per gallon than residential customers. In 2024, a household paid about \$13.95 per 1,000 gallons, while a six-inch industrial meter paid only \$8.83. That's a built-in 36% discount for the heaviest users.

This isn't fair, it discourages conservation, and it shifts more of the costs onto residents. It also leaves us without the predictable revenue we need to replace century-old water lines and qualify for grants.

What I'm recommending is a four-year transition to a fair, transparent structure where everyone pays the same per-gallon rate. By 2029, all customers would be billed at \$13.50 per 1,000 gallons. At that point, base charges will be recalibrated using AWWA meter equivalency ratios, so fixed costs like metering, billing, and system access are properly assigned by meter size.

Even after the change, we'll remain competitive regionally. Pittsburgh is at \$16.38, Penn Hills is over \$26, and Blawnox is \$13. We'll be right in the middle of the pack.

To meet our East Deer contract requirements, Council would need to adopt the resolution by September for the new rates to take effect January 1, 2026.

This is a foundational step to bring our system in line with best practices, align with AWWA standards, and ensure fairness and long-term stability.

SC/BN; 7-0



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AVNCOG	N/A	Chair: Mr. Bertocki
Business Advisory Committee	<i>Councilman Kerr encouraged folks who play the lottery to play in Tarentum because the business will get a portion.</i>	Chair: Mr. Kerr Member: Mr. Bertocki
Finance & Admin.	2025.08 Budget Report 2025.08 Check Register	Chair: Mr. Bertocki Member: Ms. Smith
Parks/ Recreation	<i>Boo Fest will take place on October 18, 2025, at the park. If any vendors would like to setup please contact Carrie Fox.</i> <i>There is a shop small event coming in October as well.</i>	Chair: Ms. Smith Member: Mr. Bertocki
Property/Health / Zoning	Mr. Nolan commented on fire safety month and the types of smoke detectors.	Chair: Mr. Nolan Member: Mr. Kerr
Public Safety	Fire Department Reports: ▪ Eureka (Fire & EMS): August 2025 ▪ Highlands: ▪ Summit:	Chair: Ms. Clark Member: Mrs. Homa
Public Works	2025.08	Chair: Ms. Homa Member: Ms. Smith
Redevelopment/ Revitalization	N/A	Chair: Ms. Clark Member: Mr. Bertock
Utilities	Water – 2025.08 Electric – 2025.08	Chair: Mr. Kerr Member: Mr. Nolan



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CITIZENS' COMMENT SECTION 2: This is Open to residents and taxpayers of Tarentum Borough for any comments.

(3-minute time limit)

Resident Cindy Homberg wanted to remind everyone about the Prospect Cemetery Ghost Tour. Mayor Lang asked a question about the cost of lots. There was a discussion about the cost of local lots.

Chuck Dizard from Harrison stated that the authority ideas are really valid.

Carol from 515 East 11th wanted to thank the Borough for the timeliness and efficiency of the water break repair.

Councilman Kerr reminded everyone about the anniversary of 9/11 and the flag event.

Resident Jim Bonner discussed the fishing line disposal idea and chimney swift tower, both for the Marina. There was a discussion about the blockhouse at the Marina as well between the Council and some community members.

ADJOURN: 8:06 PM

RK/BN; 7-0



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Notes: