MINUTES OF THE JULY 7, 2026
MEETING OF TRAPPE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council President Liz Cady called to order the regular meeting of Trappe Borough Council, held at the Borough Hall at 525 W. Main Street and broadcasted via Zoom, on June 7, 2026, at 7:00PM.

Those present were:
Liz Cady
Ben Ratkiewicz
Stu Strauss
Eric Fabiszewski
Heather Gustafson
Scott Martin
Mallory Perlin
Mayor Heather Blumenthal

Also present:
Borough Manager Marcus Dolny
Engineer Paul Schmoll
Solicitor Mark Plachta

Absent: None

Also in Attendance:
Visitors as recorded

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The members of Council reviewed the minutes of the June 2, 2026, meeting:

Motion to approve the minutes:
Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 7/0**

PUBLIC FORUM-AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

- Noah Marlier from the office of the Prothonotary spoke to Council regarding programing and education. Reintroducing the Hope Card Program for survivors with an active PFA. S. Martin expressed concern and questioned why the standard form for filing a PFA is 27 pages. N. Marlier said that the state has a universal form but that is why the County is working to simplify the process anyway they can.

- D. Davis offered a prepared statement questioning the use of social media by Council and the Mayor promoting sole interests, believes it questions trust and causes confusion.

- Frank Pastella, candidate for State Representative, introduced himself to the Council.

STAFF REPORTS:

Borough Engineer:

1. Streets and Sidewalks

A.H. Cornell & Son, Inc. was awarded the West 5th Avenue Improvements Contract. The overall value of the contract is $301,591.10. It includes milling and paving of W 5th Ave (Base Bid), a sidewalk connection between the Firehouse and W Main Street (Alternate 1) and replacing two (2) ADA ramps at W 5th Avenue and Main St (Alternate 2).

Milling and Paving project has been completed along with the sidewalk connection alternate.

The Borough received a PennDOT ARLE grant for $120,640 to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety at the emergency signalized intersection of W 5th Avenue and W Main Street. Isett can assist with the development of traffic signal plans and facilitation with PennDOT.

2. MS4 Program

1. MS4 Annual Tasks – Copies of community outreach and postings for collection events, terminology education, earth day and event with local girl scout troop.

2. Floodplain Mitigation Grant – after further discussions, decision to not submit application for feasibility grant at this time. Project location requires coordination and agreements with property owners, which are unattainable at this time. Isett will continue to seek other funding opportunities.

3. Borough GIS Mapping – Isett to schedule meeting in July to meet with Manager and review mapping updates, along with final reporting for DEP.

3. SEPTA Bus Bump out

In the planning stages with SEPTA and PennDOT. Met with PennDOT and SEPTA last month to discuss the project. Reviewing funding grant options for the project.

Working on documents to submit to grant funding.

4. Perkiomen Flood Study Updates

Isett reviewed and provided comments to HRG for an undersized and impacted drainage culvert on West 3rd Avenue. This is the only Flood Study location located within the Borough. Once the planning report is approved and issued, the Flood Study locations will open the Municipalities for grant funding opportunities to conduct the mitigation improvements.

Treasurer's Report:

J. Klink presented the bill list dated June 30, 2026, for two payrolls, direct charges, and a complete bills list for checks 2501 – 2523 for payment totaling $158,713.12

Motion to pay the bills as listed:
Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 7/0**

J. Klink presented the bill list dated June 30, 2026, for the Liquid Fuels Fund direct charges by PECO in the amount of $2,433.92.

A motion to approve bills as listed:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz Seconded: S. Martin Approved: 7/0

J' Klink presented the bill list dated June 30, 2026, for checks 1100 - 1104 for the Escrow Fund in the amount of $23,676.59

Motion to pay the bills as listed:
Moved: H. Gustafson Seconded: S. Martin Approved: 7/0

In relation to escrows M. Dolny noted that The Bringhurst project is currently unable to complete due to homeowners pushing back on the planting of three landscaping trees they do not want but are denoted on the plans. An alternate suggestion is to take a fee in lieu of the plantings of $1000.00 and use it as additional plantings on another project or in public space.
Motion to approve the fee of $1,000.00 in lieu of the final three plantings:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz Seconded: S. Strauss Approved: 7/0

J. Klink also provided monthly reports and noted that Victory back, which was acquired by QNB, has officially transitioned over.

Mayor's Report:

H. Blumenthal spoke regarding her activities during the past month, highlighted by her hosting a Pride Celebration, a number of events through Historic Trappe, particularly a celebration on Juneteenth and the reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, and the opportunity to attend the US State Conference of Mayors. Along with other events she was happy to see so many of the Trappe America 250 Flags through town, thanked the State Police and Trappe Volunteer Fire Department for participating at our School's Out Bash, and reminded about upcoming events; our fireworks show on July 11th and an upcoming breakfast with the mayor that will be held at Grace's Café.

Borough Manager's Report:

M. Dolny brought RESOLUTION 2026-17 to Council for consideration which would allow for the initiation of a Municipal Curative Amendment Review, particularly focusing on Data Centers and other high intensity uses. The Borough is already in motion on this amendment, but this would denote the process and effort formally.

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-17:
Moved: S. Strauss Seconded: S. Martin Approved: 7/0

M. Dolny updated Council on the Trappe America 250 Flags, the initial sale was a success, and he noted that Flags can be ordered throughout the year.

M. Dolny spoke in regard to three pergolas located in RAMBO park, one that is in dire condition, one that is severely deteriorating, and one that is satisfactory, but he is recommending a replacement of all three at a cost of $17,780.22

Motion to approve:
Moved: S. Strauss **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 7/0**

M. Dolny gave Council a copy of the Permit Report.

Borough Solicitor:

M. Plachta noted that he was instructed to send a letter to help alleviate an impasse regarding stormwater repairs, but due to the efforts of Councilman B. Ratkiewicz and Engineer P. Schmoll it was not necessary as they handled the matter diplomatically.

Motion to approve professional reports:
Moved: H. Gustafson **Seconded: B. Ratkiewicz** **Approved: 7/0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Traffic and Safety:
Reports were provided to Council. E. Fabiszewski noted that he met with members of the Fire Department as part of the pre-planning process for the fireworks show. M. Perlin asked if this was a committee meeting, M. Dolny stated that it was, but it was called by him and a Recreation meeting not Traffic and Safety.

S. Strauss noted his role in helping raise money for the fire company by noting a successful dine and donate with Dairy Queen, raising $500.00. He also announced people would have the opportunity to purchase supporter T-shirts of Trappe Volunteer Fire Company starting at the Fire Works Event.

Administrative Services:
L. Cady just wanted to acknowledge the difficult and at times challenging jobs the office staff, Marcus, Kim, and Molly, and our Tax Collector, Gretchen Lawson have and thank them for the jobs they do.

Business & Property:

S. Strauss wanted to thank the residents and businesses that purchased flags and noted that he would continue to look at expanding the décor and decorations moving forward.

M. Dolny noted there is damage to one of the fence panels at Sisca Park caused by a deer and they would look into having it repaired.

Finance Committee:

H. Gustafson noted the QNB transition and the transition of software upcoming in relation.

H. Gustafson brought to Council the proposal of sponsoring this years Founder's Feast Hosted by Historic Trappe due to the America 250 celebrations. It was noted that Trappe was already a sponsor of $25,000 for Perk Valley 250 and gives an annual donation of $3,000.00 directly to Trappe Historic, along with covering other ancillary costs.

Motion to be a $500.00 Sponsor:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz Seconded: S. Strauss Approved: 7/0

Parks & Recreation:

It was announced the very early intro and planning meetings for Main Street Park will be taking place on Monday July 13th, with more announcements and information to come soon.

G. Lawson from the audience asked if Trappe would be running a NY trip again, M. Dolny noted that it wasn't a total loss, but the day selection and weather put a significant damper on the event. It was unclear at this time if they would do another.

Public Affairs & Legislation:

B. Ratkiewicz let Council know that himself, L. Cady, and S. Strauss met with the Borough Manager and discussed the possibility of the HRC committee. More statistical information would be gathered and a discussion with a member of the State HRC would be held in the near future as the committee continues discussions.

Street & Development:
It was noted that 113 was still under construction and this is not a Trappe project.

Planning & Zoning:
B. Ratkiewicz stated that the Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance and recommended its approval to Council.

A motion to authorize the proposed ordinance be advertised and advertise for a Public Meeting for its review:
Moved: B. Ratkiewicz Seconded: S. Martin Approved: 7/0

Regional Planning:
No REPORT

Public Works:

CTJPW will look to update technology in the office.

H. Gustafson stated that the North Penn Water interconnect is moving forward, currently waiting on permitting from Army Corp of Engineers and DEP.

H. Gustafson noted that they were still exploring the creation of an authority, which S. Strauss questioned and spoke out against publicly.

CTMA & Regional Sewer:

S. Strauss noted that CTJPW can use CTMA as a borrowing conduit for the NPWA connection, just need to work out the details.

Memorial Committee:

Nominees are under review, including a last call for nominees, and a decision will be made by the end of July.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:
S. Strauss asked that when events are going on if possible, they be brought to Council so the entire Council can support the event or activity.

Council adjourned the meeting at 8:40PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus V. Dolny