



Moscow Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday October 6, 2025

Moscow Borough Municipal Building
123 Van Brunt Street
Moscow, PA 18444

Moscow Borough Council
Arthur Pencek - President
Edward Gaughan - Vice President
William Hiem
Marc Gaughan
Joseph Castrogiovanni
Dennis Cawley
Paula Bechaver
Mayor Rosemarie Warner

Call Meeting to Order

President Art Pencek called the October 6, 2025, regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following Council members were either present or absent:

Rosemarie Warner (Mayor)	Absent	Joseph Castrogiovanni	Present
Arthur Pencek (President)	Present	Dennis Cawley	Present
Edward Gaughan (Vice-President)	Present	Marc Gaughan	Present
Paula Bechaver	Present	William Hiem	Present

Also, present were Atty. Bruce Zero (Solicitor) Amy Carlson (Business Manager) Ivy Brenzel (Moscow Police Chief), George Parker (Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer) Colin Young (Chief, Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Co.), Barry Gabello (resident) Leo Woelkers (resident), Michelle Woelkers (resident), Paul Wiss (resident), Frank Rabak (resident), Carol Yanko (resident), Scott Williams (resident), Kyran Williams (resident), LuAnn Matchulat (NP Cultural Society), Lisa Duffy (NP Cultural Society), Amy Hlavaty Belcher (NP Cultural Society).

Approval of Minutes

The monthly council meeting was held on September 2, 2025. Minutes were submitted for review and approval. Motion was made by Marc Gaughan to accept council meeting minutes as written. Motion was seconded by William Hiem. The motion carried unanimously.

Citizens Comments

Carol Yanko inquired on a timeframe for paving maintenance road repairs on Stephens Street, Moscow, PA. Art Pencek and Marc Gaughan stated that this would be looked into and see when the repairs can be made.

Resident Leo Woelkers, Sunrise Boulevard (Harmony Hills) topic of discussion swale and flooding as he complained in the past, but nothing has yet been done. Addressed with council multiple times and nothing has been done. Inquired if the borough can do anything for the swale to open up drainage for the winter. Art Pencek stated that he will convey this to Mark Mecca, Director of DPW to advise if he can assist.

Also, there are concerns about dumping on corner of Old Logger and Sunrise Boulevard. George Parker Zoning Officer is addressing complaints received from residents regarding use of lot on Old Logger Road and Sunrise Boulevard. Atty Bruce Zero stated prior to the council meeting he met with George Parker, Art Pencek to review violations on this property and other properties regarding Moscow Borough ordinances. Atty Zero stated that after reviewing with Mr. Parker he believes the property owner has a contractor yard in an R-1 Zone. George Parker has issued letters to the property owner with no response.

Atty Zero stated a timeline. George Parker will now issue an enforcement notice, and the property owner has 30 days to comply, request and extension in which he would comply as to when things will be remedied, or he can request a zoning hearing in front of the Zoning Hearing Board. If he requests his entitled Zoning Hearing, he will have to say as to how his property is complying in an R-1 Zone Zoning Hearing Board would a decision. If there is no request for a zoning hearing then the Borough would be forced to go to magistrate as a civil penalty and if necessary, Court of Common Pleas Lackawanna County and ask for an injunction to force the property owner to comply with the Moscow Borough Ordinance. Atty Zero may have to recuse himself due to the fact that this violation is occurring on his street of residence. (Old Logger Road)

Resident Paul Wiss who lives on Old Logger across from across from Mr. Woelkers. Mr. Wiss read the letter sent to the property owner dated August 15, 2025 and met with George Parker, Zoning Officer, when he was at the property. He stated that it was a cease-and-desist letter, basically that the street is a mess, signs have been on the property for over a year. Mr. Wiss' question is if the property owner is dumping aggregate & contaminated fill (blacktop in the fill) or what else is in there. His concerns include people's wells & groundwater to the streams on the property. On September 30, 2025, two dump trucks were seen dumping again on the property and bulldozers brought in and material was pushed over the bank. Mr. Wiss respects Atty Zero's comments but would like council to be on record for Council as to what is going on at the property as well. Atty Zero said that Mr. Parker is fielding the complaints and is aware of these complaints.

Lisa Duffy requests that Van Brunt Street corner of the Moscow Borough Building Borough corner of Van Brunt to the Borough Building be closed off for Fall Festival scheduled for Saturday October 25, 2025, for a brief period at 4:00 PM during scheduled parade festivities. Council and Chief Brenzel had no issues and granted requests. Lisa Duffy also introduced the new president of the North Pocono Cultural Society, Amy Belcher as well as stating Amy would be donating mums for the hanging baskets for the Fall Festival.

Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Co.

Fire Chief Colin Young gave the Moscow Volunteer Fire and Hose Co. report for the month of September 2025. There were 84 total calls. The breakdown was 71 EMS and 13 fire calls. Chief Young also stated that the Moscow Volunteer Fire & Hose Co. also assisted various townships and municipalities with calls this month due to shortages and high-volume calls.

Business Office

Preparation for 2026 has begun. Preliminary budget presentation will take place at the next scheduled Borough Council Meeting on November 3, 2025.

Estimated projected 2025 assessment for the Moscow Borough has been submitted by Patrick Tobin, CPE Director, Office of Assessment and Appeals, Lackawanna County for the purpose of calculation of milage for the Moscow Borough 2026 Budget. The certified final 2025 assessments will not be available until November 14, 2025.

Payments have begun towards the \$230,000.00 loan for the 2025 Isuzu Leaf Vacuum Truck. The disbursement request was reviewed and forwarded to Harrisburg for payment to the Moscow Borough in the amount \$200,000.00.

Maple Street Paving Project will be making single principal payments beginning after 6-month interest only period. No double payments in 2026

The People, Parks Community Foundation Grant was applied for on behalf of the Moscow Borough (for Golden Park Trails) was not granted.

Motion was made by Ed Gaughan to approve Resolution 321 – 2025 for 2025 LSA Statewide Grant Application for Moscow Borough Municipal Building Upgrades in the amount of \$85,373.80 to include Lower-Level Flooring, Upper-Level Wallpapering, 2026 Computer Server Upgrade (mandatory) Motion was seconded by Paula Bechaver. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Motion was made by Marc Gaughan to approve Allocation Letter for 2025 LSA Statewide Grant Application for Moscow Borough Municipal Building. Motion was seconded by William Heim. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report

The transfer report was submitted and reported for the month of September 2025. William Heim made a motion to accept the transfer report as reported. Paula Bechaver seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

The treasurer's report was submitted and reported for the month of September 2025. Marc Gaughan made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as reported and to pay the bills as presented. William Heim seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Real Estate Tax Collector's Report

Real Estate Tax Report for September 2025 was submitted for review.

Financial Report

2024 Moscow Borough Final Audit Summary from Murphy, Dougherty & Co submitted for review.

Certificate of Deposit Edward Jones Bank of America Maturity Date 10/17/25 approved to renew based on current interest rate at the time of maturity to be determined on 10/17/2025.

Another delegate is needed for TCC beginning January 1, 2026, every third Thursday of the month at the South Abington Township Building 7PM.

Streets/Planning Commission and Council of Governments:

Department of Public Works have repaired berms of the road on Hill & Marion Street

Marc Gaughan, Mark Mecca DPW Director and Robert J. Bochicchio, P.E., DBIA Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. to determine long term paving plan for the Moscow Borough. Milage to be determined at budget to finance the cost of the paving projects.

Council of Governments Meeting scheduled for Wednesday October 8, 2025, Moscow Borough Municipal Building 7PM

There was no Planning Commission Meeting held on Monday September 29, 2025, due to lack of content on agenda.

Zoning and Code Enforcement

Zoning and Code Enforcement monthly report for September 2025 was submitted for review.

Police Report

Police Report submitted for September 2025 report. There was a total of 154 911- calls and 152 cleared calls for the month, also several events and training.

Municipal Building

Motion was made by Dennis Cawley to contract TKE (Elevator) for repair quote dated August 06, 2025, of \$7,112.00 for Municipal Building Elevator. Motion was seconded by William Heim. Motion was carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

New Business

Resident Barry Gabello spoke on concerns regarding recent drainage done on Maple Street. For years, the water flowing through Keene and Academy Streets had 2 large pipes on Golden Park that dumped the water directly onto Verrastro's property. Art Pencek and Mr. Gabello were on site in which the ruts were 4 feet deep. His point is houses on Keene Street are getting water in their basements which he believes is being caused by Golden Park. In the Borough knowingly with the Maple Street Paving Project, being advised by Greenman-Pedersen has replaced pipes that water continues to go directly onto Verrastro's property which he believes is also going directly down Keene Street. Art Pencek stated that the Borough has applied for a DCED Multi-Module Stormwater Grant for proposed improvements to this issue & Academy Street within the Borough. Academy Street contains numerous dwellings and connects to Moscow Borough's Main Street. Proposed improvements include installation of new sidewalks, new stormwater infrastructure, pavement upgrades, and the creation of a dedicated bike lane with appropriate signage and pavement markings.

Adjournment

Motion was made by William Heim to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Joseph Castrogiovanni. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Amy Carlson

