

ETNA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

TUESDAY, February 18th, 2025, at 7:30 P.M
For approval on March 18^{ht}, 2018

The regular meeting of the Etna Borough Council was held on February 18th, 2025. Chairman Becki presided and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll was called, and members present were Mr. Iannuzzi, Ms. Semler, Ms. Schaefer, Mr. Burke, Mrs. Rothmeyer-McElhaney, Ms. Helbling Mr. Trader, Mrs. Gabriel, and Chairman Becki. Also present were Mayor Tuñón, Manager Ramage, Police Chief Rodman, Administrative Assistant Mary Beth Birks, Solicitor Rushford, Assistant Fire Chief Todd Lunn, Shaler Hampton EMS Executive Director Eric Schmidt and the Public Works Director Joe Balistrieri was absent.

Mayor Tuñón led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to accept and file the Treasurer’s Report was made by Councilwoman Schaefer and seconded by Councilwoman Gabriel. Motion carried.

Fund 01 General Account	\$	678,424.37
Fund 05 Education Account	\$	1,011.01
Fund 03 Payroll Account	\$	280.97
Fund 04 Police Fund	\$	17,283.46
Fund 21 Hockey	\$	4,084.52
Fund 30 Capital Improvement	\$	-----
Fund 33 Christmas	\$	2,720.06
Fund 34 Etna Senior Center Fund	\$	1,980.15
Fund 35 Liquid Fuels Account	\$	36,046.62
Fund 36 War Memorial Fund	\$	5,970.15
Fund 38 Sanitary Trunk Line Account	\$	166,559.65
Fund 39 Middle Street Escrow Account	\$	6,772.72
Fund 42 Capital Reserve	\$	342,285.65
Fund 44 Sewer Account	\$	117,871.66
Fund 45 Project Escrow Account	\$	CLOSED
Fund 46 Riverfront Park & Trail	\$	476.10
Fund 48 Etna Green Streetscape	\$	1.00
Fund 50 GI Account	\$	1,221.09
Fund 51 Fire Escrow Account	\$	38,010.93
Fund 52 Infrastructure Account	\$	70.32
Fund 53 Youth & Recreation Fund	\$	4,580.19
Fund 54 American Rescue	\$	355,347.92

A motion to accept and file the Treasurer’s Report was made by Councilman Trader and seconded by Councilman Burke. Motion carried.

A check register by fund (bills already paid) as well as outstanding accounts payable (bills due) were given to each member of Council.

Total Owed	\$	503,935.70
Total Bills Paid	\$	191,811.03
Total Balance Due	\$	312,124.67

A motion to pay the bills was made by Councilwoman Semler and seconded by Councilwoman Schaefer. Motion carried.

Police Chief’s Report

Police Chief Rodman provided his monthly report which included: Police Stats, Police Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 5 at 4:30 p.m. (Borough Office), Hiring Process onto Civil Service, 21 Hickory Street Laundry Room Break in, Rt. 28 Incident, and Preparing for Street Skate on February 23rd

President Becki said he would like to postpone the emergency management meeting, and Light the Night wrap up meeting until the borough is in their new building.

Engineer’s Report

Engineer Robert Maher had provided their monthly report which included the following: Source Flow Reduction Consent Order Compliance, Pine Street Bridge Rehabilitation, CDBG Year 50 Paving Contract Administration/Inspections, 51 Bridge Street Development Plan Review and Stormwater Applications, Dewey Street & Spring Street Sewer Separation Project, Streetscape Phase 4, Streetscape Phase 5.1, Streetscape Phase 5.2, Act 152 County Demolition Grant and Etna 2025 MS4 Program

President Becki said that Gateway is waiting for a contract from the North Hills Council of Government that was summited on January 13 for the road paving project.

Public Works Directors Report

Public Works Director Joe Balistrieri submitted his monthly report which included: Christmas decorations removal, snow removal, concession stand at pool (replaced damaged spigot), assembled salt box, replenished exhausted road salt, attended COG Meeting, numerous PA 1 Calls (Water & Gas), checked CSO's assisted gateway meter reading, removed debris from storm drains, potholes throughout the Borough, and general maintenance (garbage collection, street sweeping, inspected all facilities, and answered complaints)

Fire Department Report

Etna Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) Chief Porter provided the monthly report which included: 9 Fires, 1 Overpressure Rupture Explosion, 18 Rescue & Emergency Medical Service, 5 Hazardous Condition – no fire, 2 Good Intent Call, 12 False Alarm / Call. Total calls for Month 47. 1 Monthly meeting was held, 5 Honor Guard Events and 1 Special Event Cash Bash

President Becki asked if Mr. Lunn had anything to add to his report and Mr. Lunn said he would like to talk about the tractor trailer incident that occurred on Route 28. This could have been a more threat to our community's waterways, railroads and roads. The fire department received support from the DEP, Etna, County and State police to contain the spill that landed in the creek and was contained by using boons and padded pillows. The fire on the tractor trailer was contained quickly because of the quick response time.

Hampton Shaler EMS Report

Hampton Shaler EMS Report was provided by Director Eric Schmidt and included the following information: January total calls 69, 1 Canceled call, 6 Canceled in Route, 1 Dead on scene, 1 False call, 1 No Patient Found, 5 Refused, 1 Standby Fire, 39 Transported ALS, 5 Transported BLS, 8 Transported BLS after ALS Evaluation, and 1 Treatment no Transport. In the report the EMS gave to the council, Etna had an increase of 15 calls from the previous year. The 2025 subscription page has been emailed out and they have already received 600 subscriptions back. The mailed subscription is being generated now.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Rushford summitted his monthly report which included: Right to Know, Kostov V. Reserve Police, Etna Police, and Officers in their Official Capacities, Police request for union recognition, Porky's, 30 Pine Street, Council In-Service, and police officer hiring

President Becki thought that since the closing of the new building is approaching it would be a good time to hold the council in-service training at the new building. This would also be an opportunity to tour the building as a group. He suggested Friday, March 7th or 14th or Saturday March 15th. The training would take two hours. Council has agreed upon Friday, March 14th from 6-8 p.m. at 30 Pine Street.

Agenda

1. Council Appointment

President Becki said first on the agenda is council appointment for Ward 1. Since Mrs. Tuñón resigned from council in the second year of her four-year term, her position needed to be filled with a resident from Ward 1. At last month's meeting we discussed posting an announcement for the open position in Ward 1. He added all letters of interest need to be submitted to the borough office no later than Friday, February 7th, 2025, at the close of business. This person would finish out this year and have a chance to run for the position for year three and four. A motion was made to nominate Brice Lynn to Council for Ward 1 by Councilwoman Gabriel and second by Councilwoman Schaefer. Motion carried.

Mayor Tuñón administered the oath to Mr. Lynn.

2. Dewey Street Sewer Separation

President Becki said for years the borough has been working on the Dewey Street sewer separation project. Manager Ramage said she has been working with ALCOSAN to receive funding for this project. The borough has received several grants for this project totaling \$1,680,000.00. Most recently the borough received a grant from the Small Water System for \$205,000. Since it has taken so long to acquire the money for this project, the cost of this project has gone up an additional \$140,000. Manager Ramage is going to meet with Gateway to have them update the pricing numbers for this project and see if there were items which could be removed, as ALCOSAN listed some as ineligible.

3. 30 Pine Street

President Becki said the borough has been approved for a sale and bond for the new Borough building on Pine Street. The interest rate on this bond is 3% and would max out at 4.375. The Phase II study of the building found a vapor problem in one section of the building. On February 11th the company came out again and took some core samples by drilling in the concrete. President Becki said the closing on the building is scheduled for March 7th and the signing of all the paperwork for the new borough building.

4. Army Corps

President Becki said that the Army Corps is working on the silt at the West Little Pine Creek Flood Control Project for high water. The Corp of Engineers is going to clean out the silt basin after last years flooding in April. There is five feet of soot. Some cost sharing could occur with this project. Council has a copy of the agreement.

5. D.U.I.

President Becki said the next agenda item is Driving Under the Influence Task Force Mutual Aid Agreement which is about to expire in September of 2025. A motion was made to sign the agreement for Mutual Aid Task Force by Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney and seconded by Councilman Burke. Motion carried.

6. WPEC

President Becki explained that the WPEC is a joint purchasing consortium for electricity which will last until August of this year and then this new contract will begin. The borough has saved money over the last five years by working with this consortium. This organization helps energy procurement, assist with new onboarding, energy related cost, enhance annual energy budget, improve energy resilience, and maintain and growth of WPEC membership. A motion was made to give permission for the borough to renew the agreement with WPEC for another five years by Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney and seconded by Councilwoman Gabriel. Motion carried.

7. Police Retirement Minutes

President Becki said the Police Pension Board meeting was held on February 4th and the police funding is at 3.5 million which is 10.9% invested at PNC investments. The Board said the pension has overachieved. A motion was made to accept and file the minutes form the Police Pension Board meeting by Councilwoman Schaefer and second by Councilwoman Gabriel. Motion carried.

8. Street Skate

President Becki said the annual Street Skate is scheduled for Sunday February 23, from 2 to 6 p.m. Butler Street will be closed at 10 in the morning to the evening once the ice rink is torn down.

Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney said the following business provided donations to Deck Hockey for the shootout, Rising Crust, Polick’s Candy’s, E-Town and the Garden of Etna. There will be free smores near the bonfire and a 50/50 raffle. Rear End will have for sale Hot Dogs and Hot chocolate and Big Mike’s will be open and have specials. EEDC donates half the money for the ice rink.

9. Bank Signatory

President Becki said since one of the checks signing council member has resigned (Ms. Tuñón), the borough will need to get all new signature cards for the bank. Councilwoman Semler has agreed to be a new check signer. The borough office will contact all the signers on what needs to be done to set up the new signature cards.

10. Council Appointments

President Becki said that Norm McDonald will stay on the Building Appels Board for two more years.

The Police Retirement Board Ed Dukovic will finish out Pete Ramage's term until the end of this year.

The Human Relations Commission vacant position will be filled by Maura Bainbridge until 12/31/27.

The Police Civil Service Commission has no changes but has one vacant position.

A motion was made to have Norm McDonald reappointed to the Building Appeals Board for two more years by Councilwoman Gabriel and seconded by Councilman Trader. Motion carried.

The police Co-Chair members for Public Safety are Councilman Burke and Councilwoman Gabriel.

The fire Co-Chairs for public safety are Councilman Lynn and Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney.

The public works have no changes to the committee.

No changes to General Government Finance are Councilwoman Semler, Councilwoman Gabriel and Councilwoman Schaefer and for the Borough Property Councilwoman Semler and Councilman Iannuzzi.

The Refuse and Engineering is Councilman Lynn and Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney.

Zoning, Planning and Flood Plain Management has no change with Councilman Trader and Councilwoman Schaefer.

No change to recreation which is all Council, Mayor and Manager.

These committees have been eliminated because they are no longer needed by the Borough: the Veteran's Field Committee and the Code Enforcement Committee.

Council / Mayor and Manager Reports:

Manager Ramage provided her monthly report which included: – Council of Government / SWM, CRS Updates, Reconnecting Communities / Federal Grant, Little Pine Creek Connector Trail Grant, Army Corps of Engineers, Main Street Matters Grant, Streetscape 5.12, Dewey Street Sewer Separation GEDTF Grant, 30 Pine Street, Locust Street Properties, Tri-Cog Land Bank

She added she is working with ALCOSAN on the trunk line permits which are shared with Shaler, Ross, and Indiana. She is writing a second letter to the residents and businesses on Bridge, Freeport and Butler to inform them that a meeting is scheduled for March 25th at 7 p.m. and is waiting to hear from the engineer who did this study, to see if they can attend this meeting.

Council/Committee Members Reports

Councilman Iannuzzi passed.

Councilwoman Semler said the PA Tax Rebate Program for seniors is back and it is open to renters and homeowners 65 or older that have a yearly income less than \$46,520. More people are eligible for this program since social security is halved. There is still tax appointments open at Ross Community Center for free call 412-364-0469 to schedule an appointment.

Councilwoman Schaefer welcomed Brice and thanked Manager Ramage for her great work.

Councilman Lynn passed.

Councilwoman Gabriel said the Garden of Etna will host the annual Seed Swap on Sunday, March 2nd at First Congregational Church from 1-3 p.m. Heart and Soul will have a table at Street Skate to set up interviews or fill out a postcard. Yoga has two more weeks left in the winter session.

Councilman Trader passed.

Jr. Councilperson Helbling passed.

Councilwoman Rothmeyer-McElhaney stated that Etna Deck Hockey will start on February 24 in the evening and Saturdays. Etna Neighborhood Association asked if anyone wants to volunteer with the Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12th from Noon to 3 p.m. contact ENA.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Tuñón welcomed Councilman Lynn and Jr. Councilperson Helbling. He thanked the staff for all the extra work they have put in, public works, police department. and the fire department. The library is

under construction and there are several changes to the library board. Manager Ramage and himself have been put on the volunteer board. In summary, he said this borough is doing excellent things from sewer separation, to pension, to water, and police.

President Becki said the following people will need to have petitions filled out to run in the May primary, Mayor Tuñón, Councilwoman Gabrial, and the Tax Collector. Chairman Becki stated that he will not be running for reelection at the end of his term.

Public Comment

Mrs. Becki said she would like everyone to know that the Shaler Area Marching Band and Choir will be at the St. Partick’s Day Parade. Jr. Councilperson Grace Helbling will be at the parade with the choir.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Schaefer and seconded by Councilman Trader to adjourn the regular meeting of Etna Borough Council. Motion carried.

Time: 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mary Ellen Ramage, Manager

Date: March 18, 2025

