

WEATHERLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 22, 2025
7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of Weatherly Borough Council was held on December 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Norman Richie, called the meeting to order, followed by the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

Council Members attending: Michael Bellizia, Vincent Cuddeford II, Joseph Cyburt, Theresa D’Andrea, Gregory Walters, Norman Richie and absent Jeffery Miller.

Also attending: Borough Manager, Harold Pudliner; Atty. James Nanovic; Borough Secretary, Lori O’Donnell; Deputy Borough Manager, Tracy Grover; Police Chief Michael Bogart, Times News reporter, Kelly Socha; Journal Newspapers reporter, Ruth Isenberg and citizens: Bill Beattie, Beth Parker, Irvin Richie, Ruthie Sabol, John Furmanchin, Donny Weston, Chad Maleski, Kyle Feaster, Ron & Heather Hibbler, Haley Bingaman, Ignacio Figueroa, Katherine Roberts, Kelly Medico, Ian Clarke, Ray Kochin, Carbon County Commissioners: Wayne Nothstein, Michael Sofranko; State Representative, Doyle Heffley; and Senator David Argall.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2025, were presented to Council for approval.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2025, were approved on a motion by Michael Bellizia, seconded by Theresa D’Andrea, and approved by general acclaim of Council.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The Treasurer’s Report for November, 2025, was presented and reflected a balance of \$346,675.45.

The Treasurer’s Report for November, 2025, was approved on a motion by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Michael Bellizia and approved by general acclaim of Council.

BILLS:

The bills for November 26, 2025, and December, 2025 totaling \$502,458.25 were presented to Council.

Norman Richie questioned the payments made to the pension funds and asked if the Borough would be reimbursed for those funds. Mr. Pudliner stated yes that they were the State Aid monies received by us that needed to be paid into the pension plans, so the money came in and went back out.

A motion to approve all of the bills was made by Theresa D’Andrea, seconded by Joseph Cyburt and were approved by general acclaim of Council.

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS:

Harold Pudliner, retiring Borough Manager, was presented with proclamations from:

Mayor Norman Richie
Carbon County Commissioners: Michael Sofranko & Wayne Nothstein
State Representative, Doyle Heffley
Senator, David Argall

OTHER ITEMS OF CONCERN:

Request for Special Meeting:

Michael Bellizia stated that he would like to call a special meeting of Council on January 2, 2026, at 6: pm.

A Motion to call a special meeting of Council on January 2, 2026, was made by Michael Bellizia and seconded by Gregory Walters and approved by general acclaim of Council.

Wilbur Street Snow Ban Parking:

Kelly Medico, a resident of Wilbur Street, had concerns about snow ban parking on Wilbur Street. She stated that they used to be able to park in the empty lot at the corner of Wilbur & First Streets, but now that is privately owned and can no longer park in the lot. She requested parking on the snow ban side of Wilbur Street. Mr. Pudliner stated that there were 11 parking spots open and to make a parking change an ordinance change would be needed. Mr. Pudliner offered the trail head for additional parking for the residents. Michael Bellizia said it would only be possibly a temporary situation, and maybe the police would not ticket the cars during the time of change. Kelly Medico talked to Gerard Grega, owner of the empty lot at Wilbur & First Streets, he told her he would have no liability or responsibility if they park there and he was considering renting parking spaces in the lot in the future. Police Chief, Michael Bogart, said there would be an issue of they do not enforce the parking on Wilbur Street; how can they enforce parking in other locations. If they do not cite the people on Wilbur Street, no citations will be issued anywhere. It is all or nothing he said. Ian Clarke asked if the Borough would be able to speak to Mr. Grega to see if he would allow temporary parking in his lot and the answer was no. Mr. Clarke then asked if it would be possible for them to park in the Borough building parking lot until the ordinance change would become effective, it would provide a shorter and safer route to parking than using the trail head. The parking in the Borough building parking lot was approved for parking in the upper space in the lot until the ordinance was made.

Chief Bogart said that Jeffery Miller played Santa for the Police Department and did an awesome job for their event.

BUSINESS:

1. Approval of 2026 Budget (Executive Session – Personnel).

A motion to enter into executive session was made by Theresa D'Andrea and seconded by Joseph Cyburt. Theresa D'Andrea made a motion to withdraw her motion to enter into executive session and the motion was seconded by Joseph Cyburt.

2. Discussion and possible action on Northpoint Property(s).

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

3. Tax Anticipation Laon RFP Results.

Mr. Pudliner stated requests for pricing had been sent out regarding the Tax Anticipation Loan to three banks: Jim Thorpe Neighborhood, Mauch Chunk Trust Company and Neff's Bank. The following were received:

Neff's Bank via letter	5.37%
Mauch Chunk Trust Co.	4.25%

Mr. Pudliner recommended a loan for \$125,000 to get us through until taxes come in and he also recommended accepting Mauch Chunk Trust Company's rate.

A motion to approve the Tax Anticipation Loan for \$125,000 with an interest rate of 4.25% with Mauch Chunk Trust Company was made by Michael Bellizia, seconded by Vincent Cuddeford and approved by roll call vote:

Joseph Cyburt	Yes	Vincent Cuddeford II	Yes
Theresa D'Andrea	Yes	Michael Bellizia	Yes
Gregory Walters	Yes	Norman Richie	Yes

Atty. Nanovic said they should have it on the Re-Organizational Meeting agenda. He will prepare the resolution with Mauch Chunk Trust Company with an interest rate of 4.25% for the re-organizational meeting.

4. Vote on Resolution for Non-Uniform Pension Plan Contribution for 2026.

Council was provided with a copy of the resolution for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan contribution rate showing that for the year of 2026 there will be no employee contribution toward the plan.

RESOLUTION NO.2025-

WEATHERLY BOROUGH NON-UNIFORM PENSION PLAN

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEATHERLY RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE NON-UNIFORM EMPLOYEES OF SAID BOROUGH:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Weatherly (the "Borough") has previously established the Weatherly Borough Non-Uniform Pension Plan (the "Plan"), which was adopted pursuant to Act 600; and

WHEREAS, the Borough reserves the right to reduce or eliminate Participant Contributions below the mandated rate of five percent (5.0%) of compensation subject to certain conditions on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received confirmation from the Plan's Actuary with respect to the Participant Contributions; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is satisfied that the conditions have been met in order to reduce the contribution rate to 0.0% of compensation for 2026;

BE IT RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Borough Council and it is HEREBY RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by authority of the same: Effective January 1, 2026 and continuing through and including December 31, 2026, the amount of Participant Contributions due shall be 0.0% of compensation. The obligation to pay Participant Contributions pursuant to Act 600 in the amount specified therein shall resume effective as of January 1, 2026.

RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of December_____, 2025.

A motion to approve the Resolution for the Non-Uniform Pension Plan Contribution for 2026 was made by Joseph Cyburt and seconded by Theresa D’Andrea and approved by roll call vote:

Theresa D’Andrea	Yes	Vincent Cuddeford II	Yes
Michael Bellizia	Yes	Gregory Walters	Yes
Joseph Cyburt	Yes	Norman Richie	Yes

5. Vote on Resolution for Police Pension Plan Contribution for 2026.

Council was provided with a copy of the resolution for the Police Pension Plan contribution rate showing that for the year of 2026 there will be no employee contribution toward the plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025

WEATHERLY BOROUGH POLICE PENSION PLAN

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEATHERLY RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE POLICE EMPLOYEES OF SAID BOROUGH:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Weatherly (the "Borough") has previously established the Weatherly Borough Police Pension Plan (the "Plan"), which was adopted pursuant to Act 600; and

WHEREAS, the Borough reserves the right to reduce or eliminate Participant Contributions below the mandated rate of five percent (5.0%) of compensation subject to certain conditions on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received confirmation from the Plan's Actuary with respect to the Participant Contributions; and

WHEREAS, the Borough is satisfied that the conditions have been met in order to reduce the contribution rate to 0.0% of compensation for 2026;

BE IT RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by the Borough Council and it is HEREBY RESOLVED AND ADOPTED by authority of the same: Effective January 1, 2026 and continuing through and including December 31, 2026, the amount of Participant Contributions due shall be 0.0% of compensation. The obligation to pay Participant Contributions pursuant to Act 600 in the amount specified therein shall resume effective as of January 1, 2026.

RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of December 2025.

A motion to approve the Resolution for the Police Pension Plan Contribution for 2026 was made by Michael Bellizia, seconded by Theresa D’Andrea and approved by roll call vote:

Vincent Cuddeford II	Yes	Michael Bellizia	Yes
Theresa D’Andrea	Yes	Gregory Walters	Yes
Joseph Cyburt	Yes	Norman Richie	Yes

6. Vote on Tax Ordinance for 2026.

Mr. Pudliner stated that the Tax Ordinance for 2026 shows a 1.25 mill increase, increasing the millage from 10.3 to 11.55 for 2026 and it has been advertised.

Michael Bellizia asked if the taxes can be opened with the Budget open. Atty. Nanovic replied yes.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-

A tax being the same is hereby levied on all real property, persons and occupations with the Borough of Weatherly subject to taxation for Borough purposes for the fiscal year 2026 as follows:

- A. Tax rate for general Borough purposes in the sum of 11.55 mills on each dollar of assessed value, which equate to the sum of \$1.155 in each one hundred dollars of assessed evaluation B. A continuation of the Ordinance imposing a Real Estate Transfer Tax of one percent (One half of one percent effective rate) of the selling price or value to be paid by the transferor on the transfer for real property situate within the Borough of Weatherly.
- C. A re-enactment of the Per Capita Tax imposing a per capita tax of \$5.00 on each and every resident and inhabitant of the Borough of Weatherly 18 years of age or over.
- D. A re-enactment of the Earned Income Tax imposing a tax of one percent (One half of one percent effective rate) on salaries, wages, commissions and other compensations earned during the year 2026 by residents of the Borough of Weatherly and for work done or services performed or rendered in the Borough by non-residents.
- E. A re-enactment of the Local Services Tax providing for the assessment levy and collection for police, fire and emergency services, road construction and /or maintenance, and the reduction of property tax in the amount of \$52.00 for the year 2026

Enacted and ordained into an ordinance this 22nd day of December, 2025.

A motion to approve the Tax Ordinance for 2026 was made by Michael Bellizia, seconded by Joseph Cyburt and approved by roll call vote:

Michael Bellizia	Yes	Vincent Cuddeford II	Yes
Joseph Cyburt	Yes	Theresa D'Andrea	Yes
Gregory Walters	Yes	Norman Richie	No

7. Vote on Resolution for Rate Changes in Electric, Water and Sewer.

Mr. Pudliner explained that the following increases would be made:

Electric 20% increase Water 20% increase Sewer \$5.00 increase

Mr. Pudliner explained the rate increases and also mentioned that the electric rates were going up everywhere not just here. A rate comparison study was done and our rates are lower than those of PPL Infrastructure work needs to be done.

Mr. Pudliner stated that our water and sewer rates are severely low and we need a large amount of infrastructure work done in both departments. Parts at the sewer plant are obsolete and need to have upgrades made.

Joseph Cyburt stated that he fought the increases over the years, but should have went along with them and maybe we won't be in this position now.

BOROUGH OF WEATHERLY

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEATHERLY ADJUSTING ELECTRIC, WATER AND SEWER RATES TO CUSTOMERS IN THE BOROUGH

WHEREAS, Chapter 27 of the Weatherly Borough Code pertains to electric service, rules and regulations.

WHEREAS, Section 27-49 regarding rates and charges provides that this section may be amended by the Borough Council of Weatherly Borough by Ordinance or by Resolution.

WHEREAS, Chapter 66 of the Weatherly Borough Code pertains to sewer and water connections and uses; and,

WHEREAS, Section 66-16 and 66-17 regards connection fees imposed and 66-18 regards rental rates for water uses for the Borough; and

WHEREAS, Section 66-16 and 66-17 provides connection fees and 66-18 provides that the rates set forth in this Section may amended from time to time by Weatherly Borough Council by Resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, the Borough Council of Weatherly Borough hereby resolves as follows:

- 1. Sections 27-47 and 27-49 are hereby amended as per the attached
- 2. Sections 66-16 and 66-17 and 66-18 are hereby amended as per the attached

This resolution was adopted in lawful session duly assembled on the 22nd day of December, 2025.

A motion to approve the Resolution for Rate Changes in Electric, Wage and Sewer was made by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Theresa D’Andrea and approved by roll call vote:

Gregory Walters	Yes	Michael Bellizia	Yes
Theresa D’Andrea	Yes	Vincent Cuddeford II	Yes
Joseph Cyburt	Yes	Norman Richie	Yes

8. Approval for Loan Modification Agreement to extend Line of Credit.

Mr. Pudliner explained that this will extend the Line of Credit with Jim Thorpe Neighborhood Bank that expires on December 31, 2025, for another year.

A motion to approve the Loan Modification Agreement to extend the line of credit was made by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Michael Bellizia and approved by roll call vote:

Gregory Walters	Yes	Joseph Cyburt	Yes
Vincent Cuddeford II	Yes	Michael Bellizia	Yes
Theresa D’Andrea	Yes	Norman Richie	Yes

9. Approve Lease Option Agreement for Schwab School & Parking Lot.

Mr. Pudliner explained that each option will give ABC (Alliance for Building Communities) first rights for one year (January 1, 2026, - December 31, 2026) to decide to lease the property/Schwab

School and the parking lot across the street from the Schwab School. Atty. Nanovic added that at the end of the lease ABC would be the owner of the Schwab School, but the parking lot would remain the Borough's property.

A motion to approve the Lease Option Agreement for the Schwab School and Parking Lot was made by Michael Bellizia, seconded by Vincent Cuddeford II and approved by roll call vote:

Joseph Cyburt	Yes	Theresa D'Andrea	Yes
Vincent Cuddeford II	Yes	Michael Bellizia	Yes
Gregory Walters	Yes	Norman Richie	Yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION: REAL ESTATE

A motion to enter into executive session at 8:09 pm was made by Vincent Cuddeford II, seconded by Theresa D'Andrea.

Theresa D'Andrea left the meeting at 8:09 pm.

A motion to exit the executive session at 8:49 pm was made by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Gregory Walters.

ADJOURN:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm was made by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Michael Bellizia.