

WEATHERLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
January 28, 2026
7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of Weatherly Borough Council was held on January 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Mayor Michael Bellizia, called the meeting to order, followed by the invocation and pledge of allegiance.

Council Members attending: Michael Bellizia, Vincent Cuddeford II (joined via phone at 7:41 pm), Jeffery Miller, Gregory Walters, Norman Richie and absent: Joseph Cyburt.

Also attending: Borough Manager Tracy Grover; Atty. James Nanovic; Borough Secretary, Lori O'Donnell; Police Chief Michael Bogart, Times News reporter, Kelly Socha; Journal Newspapers reporter, Ruth Isenberg; Blue Ridge Cable TV 13 cameraman, Alexander Smith, Magistrate Joseph Homanko and citizens: Brad Howton, Cindy Yurchak, Corey Gerhart, Kyle Feaster, Kevin Mengle, Donna Kost, Dave Kost, Beth Parker, Jim Danenhower, Sue Danenhower, Robert Maclachlan, Sofia Hantz, Traci Mengle, Ray Kochin, Kelly Medico, Susan Knepper, Mary Ann Grega and Bill Beattie.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 22, 2025, and the Re-Organizational Meeting of January 6, 2026, were presented to Council for approval.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 22, 2025, and the Re-Organizational Meeting of January 6, 2026, were approved on a motion by Norman Richie, seconded by Jeffery Miller, and approved by general acclaim of Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report for December, 2025, was presented and reflected a balance of \$154,682.64.

The Treasurer's Report for December, 2025, was approved on a motion by Gregory Walters, seconded by Norman Richie and approved by general acclaim of Council.

BILLS:

The bills for January, 2026, totaling \$158,508.26 were presented to Council.

The bill from January 15, 2026, for Technology Enterprise Group for the 2026 Mach Subscription License for \$2,100.00, was questioned. It was explained that it is software to link JNet to allow the police to run plates, etc.

A motion to approve all of the bills was made by Norman Richie, seconded by Jeffery Miller and were approved by general acclaim of Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Use of Forms for Questions:

Michael Bellizia informed the audience to use the forms provided to ask questions. This will allow the opportunity to research and be prepared with answers to their questions.

Vacation of Streets:

Atty. Cynthia Yurchak stated that she was in attendance on behalf of Donna Morgan in the event there are any questions regarding her form that was submitted. Atty. Nanovic asked her if she was aware of Gerard Grega's request on behalf of the school district. Atty. Yurchak stated that she was not, but they had already received the okay from the school district.

Police Concerns: David Kost, a resident from Sixth Street, said that there are no police cars present while the school buses are coming and going at the school. He added his understanding was that three police officers took other jobs and that Council was not intending to fill those positions. If Council did not intend to fill those positions, he would have a problem with that decision. Mayor Bellizia said that all municipalities have the same problem with getting positions filled, but the Borough is working on it and will do whatever we can afford to do.

Schwab School Lease: Susan Danenhower questioned the \$10 lease fee for 1 year or 40 years. Atty. Nanovic said 1 – year to make a decision. Susan then asked who would be paying the insurance. Atty. Nanovic said that the taxpayers would be paying the insurance, if the other organization takes over, they will be paying. Atty. Nanovic said that the \$10 is an arbitrary figure, it could have been anything. James Danenhower said that the Borough should ask for money for the Schwab School lease to help pay for the police.

Police Department Questions: Robert Maclachlan, a resident from West Main Street, asked how many full-time police officers we have and do we currently have 24/7 protection? Mayor Bellizia asked Police Chief Michael Bogart to answer Mr. Maclachlan's questions. Chief Bogart stated that the Borough has 4 full-time officers and 3 part-time officers. Mr. Maclachlan asked if they are working 8 hours shifts and is over-time offered to fill shifts? Chief Bogart said they were working 10-hour shifts with an overlap, but now they are working 8 hours shifts. Mr. Maclachlan said that the Borough needs 24/7 protection and we should get a more local ambulance service. Chief Bogart stated that the police run ambulance calls and let the public know that they can call and talk to him. Mr. Maclachlan said that it takes 45 minutes for the ambulance to arrive and what was Council going to do about our police.

Police Officers at School: Beth Parker asked if the police officers at the school are from our police department? The answer was yes; they are paid by the Borough and reimbursement for them comes from the school district. Beth then asked if the officers at the games are volunteer or paid. Chief Bogart said that they are paid by the borough and reimbursed by the school district. She then proceeded to say that the officer that was out in the lobby talking with the kids and not in the gym. There was a fight between a player from our team and a player from the away team and security was called and no one came. It was the Friday night game. Chief Bogart said that he would look into it.

BUSINESS:

1. Nominations / Appointment for Council Seat Vacancy.

Mayor Bellizia stated that Harold Pudliner retired and there has been a lot of things coming and going on in the Borough office.

Letters of Interest received were:

Traci Mengle	Received 1/7/2026
Kelly Medico	Received 1/23/2026

Whoever is voted on first and passes with votes will fill the vacant seat. Atty. Nanovic explained that both names should be told to the public and they were announced to the public at the meeting and that a nomination must be made by Council.

Mayor Bellizia called for nominations:

Norman Richie nominated Traci Mengle

No other nominations were made.

A motion to close the nominations was made by Gregory Walters, seconded by Norman Richie and approved by general acclaim of Council.

Traci Mengle was appointed to the vacant Council seat by general acclaim of Council.

SWEARING IN:

Traci Mengle was sworn in by Magistrate Joseph Homanko as a new Council person filling the vacancy.

2. Motion to appoint the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Thomas Breznitsky had taken on the role of emergency management coordinator in August, 2025, when Chief Brian Markovchick retired and he filled this role.

A motion to appoint Thomas Breznitsky as the Emergency Management Coordinator was made by Norman Richie, seconded by Jeffery Miller and approved by general acclaim of Council.

3. Motion to Adopt the Tax Anticipation Loan Resolution in Substantially the Form Attached in the Council Packet.

The paperwork submitted to DCED for the Tax Anticipation Loan required changes and will need to be resubmitted.

WEATHERLY BOROUGH
RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - __

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEATHERLY
AUTHORIZING A TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE;
AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF SAID NOTE
AND AUTHORIZING SUCH OTHER ACTION AS APPLICABLE.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of Weatherly Borough, Carbon County, Pennsylvania, hereinafter called the Local Government Unit, anticipate current revenues as yet uncollected; and

WHEREAS, the said Local Government Unit has inadequate funds for current expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the said Local Government Unit has determined that it is necessary to borrow for the purpose of meeting current expenses by issuing a note to be repaid from said anticipated revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council finds that a private sale by negotiation is in the best financial interest of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Mauch Chunk Trust Company has submitted to the said Local Government Unit a proposal to purchase a tax anticipation note of the Local Government Unit and the Local Government Unit desires by the adoption of this resolution to accept such proposal and authorize the issuance and sale of its tax and revenue anticipation note;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

1. The Local Government Unit hereby authorizes the issuance of a tax and revenue anticipation note in the amount of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND (\$125,000.00) DOLLARS in anticipation of the receipt of current taxes and revenues to be sold at private sale.

2. The note shall be in the denomination of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND (\$125,000.00) DOLLARS; shall be redeemable at any time at the option of the officers of the Local Government Unit without penalty or premium, shall be fully registered without coupons, shall be dated in 2026, bearing interest at the rate of 4.25% percent, shall mature on December 31, 2026, shall be payable at the Mauch Chunk Trust Company, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania and shall be substantially in the form annexed to the resolution as Exhibit "A" and hereby made a part of the resolution as though fully set forth in this place.

3. The proposal of the Mauch Chunk Trust Company dated December 22, 2025 to purchase the note is hereby accepted and shall be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting. A true and correct copy of said Proposal is attached hereto as Exhibit B, and the appropriate executive officers are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver a duplicate original of the acceptance of said proposal to the Bank.

4. The Local Government Unit hereby pledges to the Bank and grants to the Bank a first lien and charge on its taxes and revenues to be received during the period when the note is outstanding to secure the payment of the indebtedness evidenced hereby and the interest thereon

5. Payment of principal and interest shall be made in the following amounts and on the following dates:

A. Interest payments shall be made monthly on the outstanding principal balance;

B. Principal shall be paid on or before December 31, 2026

6. The appropriate executive officer shall be and hereby is authorized and directed to execute and deliver in the name of, on behalf of, and under the seal of, the Local Government Unit, the tax and revenue anticipation note in the form and containing terms described above, and the Secretary of the Local Government Unit be and hereby is authorized and directed to attest the same.

7. The appropriate executive or fiscal officer be and hereby is authorized and directed to prepare or cause to be prepared and to file a Certificate as to Taxes and Revenues to be Collected as required by Section 8128 of the Local Government Unit Debt Act. A true and correct copy of said Certificate is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

8. The executive officers of the Local Government Unit be and hereby are authorized and directed to perform all acts which are necessary and proper for the valid issuance and securing of the note.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set his hand and affixed the Seal of the Local Government Unit this 28th day of January, 2026

A motion to adopt the Revised Tax Anticipation Loan Resolution was made by Jeffery Miller, seconded by Gregory Walters and approved by general acclaim of Council.

4. Discussion and Possible Motion on Consultant in 2026 Budget.

Council discussed retaining previous Borough Manager, Harold Pudliner, for maximum of 100 hours @ \$60/hour.

A motion to approve Harold Pudliner as a consultant with a maximum of 100 hours was made by Jeffery Miller and seconded by Gregory Walters and approved by roll call vote:

Traci Mengle	No	Vincent Cuddeford II	No
Gregory Walters	Yes	Jeffery Miller	Yes
Norman Richie	No	Michael Bellizia	Yes

5. Discussion and Possible Motion to Advertise the 2026 Budget.

This item was tabled until after the Executive Session ended.

2026 AMENDED BUDGET

	Estimated Revenues	Estimated Expenditures
GENERAL FUND	\$2,772,999	\$2,772,999
ELECTRIC FUND	\$3,750,415	
TRANSFERRED FROM PREVIOUS YEAR FUND	<u>\$ 25,000</u>	
	\$3,775,415	\$3,775,415
WATER FUND	\$563,165	
TRANSFERRED FROM PREVIOUS YEAR FUND	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	
	\$578,165	\$ 578,165
SEWER FUND	\$706,986	
TRANSFERRED FROM PREVIOUS YEAR FUND	<u>\$ 15,000</u>	
	\$721,986	\$721,986
TOTAL	\$7,848,566	\$7,848,566
STATE LIQUID FUELS	\$ 75,548	\$ 75,548
TRANSFERRED FROM PREVIOUS YEAR FUND	<u>\$ 2,095</u>	<u>\$ 2,095</u>
	\$ 77,643	\$ 77,643
GRAND TOTAL	\$7,926,209	\$7,926,209

A motion to advertise the amended revised Budget for 2026 was made by Norman Richie, seconded by Jeffery Miller and approved by roll call vote:

Vincent Cuddeford II	Yes	Traci Mengle	Yes
Gregory Walters	Yes	Jeffery Miller	Yes
Norman Richie	Yes	Michael Bellizia	Yes

6. Discussion on 2026 Road Paving Program.

Ms. Grover stated that she is looking at paving North Street from Louise Street to Allen Avenue this year. She also informed Council that the Borough is slated to receive \$75,547.66 this year from Liquid Fuels.

A motion to approve the 2026 Road Paving Program was made by Norman Richie, seconded by Jeffery Miller and approved by general acclaim of Council.

7. Vote on Chapter 91 Vehicle & Traffic Ordinance in Regards to the Snow Ban/ Parking on Wilbur Street and Borough Property / Parking Lot.

A summary of the contents of the Ordinance is as follows:

1. Section 91-16 shall be amended and restated as follows;

91-16 Parkin lots during snow ban. The following parking lots will be cleared of all vehicles: On the Southside of the former Borough building located at 10 Wilbur Street. There ae 11 parking spaces. The first 7 parking spaces South of 10 Wilbur Street may be used for parking during a snow ban.

2. Section 91-17 shall be amended and restated as follows;

91-17 Parking lots during reverse snow ban. Ther following parking lots will be cleared of vehicles within 12 hours after the end of the storm;

- a. Parking spaces on the North side of the former Borough building located at 10 Wilbur Street.
- b. Parking spaces on the South side of the former Borough building located at 10 Wilbur Street.
- c. Parking lot on the East side of Carbon Street between Second Street and Smith Street.
- d. Parking lot at the intersection of First Street and Wilbur Street on the East side.

3. Section 91-8 shall be amended to add the following:

Area as parking prohibited at certain locations:

(50) the Borough parking lot located at 61 West Main Street except during the time that a snow ban is in effect.

4. In all other respects Chapter 91, shall remain the same.

This ordinance shall take affect five (5) days after enactment.

A motion to approve Chapter 91 Vehicle & Traffic Ordinance in regards to the snow ban / parking on Wilbur Street and Borough property / parking lot was made by Vincent Cuddeford II, seconded by Gregory Walters and approved by general acclaim of Council.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Adopting the Proposed Weatherly Zoning Fee Schedule.

This item was table to allow Council more time to review due to the number of changes.

A motion to table this the Proposed Weatherly Zoning Fee Schedule was made North Richie, seconded by Gregory Walters and approved by general acclaim of Council.

9. Discussion and Possible Action on Adopting the Proposed Weatherly Subdivision and Land Development Fee Schedule.

A motion to table the adoption of the Proposed Weatherly Subdivision and Land Development Fee Schedule was made by Jeffery Miller, seconded by Norman Richie and approved by general acclaim of Council.

10. Discussion and Possible Action to Change the Resolution for the Employee Policy/RE: Nepotism.

RESOLUTION No. 2022- 06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEATHERLY ADOPTING
A NEPOTISM POLICY.**

WHEREAS the Borough of Weatherly desires to avoid favoritism, the appearance of or potential for favoritism and conflicts of interest and loyalty often associated with nepotism. Nepotism is inconsistent with the Borough's policy of making employment decisions based on the Borough's needs and the individual qualifications, skills, ability, and performance.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Borough Council of the Borough of Weatherly hereby adopts the following policy:

1. No relative of a Borough Council Person or Borough Employee may be considered for full time employment with the Borough.
2. For purposes of this policy, a relative is defined as an employee's spouse, parent, child, stepchild, niece, nephew, brother-in law, sister-in-law and sibling.
3. The Borough Manager shall have the authority to hire the above for a parttime position for no longer than a six-month period. Such person hired for a part time basis, shall not be supervised by a relative.
4. This policy does not apply to relatives who are already employed by the Borough of Weatherly as of the effective date of this policy. This policy shall be applied to the potential future hiring, promotion, transfer, assignment, or reassignment of family members of current employees.

This Resolution was adopted in lawful session on the 25th day of April 25, 2022

Brad Howton, Street Department Supervisor, said there is a problem, it is in the Personnel Policy which all employees had to sign the policy. Mayor Bellizia stated that not all are in favor. Corey Gerhart, Electric Department employee, said who Vincent Cuddeford II. The mayor said he is not in favor of it and does not like it and it has come up multiple times. Jeffery Miller said he felt changes should be made to it, but keep the policy (keep the immediately family, but get rid of the step-relatives, etc.).

A motion to get rid of the Nepotism Policy was made by Vincent Cuddeford II, seconded by Gregory Walters and approved on a roll call vote:

Vincent Cuddeford II	Yes	Traci Mengle	Yes
Jeffery Miller	No	Gregory Walters	Yes
Norman Richie	No	Michael Bellizia	Yes

11. Discussion on Establishing Who is on the Civil Service Commission and the Terms.

Civil Service Commission appointed at the February 26, 2024, Council meeting consisted of the following members:

Jermone Grega Michael Bellizia Lori Ursta

Atty Nanovic they can keep the members on the list and determine the terms for each member. Michael Bellizia can not be on based on our Civil Service Commission. A Civil Service Commission member is supposed to serve a term of 6 years. It is supposed to be staggered. So, with the 3 people being appointed at the same time, they should have been appointed for the terms of 2 years, 4 years and 6 years.

Mayor Bellizia called Jermone Grega and he was willing to stay on as a member. He was unable to reach Lori Ursta. Mayor Bellizia asked the audience if anyone was interested in filling the vacancy on the Civil Service Commission. Atty. Nanovic explained the duties of the Civil Service Commission members. Robert Maclachlan, a resident on West Main Street, stated he was interested in filling the vacancy. Chief Bogart said he contacted Lori Ursta and she is interested in remaining on the Commission.

Atty. Nanovic suggested the following term distribution:

Jermone Grega	6 years
Lori Ursta	4 years
Robert Maclachlan	2 years

A motion to appoint the following as Civil Service Commission members with the assigned terms: Jermone Grega, 6 years; Lori Ursta 4 years; Robert Maclachlan 2 years; was made by Jeffery Miller, seconded by Norman Richie and approved by general acclaim of Council.

12. Authorizing the Civil Service Commission to Create a Civil Service List.

A motion to Authorize the Civil Service Commission to Create a Civil Service List was made by Norman Richie, seconded by Jeffery Miller and approve by general acclaim of Council.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Petition to Vacate Blakeslee Street, Walnut Alley & Seventh Street.

This item has been discussed since 2023. Atty. Cynthis Yurchak sent a letter dated January 8, 2026, with a timeline of events asking for Council to reconsider their position on the matter. Ms. Grover also received an email from Gerard Grega, as a representative for the Weatherly School District, requesting that Blakeslee Avenue be removed (from 6th to 8th St) or table the entire decision until the borough and school district discuss this action. Atty. Yurchak provided the Borough with a copy of the petition to vacate a portion of Blakeslee Street which was signed by Paul Tarone, Diana Tarone, Brad Houser and Weatherly Area School District Representative, April Walters. Atty. Yurchake added that it took 9 months for the School District to approve.

Atty. Nanovic stated that he read Mr. Grega’s email and Atty. Yurchak did not see anything regarding his information in the school board meeting.

A motion to Advertise to Vacate Blakeslee Street, Walnut Alley and Seventh Street was made by Vincent Cuddeford II, seconded by Jeffery Miller and approve by general acclaim of Council.

14. Ratification of Declaration of Snow Emergency / Motion to Continue or Terminate the Snow Emergency.

Ms. Grover reminded Council that the Declaration for Snow Emergency was put into place on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 10 am and it is set to expire in 7 days, unless Council would extend it.

A motion to Terminate the Declaration of Snow Emergency was made by Jeffery Miller, seconded by Traci Mengle and was approved by general acclaim of Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL

A motion to enter into executive session at 8:20 pm was made by Vincent Cuddeford II, seconded by Traci Mengle.

A motion to exit the executive session at 9:28 pm was made by Norman Richie, seconded by Jeffery Miller.

15. Vote on Setting the Date and Time of a Special Meeting to be Held.

A motion to hold a Special Meeting of Borough Council on February 10, 2026, at 7 pm was made by Traci Mengle, seconded by Jeffery Miller and approved by general acclaim of Council.

ADJOURN:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 pm was made by Norman Richie, seconded by Gregory Walters.