

WEATHERLY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 26, 2026
7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of Weatherly Borough Council was held on May 26, 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: Joseph Cyburt, Traci Mengle, Jeffery Miller, Norman Richie, Gregory Walters, Michael Bellizia and Vincent Cuddeford II (Via Phone).

Also attending: Borough Manager Tracy Grover; Atty. James Nanovic; Borough Secretary, Lori O'Donnell; Police Chief, Michael Bogart; and citizens: Bill Beattie, Georgeann Herling, Irvin Richie, Beth Parker, Ruthie Sabol, Harry Shelhammer, Paul Bray, and Kevin Kotch.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2026, were presented to Council for approval.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2026, were approved on a motion by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Jeffery Miller, and approved by general acclaim of Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report for April, 2026, was presented and reflected a balance of \$318,289.37.

The Treasurer's Report for April, 2026, was approved on a motion by Norman Richie, seconded by Joseph Cyburt and approved by general acclaim of Council.

BILLS:

The bills for May, 2026, totaling \$223,374.82 were presented to Council.

Norman Richie questioned the bills for Metrocast and Ms. Grover said she would look into it.

Joseph Cyburt questioned the tree services bills and Ms. Grover stated that the Borough would be reimbursed for 75% of the bills. The bill was for the Hudsonsdale Street project.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Schwab School Gym:

Beth Parker asked what was happening with the gym at the Schwab School because she thought it was supposed to be torn down. Ms. Grover stated that it is part of the ABC Housing Project. The bids came in too high and she needs to look for more funding.

Veterans Banners

Beth Parker questioned why the veteran's banners were not hung for Memorial Day. Ms. Grover said that it is a Weatherly Area School District Booster Club project and they send the banners to us. She said we have 70 some banners in the garage and they did not know which banners were to be hung up.

Request for Use of Borough Office Parking Lot:

Georgeann Herling and Harry Shelhammer requested the use of the Borough parking on July 25, 2026, for their America 250 event and September 12, 2026, for their 911 Anniversary Program. Ms. Grover stated that a form would be put together for anyone that requests anything to prevent any miscommunication and ask that they fill out the form. Georgeann Herling requested that a form be sent to herself and Mr. Shelhammer to be completed.

Evergreen Apartments:

Georgeann Herling stated that the police department responded to a medical emergency at the Evergreen Apartments. She commended them for their response since the ambulance service from Lehighton took a half an hour to arrive.

BUSINESS:

1. Discussion and Appointment of Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor.

This item was tabled at the last month's meeting. The following attorneys submitted Letters of Interest:

- Attorney Donald Karpovich from Freeland with a rate of \$150/hr. (Sean Logsdon)
- Attorney Stephen Seach (The Seach Law Offices) from Sugarloaf with a rate of \$150/hr. plus travel time.
- Attorney John Lucas (Slusser Law Firm) from Hazleton with a rate of \$150/hr.

A motion to approve the Attorney Donald Karpovich Firm as the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor was made by Norman Richie, seconded by Joseph Cyburt and approved by roll call vote:

Jeffery Miller	Yes	Gregory Walters	Yes
Joseph Cyburt	Yes	Vincent Cuddeford II	Yes
Traci Mengle	Yes	Norman Ricie	Yes
	Michael Bellizia	Yes	

2. Discussion and Motion to Allow/Not Allow Tiny Wreckers Early Learning Center to use the Borough Council Chambers as an Emergency Shelter if needed.

Kevin Kotch stated that he was the new owner of day care that now goes by Tiny Wreckers Early Learning Center on West Main Street and for his inspection he needed to designate an emergency response plan which required an emergency shelter location. He had tried reaching out to "Our Lady of Lourdes" church located behind the daycare, but they never got back to him; therefore, he asked Council if he would be able to use the Borough Council chambers as an emergency shelter location. He has 24 children enrolled and currently has 4 staff members. They would either walk the children down or drive them down to the borough office if emergency shelter is needed.

Traci Mengle stated that there are strict guidelines required by the State and questioned if the Council Chambers was large enough. If approved, the Borough would require a certificate of liability insurance. Mr. Kotch said yes for a temporary shelter in the event the church is not an option. He was also considering Tweedle Park as another option. Atty. Nanovic stated that the Emergency Management Plan should be reviewed for a shelter location. Ms. Grover suggested the Eurana Park

pavilion. Paul Bray from the American Legion Post 360 said that if needed, the legion building could be used.

A motion to approve the use of the Borough Council Chambers by the Tiny Wreckers Daycare for emergency shelter for six months provided a certificate of insurance is on file in the Borough Office was made by Traci Mengle, seconded by Joseph Cyburt and approved by general acclaim of Council.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on the ICE287(g) Program.

Chief Bogart is interested in the ICE287(g) program – Task Force Model. This program allows officers to identify and report suspected aliens not charged with crimes (under ICE oversight) and exercise limited immigration authority on ICE led task forces. This would not include the officers busting into locations. It would be during normal duties: traffic stops of pulling someone over for going through a stop sign, speeding, DUE, reckless driving, etc.

This program may include:

- \$7,500 for equipment per trained Task Force Officer
- \$100,000 for new vehicle per the Memorandum of Agreement
- Salary & benefits reimbursed per trained Task Force Officer
- Overtime funds up to 25% of salary

Michael Bellizia reached out to Tamaqua and they decided to proceed with the program. He said we do not want to become a safe haven/sanctuary city for illegals. Joseph Cyburt stated that he agreed as long as the Borough would not lose coverage. Chief Bogart stated that Officer Eyer had a call and it was two illegals that were told not to come back. Atty. Nanovic asked Chief Bogart if we have to designate officers for training and handling and Chief Bogart said yes. Chief Bogart said that they are trying to get the Luzerne County prison as a source to take the illegals.

Traci Mengle stated that the next step was for Chief Bogart to sign the Memorandum of Agreement and then the training can begin and then equipment is brought in. Bogart stated it is a 40-hour on-line training class. Michael Bellizia agreed to do it as long as expenses are not over \$1,000 without Council being made aware of it. Jeffery Miller asked if all of the officers will be involved with this program and Chief Bogart said as many as possible.

A motion to approve the ICE287(g) Task Force Model Program and any expenditures \$1,000 or over the Borough Manager must be made aware of and reported to Council was made by Norman Richie and seconded by Jeffery Miller and approved on a roll call vote:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL

A motion to enter into executive session at 7:37 pm was made by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Gregory Walters

A motion to exit the executive session at 7:56 pm was made by Joseph Cyburt, seconded by Gregory Walters.

ADJOURN:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm was made by Traci Mengle, seconded by Joseph Cyburt.