

Mount Joy Borough Council
Special Budget Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2025

The Mount Joy Borough Council held a Special Budget Meeting on November 6, 2025.

Council President Hall called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Invocation was given by Council President Hall, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call - Present were Councilors Eichler, Fahndrich, Ginder, Greineder, Hall, Haigh, Kark, and Scordo. Councilor Youngerman arrived at 6:44pm. Councilor Eichler and Mayor Bradley were absent. Also present were Police Chief, Robert Goshen, Borough Manager, Mark Pugliese; Assistant Borough Manager, Jill Frey; Codes & Zoning Officer, Brett Hamm; and Community and Economic Development Coordinator, Rachel Stebbins.

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Ginder, approval was given to approve the agenda. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Council went into executive session at 6:33pm to discuss contract negotiations. Council returned from executive session at 7:20pm.

Public Input Period

No Public Input Period.

2026 Budget Discussion and/or Motions

Pugliese reviewed the 2026 budget binders given to Council which included the 5-year Capital Plan, and the General Fund, Capital Fund, and Refuse Fund budgets. He reviewed each line of the 5-year Capital Plan.

Haigh spoke of the Public Works road projects, saying that we have allotted \$400K from Capital Fund and \$200K from Highway Aid Fund and that he hopes we continue with N. Barbara St. and Columbia Ave. in 2026.

Hall suggested moving on the General Fund for discussion. Pugliese went on to review and discuss the revenues and expenses for the General Fund draft 2026 budget.

Youngerman discussed the projected 2026 PLGIT interest rates and suggested reducing that line item. All agreed.

Haigh suggested increasing the utility expense line item due to moving into the new building. Pugliese said he did not increase it because the new building should be more efficient. Haigh said he still thinks this should be higher. All agreed.

Haigh asked why the line item for Police contracted services is higher. Chief Goshen said it is due to contracts. He said that the new Police contract is currently showing a 3% increase in wages, but at this point, we do not know what that number will actually be.

Haigh asked if the Fire Department Mount Joy's (FDMJ) budget requests are a fixed amount. Hall said yes and talked further about FDMJ's contribution request.

Hall asked about the Codes/Zoning Inspector's wages and why they have increased. Pugliese said that the hours for that position have increased from 25/wk. to 32/wk. Hall asked how many hours an employee has to work to be considered full-time. Pugliese said that we will look into it and report back.

Haigh spoke of potential stormwater issues at the new Municipal building site and suggested adding an additional \$10K to the SW engineering budget.

Hall spoke of signal maintenance and repair and asked why we are asking for an increase for 2026. Pugliese explained the state wants to switch to another program this coming year which could cause additional cost,

in addition to possible costs involved with moving the system into the new building. Hall said it may be a Capital item.

Hall asked about the increase in stormwater engineering and about the budgeted amount for BMP 125. Haigh said that the Borough has a requirement to pay 25% on the cost of BMP 125 and that this is stated on the agreement for completion, so if Florin Hill pays \$100K on stormwater, the Borough pays \$25K.

Hall asked why stormwater contracted services have increased for 2026. Haigh said it looks like Dennis already accounted for stormwater cleanup.

Discussion was had and numbers were moved between stormwater engineering and stormwater facility maintenance and repair. Haigh made further suggestions on the Public Works and Stormwater budget line items. Fahndrich said she does not feel comfortable changing numbers without the Public Works Director, Dennis Nissley present. Hall said we will look further into Public Works and Stormwater section when Nissley returns.

Hall asked how the tracking software for Community & Economic Developing is working. Stebbins said it has been helpful in many different ways. Hall asked Stebbins to get testimonials from 3-5 people stating how it is making a difference for them.

Pugliese spoke of the requests for transfers to Capital Fund.

Haigh spoke of more stormwater issues and costs related.

Hall suggested that since health care gone has gone up by 17% for 2026, we could possibly increase the tax rate by .43 mills to cover that. The rest could be easily covered with the fund balance.

Public Input Period

Josh Deering, 33 Frank St., stated that he did not see any money in the 2026 budget for the comprehensive plan. He said that he thought the 902 Grant had a 10% match and did not see it in the 2026 budget. He spoke of talk of ways to generate money and that it was said that letters are going to be written for non-exempt properties. He said it is shocking how many entities are non-exempt.

Any Other Matter Proper to Come Before the Council

No other matter to come before the Council.

On a **MOTION** by Greineder, and a second by Haigh, meeting was adjourned at 10:09pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark G. Pugliese I
Borough Manager