

REGULAR MEETING BADEN BOROUGH COUNCIL May 20, 2026

Council Vice-President John Shelkons called the Regular Meeting of Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Baden Municipal Building, 149 State Street, to conduct business of general purposes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Joe Bosh, Shannon Reynolds, Dawn Singleton, John Shelkons and Tom Turney

NOT PRESENT: Dave Trzcianka, Becky Gallagher

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Andy Gall, Solicitor Jimmy Amato, Engineer Tony Sadaka, Manager Elaine Rakovan

This meeting is being electronically recorded by the Borough Manager.

AGENDA (Changes and/or Deletions)

ORDINANCES - None

VISITORS

Rob Kingerski from Dettmar Avenue addressed council in regards to the road condition of the property he owns on Third Avenue. With the installation of new water lines, he asked council if the entire road was going to be restored/paved when the project is complete. Mr. Shelkons stated that there are no plans to pave the entire road. The area where the road was cut for the waterline will be repaired. Mr. Shelkons also noted that Columbia Gas will be replacing the main gas line of the road and we would not want them to cut into a newly paved road. It was further explained that the PennVest Loan is for infrastructure and only covers the paving/restoration of the road cut opening. It was also explained that street paving is paved for out of the general fund and paving of the streets will be a future project. Manager, Elaine Rakovan went over the financial aspect of the past year's projects, including street paving that was done with the COVID grant money and paving that was done with Bond money as well as liquid fuels money. She explained that water fund money and general fund money may not be comingled. Other residents spoke out and further discussion took place regarding the roads that need paved as well as funding and prioritizing the streets. The engineer, Tony Sadaka explained the life expectancy of paved roads (average 15 years) and discussion took place regarding the cost and obtaining funds to pave roads without having to increase taxes. The residents were told that that the restoration of the current waterline project must be completed by the September deadline. Another resident spoke up regarding the inadequate compaction of the fill by the contractors. Compaction was not being done in layers. Mr. Kingerski as about the sidewalk ordinance and council requiring that sidewalks be put in. Council stated that new construction requires sidewalks but require a property owner to put one in is not enforced.

Al Rose from Straube Avenue address council in regards to contractor not tampering the fill in 16 inch layers and he fears that the road once paved will sink. The engineer stated that this will be addressed with the contractor and that the project is bonded for two years.

Joe Maley from Third Street stated that he too watched the contractors while working on the waterline and the contractor did not tamp the fill when filling the road. Tom Turney asked if the engineer had an inspector on site. The Widmer employee is there to document and track what is being used on the project (how many feet of pipe, valves....). The contractor is responsible for the quality of the work and the contractor is liable. This is why the project is bonded for two years.

MINUTES

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Tom Turney to approve the minutes of April 8th and 15th, 2026.

BILLS TO BE PAID

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Shannon Reynolds to pay all bills with two signatures.

RESOLUTIONS - None

ORINANCES - None

BIDS – None

CORRESPONDENCE - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance (Joe Bosh)

General Fund Balance	\$153,558	Expenses \$239,006
Water Fund Balance	\$443,109	Expenses \$104,867

PennVEST

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Dawn Singleton to approve the payment application request #7 in the amount of \$322,768.80

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Shannon Reynolds to approve change order #4 in the amount of \$8,934.54

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Dawn Singleton to approve change order #5 in the amount of \$13,112.16

PIRMA Insurance Rates

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Shannon Reynolds to approve reducing the insurance premium by \$4,253 by raising our deductible for comprehensive/collision from \$100/\$250 to \$500/\$500.

Playground Mulch

MOTION by Joe Bosh, second by Shannon Reynolds to purchase mulch not to exceed \$8,000.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Becky Gallagher)

Not Present

PUBLIC WORKS / MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY (Dawn Singleton)

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Tom Turnley to hire Patrick Hager as a full time public works employee. He has his water certification and has agreed to move closer to Baden within 6 months so that he will be within a 30 minute drive.

TECHNOLOGY / LEGISLATION (Joe Bosh)

Nothing to Report

PUBLIC RELATIONS / ADMINISTRATION (Shannon Reynolds)

Newsletter is in print and will be mailed out over the weekend.

BUILDING / PROPERTY / CODE ENFORCEMENT (Tom Turney)

Code Enforcement

Tom Turney reported that the owner of the old movie theater has a court hearing at the county tomorrow regarding his citations.

Community Yard Sale

The yard sale will be on June 6th. There are over 100 participants. Tom Turney asked Mayor Gall if he could ask for foot patrol and police presence during the yard sale. Mayor Gall stated that he already notified the police chief and there will be a police car scheduled for the event.

Fishing Pier

Over \$8,000 has been solicited for the fishing pier.

West View Water Authority

MOTION by Tom Turney, second by Dawn Singleton to send a letter to West View Water asking them to attend a future meeting so that they may present to council what they have to offer regarding water services.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Nothing to report

ENGINEER'S REPORT (Tony Sadaka)

1. Harmony Water Storage Tank Upgrades

Future funding is needed to rehabilitate the Harmony Water Storage Tank. The total COSTARS quote amount is \$221,950 and we most likely will need to have a temporary water storage tank setup during construction (estimated separate cost of \$25,000).

2. HOP for Waterline Break on State Street (Emergency HOP)

WEI was able to obtain answers to questions about permanent restoration posed by street department.

3. EPA Required Water Reports

WEI is working on the Annual 'Consumer Confidence Report' and also the 'Risk Assessment.'

4. PennVEST - Waterline Replacements

Wright has completed water main installation on Camilla St. from Moore Ave. to Wilson Ave, Wilson Ave. from Berry St. to Prospect St., and Camilla St. from Wilson Ave. to Steele St. Customer service line connections on Camilla St. from Dippold Ave. to Holmes Ave. have been completed. Grass area restoration and concrete restoration (curbs and sidewalks) work is ongoing in the Northern portion of the project (North of Tevebaugh Road).

The 7th application for payment has been submitted for Borough Council approval today and covers work completed in April. Total due this application is \$322,768.80.

Change Order 4 has also been submitted for Borough Council approval. The change order covers work done by the contractor to make repairs to the existing sanitary sewer that was broken during construction. This sanitary sewer does not follow a predictable line and grade and was therefore impossible to mark properly without being televised/marked. The contractor also incurred additional cost due to the location of the sanitary sewer and had to adjust the waterline path to make it fit in the space remaining. Total for the change order work is \$8,934.54 and will be covered by project contingency funds through the Pennvest loan once approved by DEP/Pennvest.

Change Order 5 has been submitted for Borough Council approval. This change order covers additional work requested by the Street Department Foreman to replace two 30-year-old 8" valves at the intersection of Camilla Street and Holmes Avenue which are just outside the scope of work shown on the plan but would benefit the system if they were renewed during this opportunity. Total for the change order work is \$13,112.16 and will be covered by project contingency funds through the Pennvest loan once approved by DEP/Pennvest.

MAYOR'S REPORT (Andy Gall)

Mayor Andy Gall stated that Monday is the Memorial Day Parade and he asked that council members to let him know if they will be in attendance so that he may introduce them during the ceremony.

PRESIDENTS REPORT (Dave Trzcianka)

Old Business Not on the Agenda, New Business or Unfinished Business

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dawn Singleton, second by Shannon Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted for Approval,

Elaine K. Rakovan
Borough Manager