BOROUGH OF WHITE OAK
Minutes of December 15,2025 7:30 PM
Council Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Charles Davis called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Charles Davis

ROLL CALL: Charles Davis requested the roll call. In attendance was:

Elected Officials:
- Mayor Ina Marton
- Charles Davis, President
- Joelle Harbert
- Julie Opferman
- George Pambacas
- Jason Russell
- Loree Scharritter

Borough Staff and Professional Services:
- Ashley Puchalski, Borough Solicitor
- Amber Yon, Borough Engineer
- John Palyo, Borough Manager
- MaryAnn Winemiller, Administrative Assistant

MINUTES: George Pambacas made a motion to accept the minutes for the November10, 2025 Council Workshop Meeting, November 17, 2025 Council. Joelle Harbert seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ms. Ashley Puchalski
Executive Session was held this evening to discuss Personal Issues and Legal Advice.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Under the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, 65 Pa.C.S. § 710.1. Public participation: The Borough of White Oak will provide an opportunity for residents and taxpayers of the Borough to make public comments. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
John Marino – Business Located at 1625 Lincoln Way
Mr. Marino wanted to discuss the Blight that affecting our Borough, this has been an ongoing problem that is only getting worse. Mr. Marino is worried how all these things are affecting not only his business but the value of his investment. Council President Chuck Davis stated that a Blight Committee is being formed to address these issues.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Charles Davis
None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Ina Marton
Mayor Marton introduced our newest Police Officer Nathan Werderber. Officer Werderber graduated from Westmoreland Community College Police Academy in November 2025.
Mayor Marton welcomed him to White Oak Borough and said how special it was that his mother pinned his badge on during his swearing in ceremony this afternoon.

Mayor Marton presented Rainbow Volunteer Fire Company and White Oak #1 Volunteer Fire Company with checks, as a result of funds raised thru the White Oak Hero 5K Run/Walk Event as well as from the sale of 911 address signs for residents in the borough.

Mayor Ina Marton provided the Police Activity Report for November 2025

Alarm Calls both Business and Residential	27
Warrant Arrests	4
Total Traffic Stops	24
Traffic Citations Issued	17
Vehicle Accidents	8
Domestic Related Incidents	11
PFA Served	4
Welfare Checks	7
Animal Complaints	11
Total Criminal Arrests:	25
Simple Assault Arrests - 3	
Narcotics Related - 10	
Trespass -1	
Retail Theft - 1	
Disorderly Conduct - 2	
~~Total Reportable Incidents~~	~~359~~

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Mr. Jason Russell
Jason Russell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2025. Joelle Harbert seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jason Russell made a motion approving the Check Register for the month of November, which includes Electronic Fund Transfers and General Fund Checks in the following ranges (52239 to 52339) totaling $411,522.44. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jason Russell made a motion authorizing the following Interfund Transfers for the month of November 2025. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

From	To	Amount
Liquid Fuels	General Fund	9,851.63
Solid Waste	General Fund	69,783.10
Post Retirement	General Fund	4,229.39
Total Transfers		$ 83864.12

Jason Russell made a motion to Amend the Meeting Agenda to include the advertisement of the 2026 budget. Loree Scharritter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jason Russell made a motion to Advertise the 2026 Budget. Joelle Harbert seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND CABLE: Ms. Joelle Harbert
None

PARKS AND RECREATION: Ms. Julie Opferman

Announcements:
Post Event Comments:

- White Oak Recreation Committee Holiday Craft Show which was very successful.
- WO Recreation Evening with Santa

We are still trying to raise additional funds for our Veteran's Memorial Project – Buy a Brick Campaign to support the development of the memorial: 4"x8" Red Brick is $ 100.00; 8"x8" Red Brick is $150.00; and 4"x4" Replica Coaster is $ 15.00. Go to our website for more details and ordering instructions.

White Oak Senior Citizens Update: Mr. George Pambacas
Councilman Pambacas stated that yesterday December 14, 2025, 90 Seniors went to Heinz Hall to see the Holiday Pops Concert and then had dinner at the Grand Concourse.

January Schedule of Events:
Yoga – Mondays & Wednesdays –11:00am -12:00pm
Monthly Meeting: Wednesday January 14, 2026 – 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Dr Max Kisan, Chiropractor, topic Wellness for Seniors.
Coffee Hour: Thursdays – 15th & 29th –11:00AM
Cardio Drumming Class (Must Pre-Register) – Tuesdays – 1/20 & 1/27 - 1:00pm – 2pm
Gentle Exercise – Tuesdays – 1/20 & 1/27 – 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Councilwoman Julie Opferman congratulated Councilman Pambacas on establishing the White Oak Senior Citizens program. Councilman Pambacas said it's the Seniors who have made the program so successful.

White Oak Athletic Association Update: Ms. Loree Scharritter
It's Basketball Season and the Athletic Association is busy every night with practices, games & tournaments. The Association applied and was accepted for the Tickets for Kids Program this program is for low income / at risk children. The program provides free tickets for Arts, Educational & Sporting Events. The Association will be meeting to discuss how to distribute the tickets. Please visit the WOAA Web site for a listing of all our activities.

PLANNING AND ZONING: Ms. Joelle Harbert
No Report tonight, but a copy of the Report will be available at the office during regular business hours.

Joelle Harbert made a motion to authorize Keystone Collections Group to proceed with a directed Sherriff's sale of property located at 1208 Ohio Avenue, Lot and Block No. 461-G-31. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT: Ms. Loree Scharritter
Loree Scharritter made a motion to approve a Conditional Offer of Employment to Patrick Kinavey with a final ranking of #5 on the Civil Service Commission's Certified List as an Entry Level Police Officer for the White Oak Borough Police Department. Joelle Harbert seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Loree Scharritter made a motion to approve a Conditional Offer of Employment to Bryce Rafferty with a final ranking of #6 on the Civil Service Commission's Certified List as an Entry Level Police Officer for the White Oak Borough Police Department. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved

Councilwoman Scharritter stated the Public Safety Committee met on December 4, 2025 with Chief Binder, Mayor Marton and John Palyo to discuss the future needs of the Police Department

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. George Pambacas
Councilman Pambacas presented the November Public Works Report highlighting the Programs and Areas of work that used the most hours in the borough. The report is available for review during normal business hours at the borough building.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Charles Davis
None

TAX COLLECTORS' REPORTS: Mr. Charles Davis
Joelle Harbert made a motion to accept the Tax Collectors' Reports and pay the commissions and fees due for November 2025 (Refer to the separate attachment). Julie Opferman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Amber Yon
Ms. Yon stated that Penn E&R previously discussed minor projects updates with the manager and council and have no motions on the agenda tonight related to engineering.

Julie Opferman made a motion to accept the Engineer's Report. Loree Scharritter seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Ms. Ashley Puchalski
Solicitor Puchalski said Council had previously authorized her office to work with the Borough office to insure a smooth transition to Keystone Collections with getting the 2026 Current Trash Payment Accounts and the Delinquent Accounts sent over to Keystone Collections, who will be the borough's payment collector for all Trash Billing starting January 1, 2026. Ashley's office will continue to manage 10 Delinquent Trash Accounts that have stayed up to date with their payment plans.

George Pambacas made a motion to accept the Solicitor's Report. Joelle Harbert seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES: Ms. Ashley Puchalski

RESOLUTION #2025-20
Joelle Harbert made a motion to approve a Resolution of the Borough of White Oak, County of Allegheny and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to adopt initiatives to be recognized as a Bird Town through the Bird Town PA Program facilitated by the Audubon Society of Western PA. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION #2025-21
Julie Opferman made a Motion to approve a Resolution of Council of the Borough of White Oak authorizing the disposition of certain records. Jolee Harbert seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:
Councilman Pambacas acknowledged Jason Russell, Joelle Harbert and Julie Opferman, Jason for his role in handling the Finance Committee, Joelle in helping to establish the White Oak Senior Citizens Program in various ways, from creating the Face Book Page for the organization to creating the monthly flyers. Julie and I started together in 2020, you have put your heart & soul into the Recreation Committee and the Veteran's Memorial. I thank all of you for your work while on council.

Councilwoman Scharritter stated that we all joined together, you became friends of mine and I am thankful I got to work with you these last 4 years. You surely will be missed on Council.

Mayor Marton stated she will also miss all of you, we have become like family.

Councilwoman Opferman said it was never about Democrats or Republicans it was about doing what was best for the Borough, and we did. Good Luck Guys.

OLD BUSINESS:
None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Meetings will be held at the Borough Building and are open to the Public)

- December 30, 2025, 6:00 PM – Special Meeting of Council
- January 5, 2026, 7:00 PM – Council Reorganization Meeting
- January 12, 2026, 6:45 PM – Council Workshop Meeting
- January 19, 2026, 6:45 PM – Council Workshop Meeting
    - 7:30 PM – Council Meeting

ADJOURNMENT: Joelle Harbert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm. George Pambacas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Marton wished everyone a Merry Christmas!
Councilman Pambacas wished everyone a Happy Hanukah!

John Palyo

John Palyo
Borough Manager, Secretary & Treasurer

Date Approved by Council