

**Rankin Borough
Borough Council Meeting
Minutes**



Tuesday
February 11
07:00 PM

Call to Order:

The President of Council called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present:

Cinnamon Coprich, Glenn Ford, Aaron Gibson Jr., Walter Sewell, Gaye Velar

Not Present:

Arlena Strong

Also Present:

Mayor Joelisa McDonald, Solicitor Joe Heminger, Acting Borough Secretary Claire Dunning, Borough Manager Terri Lawson, Consultant Susan Hockenberry, Cory Ruff, David Miller, Robert Zischkau

Pledge of Allegiance

Gaye Velar announced that the Meeting is being recorded only for the transcription of the minutes.

Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Gaye Velar and seconded by Glenn Ford. All voted in approval. **Motion carried.**

Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes from the council meeting held on January 21, 2025 was made by Gaye Velar and seconded by Glenn Ford. All voted in approval. **Motion carried.**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

New Business:

1. A motion to approve the 2025 Borough Council Meeting schedule was made by Gaye Velar and seconded by Walter Sewell. All voted in approval. **Motion carried.**
2. A motion to approve the 2025 Planning Commission Meeting schedule was made by Gaye Velar and seconded by Walter Sewell. All voted in approval. **Motion carried.**
3. A motion to exonerate the Tax Collector from collecting the 2024 Delinquent Taxes was made by Gaye Velar and seconded by Glenn Ford. All voted in approval. **Motion carried.**
4. A motion to approve the advertisement for two open part-time DPW positions. was made by Gaye Velar and seconded by Glenn Ford. All voted in approval. **Motion carried.**
5. A motion to approve and pay the bills as presented was made by Gaye Velar and seconded by Walter Sewell. All voted in approval. **Motion carried.**
6. An emergency motion to authorize the Borough entering into an emergency contract in the amount of \$28,000 to be paid to Minifield Demolition to demolish the collapsing structure at 38 Miller Street was made by Gaye Velar and seconded by Glenn Ford. All voted in approval. **Motion carried.**

Committee Reports:

Solicitor's Report:

Joe Heminger gave an update on the police regionalization situation regarding the current status of the amendment allowing Braddock to join the program. It is still in progress and there has been no new information regarding the proposed amendment.

Engineer Report:

There was no Engineer's report.

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DPW Report:

David Miller gave an update regarding the DPW work on the potholes and bench removals.

Police Regionalization Report:

The council discussed their position on the charter amendment. They believe that there is not sufficient proof that Braddock removed their police department. The Rankin council is willing to negotiate Braddock joining in the future, but is not willing to continue with the amendment unless they see the proof and more information. Mayor Joelisa McDonald gave her opinion on the matter that she was not in favor of bringing Braddock into the police regionalization.

The Mayor gave the police report as Chief Derek Turner was not present. There were 562 calls, with most being for domestic violence.

Mayor's Report:

The mayor reported she attended the Allegheny County Boroughs Association Annual Banquet.

EMS Report:

Cinnamon Coprich read the EMS report

Fire Report:

Cinnamon Coprich read the fire report.

Code Report:

Cory Ruff gave the code report.

Borough Manager's Report:

The Acting Borough Secretary Claire Dunning read the total expenses and the total income. Borough Manager Terri Lawson introduced herself to the residents in attendance.

Announcements:

Terri Lawson announced that the Municipal Building will be closed for the President's Day Holiday on February 17th, 2025.

Bob Zischkau announced that he will write the declaration for demolition on 38 Miller Ave as it is a danger to the public. He will work with the DPW, Code Enforcement, and Glenn Engineering.

Public Comment:

William "Lucky" Price asked if there was any salt delivered to Rankin. David Miller responded that none was needed as they had enough. Lucky recommended that if Rankin ever needs salt, they can ask the SHACOG to help provide any salt needed. He also stated that he hopes Rankin Council stands their ground with the police regionalization charter amendment.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29pm was made by Aaron Gibson Jr. and seconded by Glenn Ford. All voted in approval. **Motion carried.**