

**RANKIN BOROUGH
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
September 8, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Weems, Ms. Costa, Ms. Stevens, Mr. Sewell, Mr. Ford and Mr. Price

Absent: Ms. Coprich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance.

STATEMENT:

Mr. Price read the statement “this meeting is being recorded only for the transcription of the minutes”.

Mr. Price called for public comment on the items on the agenda.

Resident Bill Pfoff requested clarification regarding the location of the vacant property on Miller Street referenced in Resolution No. 12 of 2026. President Price explained that it was the property Joe Colondrea was seeking to acquire.

REPORTS:

Manager’s Report:

Shané Muzina read the September Manager’s Report. The report is attached to the minutes.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to approve the minutes of the regular Council Meeting held on August 11, 2026.

Mr. Weems –Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Abstain, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell- Aye Mr. Ford – Abstain, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Sewell to approve the minutes of the special Council Meeting held on August 25, 2026.

Mr. Weems –Abstain, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell- Aye Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye
Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT, Mr. Pfoff

Mr. Pfoff reported that the Planning Commission did not meet due to the holiday.

SOLICITOR REPORT, Mr. Heminger

No Report

ENGINEER'S REPORT, Robert Zischkau Jr.

Ms. Stevens read the August report. The report is attached to the minutes.

President Price asked the Borough Manager if the property listed is 118 4th Avenue. She stated it's the property next door to Beasley. President Price said that is 118 Harriet Street and the Solicitor said to verify that the correct address was used.

BUILDING, ZONING & CODE REPORT, Nick Ruffner

The August report was not read at the meeting but is attached to the minutes.

PRIORITY ONE

Mr. Sewell read the September report. The report is attached to the minutes.

ENTERPRISE ZONE REPORT, William Pfoff

Mr. Pfoff reported that the Enterprise Board met to discuss long-term strategic planning and initiatives.

He explained that the organization, which represents Braddock, North Braddock, Rankin, and Swissvale, has rebranded as EZ4 (Enterprise Zone 4) to better reflect the four communities and their shared industrial heritage.

The organization has also enhanced its website and begun distributing newsletters highlighting local businesses, organizations, and activities throughout the four communities. Mr. Pfoff requested permission to display the newsletters in the Borough Building and discussed the possibility of including information on the Borough's website to increase awareness, support existing businesses, and encourage new business development.

EASTERN REGIONAL MON VALLEY POLICE DEPT. REPORT, Chief Turner

Mr. Weems read the September report. The report is attached to the minutes.

RIVERS EDGE VFD REPORT, Chief Kaminsky

The August report was not available for the meeting but is attached to the minutes.

DEPARTMENT OF PW, Cordero Hogan

Ms. Costa read the September report. The report is attached to the minutes.

MAYOR'S REPORT, Joelisa McDonald

No Report.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

CARRIE FURNACE, Mr. Pfoff

President Price stated there was nothing to report.

POLICE REGIONALIZATION

No report

TRI-COG LANDBANK, Mr. Sewell

No report.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to accept and file the reports.

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell- Aye, Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to pay the bills as presented on the check register.

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell- Aye, Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to reject the SHACOG 2026–2027 Winter Rock Salt Bid from American Rock Salt Company in the amount of \$160.00 per ton.

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell-Aye, Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to adopt Ordinance 601, adopting the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), as advertised in Trib Total Media on August 22, 2026.

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell-Aye, Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

President Price asked Solicitor Heminger what the IPMC was. Mr. Heminger explained that the IPMC is the International Property Maintenance Code and that Rankin Borough is currently using the 2015 version, which is being updated to the 2021 version.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to ratify and adopt Resolution 9 of 2026 (Concurring Resolution), authorizing the Borough of Rankin to apply to the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC) for grant funding in the amount of \$275,000.00 for the Public Improvements and Road Reconstruction Project, and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute and file all necessary applications, documents, agreements, and forms related to the grant.

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell-Aye, Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to adopt Resolution 10 of 2026 (a.k.a. Concurring Resolution), authorizing Turtle Creek Valley COG to file, on behalf of Rankin Borough, an application for Act 152 grant funding through Allegheny County Economic Development in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the demolition of 207 Division Street (Lot & Block No. 236-G-201).

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell-Aye, Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to adopt Resolution 11 of 2026 (slums & Blight Resolution – Demolition), declaring 207 Division Street (Lot & Block # 236-G-201) a blighted property for purposes of the Act 152 grant application for demolition.

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell-Aye, Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to adopt Resolution 12 of 2026, approving the acquisition and subsequent disposition of a parcel of vacant property located on Miller Street, also known as Lot & Block #178-M-00315, through the Allegheny County Vacant Land Program.

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell - Aye, Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise for a cleaning person or cleaning service to provide cleaning services for the borough, replacing Leave It to Us Cleaning Service, which terminated their services with the Borough.

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell- Aye, Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to authorize the Borough Manager to advertise for a part-time Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell- Aye, Mr. Ford – No, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Stevens and seconded by Mr. Weems to authorize the Borough Manager to solicit a bid from Turtle Creek Valley COG for rock salt for the 2026-2027 winter season.

Mr. Weems – Aye, Ms. Costa - Aye, Ms. Stevens – Aye, Ms. Coprich – Absent, Mr. Sewell - Aye, Mr. Ford – Aye, and Mr. Price - Aye

Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ❖ The Rankin Borough Building will be closed on Monday, October 12th in observance of Indigenous People Day (Columbus Day).
- ❖ The Rankin Croatian Home is celebrating its 100th Anniversary with a dinner and dance on Saturday, October 17, 2026. Tickets are \$60.00 per person. Additional information is available on the table for anyone interested in attending.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dexter, a field organizer for South Allegheny, addressed Council regarding the Pennsylvania Democratic Coordinated Campaign and its voter outreach efforts for the upcoming November 3, 2026, election.

He explained that the campaign is focused on organizing local volunteers, increasing voter participation, and coordinating canvassing efforts throughout the region. He stated

that canvassing will take place every weekend leading up to the election, with multiple shifts available on Saturdays and Sundays.

Dexter encouraged residents to volunteer for door-to-door canvassing, volunteer training, event coordination, and logistical support. He also requested assistance identifying local organizations and individuals interested in participating. A volunteer sign-up sheet was made available to those in attendance.

Inez Walker, a resident of 143 Fifth Avenue, expressed concerns regarding water quality and pressure. She asked whether other residents had experienced water discoloration, unusual water pressure, or a horn-like noise when turning on their faucets. Another resident confirmed experiencing intermittent brown water discoloration and irregular water pressure.

President Price explained that several recent water main breaks in the Borough may have contributed to the discoloration and fluctuations in water pressure. Residents were advised that if their water appears brown, they should run cold water from the lowest faucet in their home until it clears, rather than running hot water, to prevent discolored water from entering their hot water tanks. It was also explained that water shutoffs and main breaks in one area can affect water pressure in other parts of the Borough.

John Golroy, a resident of Chartiers Street, raised a concern regarding the appropriateness of a presentation promoting a political party during a Borough Council meeting. Carl Lewis explained that Council cannot prohibit individuals from speaking during the public comment portion of a publicly advertised meeting based on their political affiliation or the viewpoint being expressed. Solicitor Heminger confirmed Mr. Lewis' statement.

Robin White, a resident of 152 5th Avenue, complaining the house next door has overgrown weeds and vines that are coming onto her property. Council President said that Code Enforcement would be notified

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Weems and seconded by Mr. Sewell to adjourn the meeting.