

Resolution 2026-01-14-03

The Borough of West Mayfield
Beaver County, Pennsylvania

RESOLUTION REFORMING COUNCIL COMMITTEES

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Borough Code (8 Pa. C.S. § 1203) authorizes Council to make and adopt all ordinances, bylaws, rules and regulations deemed necessary for the proper management and control of the borough in order to maintain good government and protect the safety and welfare of its citizens, and to maintain the peace, good government and welfare of the borough and to protect the health, safety, morals and general welfare of its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Borough Code (8 Pa. C.S. §§ 200, 1005, 1006) grants Council the authority to create advisory committees as it deems beneficial to assist Council in carrying out its duties; and

WHEREAS, an important function of advisory committees is to investigate, research, and inform Council about issues and concerns impacting Council's ability to carry out its duties; and

WHEREAS, a vital role of advisory committees is to provide oversight of municipal operations, evaluate procedures and practices, and to develop and propose policy recommendations for Council's consideration; and

WHEREAS, a civic benefit of advisory and oversight committees can be to foster public education and outreach, and to encourage citizen participation in local government; and

WHEREAS, Council's current standing committees have no clearly defined mission and duties describing their advisory or oversight functions; and

WHEREAS, Council's current standing committees are often in-active, non-reporting, unresponsive, and structurally do not address all municipal areas of responsibility;

WHEREAS, Council would be better served by an ad hoc advisory and oversight committee structure that offers speed, focus, and flexibility by creating temporary, specialized goal-oriented teams to tackle specific issues and concerns as they arise;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Council of the Borough of West Mayfield hereby dissolves its traditional standing committee structure, assigning to all Councilmembers the general duty and obligation of providing oversight and accountability over all essential municipal areas of responsibility:

Budget & Finance

Borough budget and financial policies, procedures, and practices.

Culture & Recreation

Borough recreational/social activities and community-focused policies, procedures, and practices.

General Administration

Borough administrative and bureaucratic policies, procedures, and practices.

Government

Borough governmental and governance policies, procedures, and practices.

Public Safety

Borough public safety programs (fire prevention and protection, police protection, code enforcement, zoning enforcement, emergency management), and public safety policies, procedures, and practices.

Public Works

Borough public works infrastructures and programs (roads, sewers, solid waste, buildings & grounds) and public works policies, procedures, and practices.

Oversight Chairs

To improve accountability, Council shall designate at least one Councilmember as Oversight Chair for each of the municipal areas of responsibility.

Discretionary Spending

Council shall authorize each Oversight Chair to spend up to \$100 per month at their discretion for purposes related to their duties, including supporting ad hoc committees. Oversight Chairs must report discretionary spending to Council each month.

Ad Hoc Council Committees

As deemed necessary and with the consent of Council, Oversight Chairs may convene ad hoc committees for the purpose of addressing specific municipal issues, concerns, investigations, or projects. Duly created ad hoc committees shall have the full faith, trust, and authority granted to it by Council.

Ad Hoc Committee Leadership and Organization

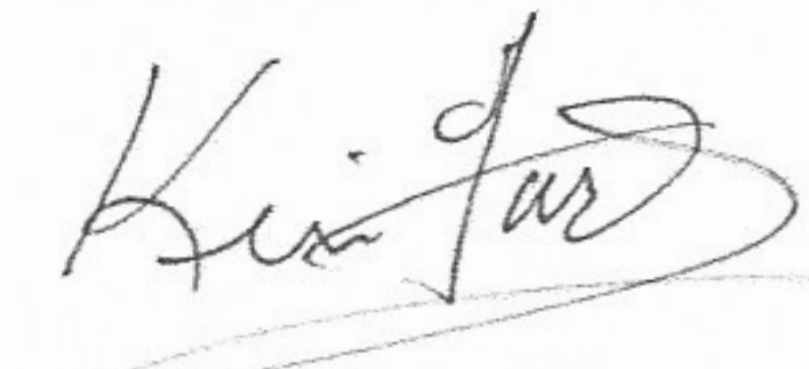
Oversight Chairs shall manage and oversee the work of ad hoc committees. Ad hoc committees should have at least two sitting members of Council. Ad hoc committees are permitted and encouraged to recruit citizens to serve as un-official committee members. At the discretion of ad hoc committees, working meetings shall be open to the public and advertised on the municipal website, but generally they are not considered public meetings under the Sunshine Act.

Work Session Meetings and Reporting

Oversight Chairs and ad hoc committees should use public Council Work Sessions to make monthly progress reports, gather and share information, informally discuss issues and concerns within their areas of responsibility, and to prepare agenda items for official action at a subsequent regular or special meeting of the Borough Council.

RESOLVED AND ORDAINED this 14th Day of January, 2026.

BOROUGH OF WEST MAYFIELD


Borough Secretary
President of Council