

New Wilmington Borough Council Minutes

March 18, 2026 Work Session Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Council President Cherry Poteet led the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Members Present: President Cherry Poteet, Vice President Lee Ann Miller, John Geidner, Dave Hunter, Janet Robb and Diane Richardson. Absent: Kiersten Reiber

Other borough representatives present: Superintendent Brad Latimer and Stanton Fleming representing New Wilmington Municipal Authority, and Rachel Singer. Absent: Mayor Sherie Babb

Public Comment:

Beth Verterano - Regarding the brick, Beth questions the quality of today's bricks and the accompanying expense and look combined with the blacktop on other areas of Vine Street. She proposes maybe skipping the brick and that Brad saves the removed brick and maybe use them in other places around the Borough. It makes more sense to stick to blacktop.

Streets Project:

LeeAnn Miller, Chair of the Streets and Buildings Committee, presented initial plans for the street paving projects for this year and next year.

Vine Court: 2026

LeeAnn Miller: Vine Court will be a smaller Phase 2 paving project this summer. She will be applying for the grant from the County for partial funding. More details and a grant resolution will come next meeting.

Vine Street: 2027

Lee Ann Miller: The New Wilmington Municipal Authority is planning to replace the water lines under Vine street between New Castle Street and Park Street next year, which will require repaving. The Borough will repair the sewer lines at the same time. The road is currently brick, with a large concrete patch down the center of the road. The Borough must decide whether to repave with bricks or with asphalt. Lee Ann presented a PowerPoint showing the area along with cost comparisons of Asphalt (\$59,015-\$95,601) and Brick (\$182,554). A decision must be made soon, as plans and specifications need to be prepared for the work next year.

Brad Latimer: Explained cost differences and noted brick work is labor-intensive. Advised that old brick lasts longer than new, stating the new bricks

used on some areas downtown were failing after only three years. He recommended replacing curbs if doing brick, and suggested possibly replacing the sewer line as well if bricks are selected. Also raised safety concerns (brick icing) and material availability.

Diane Richardson: Asked about the lifespan of brick and whether specifications can be provided.

John Geidner: Although the brick has a much higher up-front cost, because they last longer, over time brick may be more cost-effective. He stated that he would research the availability of old brick to use rather than new brick, and will prepare an analysis of the long-term cost.

Stanton Flemming: Warned that higher project costs could lead to Municipal Authority rate increases, as the Municipal Authority will be responsible for one-half of the repaving cost.

Janet Robb: Supported using asphalt on Vine Street and reusing brick in more visible downtown areas.

Dave Hunter: Noted the current street condition is unattractive and shared asphalt lifespan observations.

Cherry Poteet: Emphasized prioritizing brick use in downtown areas and suggested reviewing existing information before spending more on engineering.

Beth Verterano: Asked about concrete alternatives (e.g., stamped concrete). Brad stated that there were issues with durability.

Overall:

Council is deciding between brick and asphalt for Vine Street, balancing upfront costs vs. long-term value, while considering infrastructure needs and future projects. More information will be gathered before the final decision.

Interim Zoning Ordinance, Janet Robb: Janet Robb reviewed with Council new language for the zoning ordinance prepared by the zoning committee and the consultant that provides a “catch all” for any use that is not specifically addressed in the ordinance. For any such use, the resident would need to come before council to request and get approval as a “conditional use”. The language will be sent to the Solicitor for review to begin the process of adoption.

Playground Resurfacing: As Kiersten Reiber was not able to attend, Cherry Poteet presented the final color choice for the new mat under the playground equipment: blue with a green border. Brad Latimer confirmed that the company will honor the previously approved price and proceed with the installation in the spring. He also recommended leaving no border around the swings to prevent lifting and ensure durability.

Comprehensive Plan Update: Diane Richardson presented the draft RFP for consulting services, which will be issued in September to obtain bids once the grant amount and costs are confirmed. She discussed concerns about Amish buggies damaging roads and suggested exploring solutions. Cherry Poteet noted the May 1 response deadline was incorrect, and Diane will update it.

Before executive session, Cherry Poteet updated the public that the Commonwealth Court had denied the stay pending appeal requested by Mr. Ward who was seeking permission to continue to rent out the house on Meadowbrook as a short-term rental while the court considered the case. The Court denied the request, with the decision received yesterday. Attorney Long explained that because of this decision, Mr. Ward cannot rent out the property while the Commonwealth Court is considering the case. A final decision by the Commonwealth Court hearing is likely at least six months to a year away.

Executive Session: Cherry Poteet made a motion to move to executive session to consult with the Borough Solicitor regarding pending litigation. Janet Robb seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:14 PM.

Adjournment: Cherry Poteet made a motion to adjourn. Lee Ann Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.