

**MINUTES**  
**City Council of the City of Butler**  
**Inauguration/Swearing-in Ceremony and Reorganization Meeting**  
**January 5, 2026**

Mayor Dandoy opened the meeting at 11:00 AM. Mayor Dandoy led in the pledge of allegiance after the invocation was given by Father Kevin Fazio, All Saints Parish, Butler.

1. At 11:00 AM, January 5, 2026, the following named individuals who won election on November 4, 2025, took their oaths of office administered by The Honorable Kevin P. O'Donnell, Magisterial District Judge 50-1-01: **Mayor Robert A. Dandoy, Councilwoman Lisa Quebedeaux and Councilman William Painter.** Their term of office is from January 2026 through January 2030.
2. In accordance with the provisions of §10802 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Title 11, motion to appoint Sarah N. Omstead to the position of City Controller and to a term of office that shall run from January 5, 2026, through January 2028. (Note: The next municipal election is in November 2027, and the term of office for the person elected to the position of City Controller at that time shall run from January 2028 to January 2030.) Motion by Mayor Dandoy. Second by CW Quebedeaux. All voted aye.
3. The Honorable Kevin P. O'Donnell, Magisterial District Judge 50-1-01 administered the oath of office to Controller Sarah Omstead.
4. City Council met immediately after the swearing-in for its reorganization meeting. Mayor Dandoy, Councilman Painter, and Councilwoman Quebedeaux were present. Councilman Herr joined via telephone.

*PA Title 11 – § 11103.* Director, Public Affairs & Bureau of Police – Mayor Dandoy.

Motion by Mayor Dandoy with a second from CM Painter to assign Councilman Painter as Director of Accounts & Finance. All voted aye.

Motion by Mayor Dandoy with a second from CM Painter to assign Councilwoman Quebedeaux as Director of Public Safety & Bureau of Fire. All voted aye.

5. City Council Liaison Appointments.

Redevelopment Authority of the City of Butler – Lisa Quebedeaux

Butler County/City Connoquenessing Creek Flood Control Authority – Bill Painter

City of Butler Planning & Zoning Commission – Lisa Quebedeaux

Zoning Hearing Board – Troy Douthett

Code Management Appeals Board – Troy Douthett

City Shade Tree Commission – Dan Herr

Pension Investment Advisory Board; **Director of Accounts/Finance** – Bill Painter

Butler Area Public Library – Bob Dandoy

BAMM Plan Oversight Committee – Bob Dandoy

Bicycle Advisory Commission – Dan Herr

Butler Downtown – Bob Dandoy

Rotary Arts District – Bob Dandoy

6.Motion by Mayor Dandoy to approve City Council Liaison Appointments. Second by CM Painter. All voted aye.

## COUNCIL ACTIONS

### Mayor Dandoy

7.Motion for the introduction and first reading of **City Ordinance No. 1839**; an ordinance of the City of Butler to amend Ordinance No. 1837; an ordinance of the City of Butler fixing the wages and salaries of employees of the City in conformance with the budget for Fiscal Year 2026. Second by CM Painter. All voted aye.

8.Motion to approve the retirement of the City’s Health Inspector, **Gary A. Bonelli** effective January 1, 2026 after 19 years of service. Second by CW Quebedeaux. All voted aye.

9.Motion to approve **Patrick McGuire** as the City’s Health Inspector, effective January 1, 2026. Second by CW Quebedeaux. All voted aye.

### **Mayor Dandoy’s Inaugural Address:**

Good morning, friends, neighbors, fellow residents and public servants of the City of Butler.

I am deeply honored and profoundly grateful to sit before you today as your mayor. I thank you for the trust you have placed in me, and I do not take that responsibility lightly. Serving this city – our city – is one of the greatest privileges of my life.

First, I want to offer heartfelt thanks to everyone who makes Butler work every single day. To our city employees, department heads, and first responders: your dedication, professionalism, and care for this community are the backbone of our city. To City Council, past and present, with whom the mayor shares the responsibility of governing this city, and to our boards, authorities, and volunteers: thank you for your time, your energy, and your willingness to wrestle with difficult decisions in service to the greater good. To our community organizations, faith leaders, business owners, educators, and nonprofit partners: you are essential to Butler’s strength and resilience.

And to my family, friends, supporters, and even those who challenged me along the way: thank you. Democracy works best when people are engaged, invested, and passionate about their community. Butler is better because its people care.

Today is not about a single individual or any single office. It is about a shared commitment to the future of this city. Our form of government is designed to function through partnership—between the Mayor and City Council—each with distinct roles, but equal responsibility to the people we serve. Butler has a proud history built by hard-working people who believed in one another and were willing to take risks, roll up their sleeves, and build something lasting. That same spirit must guide us now.

The challenges we face are real. Like many cities, we must confront issues of aging infrastructure, economic change, housing, public safety, and fiscal responsibility. Meeting those challenges will require the collective leadership of Council and Mayor working side by side, informed by residents and guided by facts and fairness. But I firmly believe these challenges are matched—if not outweighed—by our opportunities.

The path forward requires us to work together. Not as Democrats or Republicans. Not as neighborhoods or interest groups. But as Butler residents with a shared stake in the outcome. Effective local government is not a competition of authority, but a collaboration of purpose. Progress is not achieved by going it alone. It is built through collaboration, mutual respect, and a willingness to listen—even when we disagree.

As we move forward, we must remember a simple truth, a saying I have invoked on numerous occasions: “the rising tide raises all ships.” When we invest wisely, plan thoughtfully, and grow responsibly, every neighborhood benefits. That work happens best when policy, administration, and oversight are aligned through cooperation between Council and the Mayor. When opportunity expands, it must expand for everyone. Our goal is not growth for growth’s sake, but progress that is inclusive, sustainable, and shared.

In the coming years, we must be bold. We must pursue initiatives that strengthen our downtown, support local businesses, invest in our neighborhoods, and ensure that Butler remains a city where families can thrive, seniors can age with dignity, and young people can see a future for themselves right here at home. Those initiatives will require thoughtful debate, shared decision-making, and mutual respect among elected officials. Bold ideas require courage, creativity, and cooperation. They also require patience and persistence.

My commitment to you is simple: I will work every day to bring people together, to be accessible and transparent, and to make decisions rooted in what is best for the entire city, today and for generations to come. I will do so in partnership with City Council, respecting its legislative role and valuing its insight and oversight.

I will expect no less from any other elected official, city employee, or volunteer.

The future of Butler will not be written by any one person. It will be written by all of us, together—Mayor, Council, city staff, and residents working as equal partners in the work of local government. I am confident that if we continue to support one another, embrace bold thinking, and remain grounded in our shared values, the best days of the City of Butler are still ahead.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your mayor. Let’s get to work.


**Announcement:**

Due to the new website not being "live" in time, the City is extending the deadline for the City Code Chapter 212: Rental Occupancy; Article 1: Rental Occupancy Reporting deadline to the end of April 2026 at the latest

There being no other business, Mayor Dandoy adjourned the meeting at 11:23 AM.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**APPROVED BY:**



Melinda F. Gall, City Clerk



Robert A. Dandoy, Mayor

