



**Milesburg Borough Council – Public Hearing Minutes**  
**Applicant John M. Daughenbaugh**  
**Proposed Crematorium at 200 Spring Street, Milesburg, PA**  
**March 24, 2026 - 6:30 pm**  
**416 Front Street, Milesburg, PA**

**I. Call to Order**

*The public hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Campbell, Jr.*

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**▪ Roll Call**

Attendance: **President:** Barry Campbell, Jr., **Vice President:** Lesa Weaver, **Council Members:** Lauren Davidson-Haupt, Ethel Kellerman, Timothy Glenn, Jared Bressler, **Solicitor:** Michael Levandoski, **Secretary-Treasurer:** Robyn Dyke,

Absent: **Pro Tempore:** Catlin Horn, **Mayor** Brooke Christian, **Lead Worker** Devon Bechdel

**I. Opening Statement – President Barry Campbell, Jr.**

President Barry Campbell, Jr. made the following statement:

“The Milesburg Borough Council is conducting a public hearing tonight on the application of John M. Daughenbaugh to install a crematorium on his property located at 200 Spring Street, under Section 105 of the Milesburg Borough Zoning Ordinance.

A crematorium is neither specifically permitted nor prohibited under the ordinance; therefore, Council is required to hold this hearing.

Because this is a public hearing, I ask that no one interrupt any speaker or ask questions out of turn. All individuals wishing to offer testimony will have an opportunity to do so later in the hearing.

Anyone providing testimony will be sworn in, as if testifying in court. After each person concludes their testimony.”

## II. Testimony

- Applicant John M. Daughenbaugh

Notary Public Robyn Dyke administered the Oath of Office to John M. Daughenbaugh

Daughenbaugh stated that he was present to ask the Milesburg Borough Council to consider to permit his funeral home to install a crematorium in the five-car garage at 200 Spring Street. He also noted that the sales representative he had been working with was also present at the hearing.

He cited transparency and the ability to keep the loved one onsite from the start of the process through its completion. Additionally, families would have the option to hold a small service at the crematorium and witness the initiation of the cremation.

Furthermore, he noted that the funeral home was presently using third-party crematoriums located in State College and Tyrone. He explained that the presence of an on-site crematorium would lower fuel and labor costs, lessen vehicle wear and tear, and diminish liability, as transporting remains to an external facility removed the process from his direct supervision.

He concluded by stating that an on-site crematorium would allow them to serve families and the community more effectively and would reaffirm their commitment to the community.

## III. Council Questions for Applicant

### **(Asked in the following order)**

1. President Barry Campbell, Jr.
2. Vice President Lesa Weaver
3. Councilperson Lauren Davidson-Haupt
4. Councilperson Ethel Kellerman
5. Councilperson Timothy Glenn
6. Councilperson Jared Bressler

The Council asked about cost efficiency, gas safety, whether the unit produced external heat, and why a 1,000-gallon tank was selected. If an above-ground tank would have issues in cold temperatures, whether the tanks would be rented, how many cremations requests the funeral home received in a month, and whether his funeral director license would need updated to operate a crematorium.

### **Daughenbaugh's Responses to Council Questions**

Daughenbaugh addressed safety measures and aesthetics and stated that the crematorium would operate with a 1,000-gallon above-ground propane tank and provided the necessary specifications. He mentioned that four smaller tanks would not provide enough pressure, and since the property was in a flood zone, the tank needed to be above ground, secured on legs, and attached to a 6–8-inch concrete base. A vaporizer would guarantee proper functioning in cold temperatures. Most importantly, the unit generated no external heat, noise, fire, smoke, or smell.

Furthermore, Heller Gas would provide, maintain, and inspect the tank, and annual inspections along with State and DEP permits would be necessary. The funeral home typically handled 6–7 cremations each month, which included the Snow Shoe location. Proposed safety features consisted of five concrete bollards positioned in front of the tank, and two located behind the garage, along with a white fence for aesthetic purposes. He also clarified that a funeral director's license was separate from a crematory operator certification; noted two individuals are already certified, and he intended to obtain certification as well.

#### **IV. Applicant's Witnesses**

- Jakob Parduhn, Cremation Systems, Indiana

Notary Public Robyn Dyke administered the Oath of Office to Jakob Parduhn

Parduhn informed Council that he was available to answer any additional questions about the crematorium, its equipment, and the cremation process. He emphasized that his company has been in operation for more than 60

years and that the proposed system is cutting-edge, designed with the needs of customers, neighbors, and the local community in mind.

He explained that the unit included several safeguards to ensure that no visible emissions escape from the stack. The equipment had successfully passed the EPA Method 9 (Visible Emissions) test, which measured particulate matter density, and there were no odors emitted at any time. All emission data was documented and available with the State of Pennsylvania.

The decibel level during operation was approximately 70–75, comparable to a central air-conditioning unit. The unit would be fully enclosed, and Daughenbaugh planned to decorate the stack to avoid an industrial appearance.

Parduhn added that company technicians would train Daughenbaugh and his staff to safely operate the equipment once installed.

## **V. Council Questions for Witnesses**

### **(Same order as above)**

The Council asked what maintenance, and safety measures the buyer would be responsible for, as well as the expected frequency of those actions. They also asked who would perform the inspections, if there were any state rules that required certain maintenance, and how the units break down in regard to their durability.

### **Parduhn's Responses to Council Questions**

Parduhn stated they recommended an annual maintenance inspection, which included to check all piping for accurate calibration, to confirm there were no gas leaks, and evaluated the internal insulation. Safeguards included an alarm if temperatures would rise above normal and an automatic shutdown if the temperature continued to climb. Their team conducted the yearly inspections. The unit did not typically fail, but the refractory floor wears overtime and was assessed during annual inspections; replacement was recommended after roughly 1,000 cremations.

## **VI. Public Testimony**

- Members of the Public Wishing to Speak

The questions asked included the amount of liquid fuel needed to cremate a human body (around 20–25 gallons of propane), and where was the vaporizer situated (beside the tank).

## **VII. Council Deliberation [No public comment during this period]**

Council deliberation began at 7:03 p.m. and concluded at 7:07 p.m.

A motion was made by Timothy Glenn and seconded by Ethel Kellerman to approve John M. Daughenbaugh's request to install a crematorium in the five-bay garage at 200 Spring Street, adjacent to his funeral home, pending formal adoption at the next Council meeting on April 20, 2026.

**[6 in favor / 0 opposed] – Motion carried.**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Lauren Davidson-Haupt, seconded by Jared Bressler.

**[6 in favor / 0 opposed] – Motion carried.**

Public Hearing Adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

*Submitted for the Record by,*

Robyn D. Dyke  
Milesburg Borough Secretary-Treasurer