



# *Borough of Chambersburg*

*A full service municipality in Franklin County  
celebrating over 65 years of consumer owned natural gas service  
over 120 years of community electric and a  
regional wastewater, water, and municipal solid waste utility*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CHAMBERSBURG CLARIFIES ROLE OF MAYOR UNDER STATE LAW

Chambersburg – Chambersburg Borough Manager Jeffrey Stonehill released a statement today, outlining the role of the elected Mayor of Chambersburg, pursuant to State Law. Mr. Stonehill indicated that he releases the statement every four years to answer calls he gets from the public in advance of the filing deadline to run for this elected position.

The current Mayor of Chambersburg is the Hon. Darren Brown who was first elected to the office in the November 2013 election. He took office on January 6, 2014 and will complete his first term at the end of the current year.

Any capable citizen, age 18 or older, who is a registered voter of any of the five wards that make up the Borough of Chambersburg, is eligible to run for position. Citizens are directed to the Franklin County Board of Elections to learn how to file to run for this or any other elected position.

The enclosed statement was released by Mr. Stonehill today:

Under the State Law known as the Borough Code, the role of the Mayor of a Borough in Pennsylvania possess less legislative, administrative and judicial powers than ever before, but they still exercise important powers and duties and are also in a unique position to **exercise leadership** for their community because of the prestige of the office and its elected status. The Borough Code gives the mayor the right to attend all regular and special meetings of council. This right extends to executive sessions held under the Sunshine Act, except where the executive session relates to a legal dispute between the council and the mayor. The mayor is permitted to take part in discussions of the council, subject to the same rules of procedure applicable to council members. The mayor has not had a vote in council since 1893. The only exception is the power given the mayor in the Borough Code to **break tie votes** to enable the council to take action. Every ordinance (local law and the annual budget) must be presented to the mayor for consideration after passage by council. The mayor has at least a ten-day period to consider the measure. **The mayor may veto any new local law** and return it to council with a statement of objections at council's next regular meeting occurring at least ten days after the meeting when the ordinance was passed. The mayor may approve the measure and sign it. If the mayor takes no action, the ordinance becomes effective as of the next regular meeting of council occurring after the ten-day period. Borough mayors retain only very limited administrative powers, chiefly centered on **supervising the daily operations of the police department**. This situation is in direct contrast to large cities where mayors are actually the chief executives, responsible for operation of the city governments. Under the Borough Code, council is responsible for almost all administrative operations of the borough government. In boroughs where the office of manager has been created, administrative responsibility may have been delegated by council to the borough manager.

In fact, daily supervision or **management of the deployment of the Police Department** is the only administrative role for a mayor under State Law.

Please contact Jeffrey Stonehill, Borough Manager, by email only [jstonehill@chambersburgpa.gov](mailto:jstonehill@chambersburgpa.gov) with questions.

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Chambersburg is a unique community. Chambersburg supplies more services than any other municipality in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to typical town functions, Chambersburg is Pennsylvania's only municipality supplying electric & gas. Chambersburg is 1 of 35 Boroughs to operate a municipal non-profit electric utility. Chambersburg is the largest municipal electric utility in the State, twice as large as the second largest, Ephrata, Lancaster County; and, the only one to operate generation stations. Chambersburg is 1 of 2 municipalities in PA to operate a natural gas utility. The other is Philadelphia, which does not operate an electric utility. Nationally, Chambersburg is 1 of 2,000 communities to have its own electric system and 1 of 800 communities to have a natural gas system but 1 of only about 50 to operate both. Chambersburg manages a regional water system, a regional sanitary sewer system (not through an independent Authority), and a new storm sewer utility; one of the first storm sewer utilities to form under the new Federal mandate to regulate stormwater. Chambersburg currently has 20,360 residents (2012). [www.chambersburgpa.gov](http://www.chambersburgpa.gov)