



BOROUGH OF YEADON  
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
BOROUGH COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 15, 2022

Meeting began

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Rohan K. Hepkins, Mayor	Present
Sharon Council-Harris, President	Present
Learin Johnson, Vice President	Present
Nicole Beaty	Present
Carlette Brooks	Present
Tomeka (Taliah) Jones-Waters	Present
LaToya Monroe	Absent
Liana Roadcloud	Present
Isaac Dotson, Manager	Present
Chris Boggs, Solicitor	Present
Yolonda Hughes, Tax Collector	Absent
Joseph Viscuso, Engineer	Present
Nafis Nichols, Finance Director	Present

III. CITIZEN'S FORUM (agenda items only – comments limited to 3 minutes)

1. Mr. Ronald Green is concerned about the intersection at Bailey and Church Lane and public safety. He would like for all of Council to come together and take care of the community.
2. Colleen Kennedy thanked Council President for having the Memorandum of Understanding on the agenda and hopes it will be passed unanimously. She also thanked Mayor Hepkins for taking her call. She offered a suggestion to have a running checklist of items that were discussed at previous meetings and review these items at the beginning of Council meetings to give residents updates.
3. Clara Johnson asked about 2 grants that were coming into the Borough and about money that would be shared between the Borough and the Nile swim Club from Senator Anthony Williams. She also asked why the Borough is paying \$336 for President Council-Harris' town hall because clearly, it was not a Yeadon town hall.
4. Ms. Anna stated her main concern is the budget and expenses. Several areas of concern are the \$40,000 spent on newsletters, our legal expenses, and insurance premiums. She's asking for Council to take a better look at every item in the budget and see if there are places where expenses can be cut. Public Safety is very important and hopes that things will start moving along with the Civil Service Commission.

5. Ms. Liz A. believes that Chief Chachi was fired over one hundred thirty-eight and a half thousand dollars and the American recovery fund should have covered that expense. These funds were not intended to be used to cover money mismanagement.

#### IV. FINANCE

1. Motion to table the approval of the final 2023 budget.  
Moved By: Councilor Beaty  
Seconded By: Councilor Roadcloud  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, President Council-Harris and Councilor Jones-Waters opposed.  
\*Meeting placed in a 10-minute recess before the above vote\*
2. Motion to table the adoption of the Tax Levy and the use of A.R.P.A funds.  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded By: Councilor Beaty  
Motion Passed: Unanimous
3. Motion to approve the Accounts Payable List for December.  
Moved By: Councilor Jones-Waters  
Seconded By: Councilor Brooks  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.
4. Motion to approve the Cash Balance Report for November.  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded By: Councilor Jones-Waters  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to allow the Zoning Board Hearing Officer Richard Sicora to make the final decision on the Restore appeal.  
Moved By: Councilor Brooks  
Seconded By: Councilor Jones-Waters  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors, Roadcloud and Beaty opposed.
2. Motion to adopt Resolution #2022-009 to implement Act 57 of 2022.  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded By: Councilor Brooks  
Motion Passed: Unanimous

#### VI. MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the October 3, 2022, Workshop Meeting Minutes with corrections.  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded: Councilor Brooks  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.
2. Motion to approve the October 13, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded: Councilor Brooks  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.

3. Motion to approve October 27, 2022, Legislative Meeting Minutes with corrections.  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded: Councilor Brooks  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.
4. Motion to approve the November 7, 2022, Workshop Meeting Minutes.  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded: Councilor Brooks  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.
5. Motion to approve the November 10, 2022, Special Meeting Minutes.  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded: Councilor Brooks  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.
6. Motion to approve the November 16, 2022, Legislative Meeting Minutes.  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded: Councilor Brooks  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.

#### VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Motion to adopt the 2023 Yeadon Borough recognized holiday schedule.  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded By: President Council-Harris  
Motion Passed: 6 – 1, Councilor Roadcloud opposed.
2. Motion to advertise the 2023 Public Meeting Schedule for Yeadon Borough Council.  
Moved By: President Council-Harris  
Seconded By: Vice President Johnson  
Motion Passed: 6 – 1, Councilor Roadcloud opposed.
3. Motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Borough of Yeadon and SEIUL 32 BJ.  
Moved By: Vice President Johnson  
Seconded By: President Council-Harris  
Motion Passed: Unanimous

#### VIII. ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. Motion to award the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Paving Maintenance Contract to A.F Damon Inc.  
Moved By: President Council-Harris  
Seconded By: Councilor Jones-Waters  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.  
  
Motion to award the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Sanitary Sewer Maintenance Contract to MOR Construction Services Inc.  
Moved By: President Council-Harris  
Seconded By: Councilor Jones-Waters  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.

Motion to award the 2023, 2024, and 2025 Storm Sewer Maintenance Contract to MOR Construction Services Inc.

Moved By: President Council-Harris

Seconded By: Councilor Jones-Waters

Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.

2. Motion to have repairs made on North Providence (Herford Pl.) with an estimated amount of \$35,000.

Moved By: President Council-Harris

Seconded By: Vice President Johnson

Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Roadcloud and Beaty opposed.

3. Motion for storm sewer repairs made at Whitby Avenue and Longacre Boulevard in the amount of \$73,755 for construction and \$9620 for engineering and surveying.

Moved By: President Council-Harris

Seconded By: Vice President Johnson

Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Roadcloud and Beaty opposed.

4. Motion for storm sewer repairs at 626 West Cobbs Creek in the amount of \$10,200.

Moved By: President Council-Harris

Seconded By: Vice President Johnson

Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Roadcloud and Beaty opposed.

5. Motion for storm sewer repairs at Revere Road and Parmley Avenue in the amount of \$15,200.

Moved By: President Council-Harris

Seconded By: Vice President Johnson

Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Roadcloud and Beaty opposed.

6. Motion for storm sewer repairs at 645 Church Lane in the amount of \$11,545 for construction and \$3500 for engineering and surveying.

Moved By: President Council-Harris

Seconded By: Vice President Johnson

Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Roadcloud and Beaty opposed.

7. Motion for storm sewer repairs at Lansdowne Avenue and Providence Road in the amount of \$6200 in construction and \$2500 in engineering and surveying.

Moved By: President Council-Harris

Seconded By: Vice President Johnson

Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Roadcloud and Beaty opposed.

8. Motion for storm sewer repairs at Fern Street and West Cobbs Creek Parkway in the amount of \$8045 in construction and \$2500 in engineering and surveying.

Moved By: President Council-Harris

Seconded By: Vice President Johnson

Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Roadcloud and Beaty opposed.

## IX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Upper Darby Township Police Department and the Yeadon Borough Police Department at \$25 an hour per prisoner.  
Moved By: Councilor Jones-Waters  
Seconded By: Vice President Johnson  
Motion Passed: 4 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.
2. Motion to approve the suspension of payments for parking meters from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day.  
Moved By: Councilor Jones-Waters  
Seconded By: Vice President Johnson  
Motion Passed: 6 – 0, no vote recorded for Councilor Roadcloud.
3. Motion to engage the services of Attorney Samuel Stretton as special counsel to the Borough of Yeadon.  
Moved By: Councilor Jones-Waters  
Seconded By: Vice President Johnson  
Motion Passed: 6 – 2, Councilors Beaty and Roadcloud opposed.

President Council-Harris thanked all that attended the first town hall meeting. She stated she appreciated the help of Mr. Brian McDonald the IT specialist of the Borough for his assistance with the presentation of the town hall. There was a total of 72 people in attendance. President Council-Harris' particular focus was on Public Safety. She recommended that we advertise and hire 7 new part-time police officers immediately. President Council-Harris has made a commitment to getting part-time officers here at the Borough. The efficiency study that was commissioned over 4 months ago will be completed by 12/31/22 and will be published to the public. We are looking forward to whatever modifications in Yeadon's Police Department and will be handled thoroughly and with all intentionality. President Council-Harris stated that Public Safety is a priority for her.

## X. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

From 12/1/2022 to 12/10/2022 a total of 14,780.91 was collected.

The Borough Manager read the Tax Collector's report which stated

- Ms. Hughes asked Council for the 2023 trash fee and the mileage rate
- Ms. Hughes is home with the flu and could not attend tonight's meeting
- Reminded taxpayers that the 2022 Borough and School taxes must be paid by 12/31/22.

## XI. MAYOR'S REPORT

**Memorandum of Understanding between Upper Darby PD and Yeadon PD:** The Mayor has called for a cessation of holding prisoners in our holding cells until three (3) things are finalized within the department, without which, it has proven that we cannot reasonably guarantee safety in our holding cells considering the two (2) recent hangings:

- First, we must first have the Police Chief situation finalized where we have a permanent Chief of Police overseeing the department.

- Second, the police department must be brought up to adequate full-time staffing levels.
- Third, all the various investigations and recommendations must be completed. Unless all three facets that have contributed to the lack of public safety have been addressed, we cannot safely hold prisoners in our holding cells.

**Holding Cell Upgrades:** Upgrades in the form of new cameras and monitors along with sound were installed in the police department in November 2022.

**Public Safety Crisis and Police Staffing Issues:** Our current police staffing has hit a crisis. We currently have 16 full-time officers with a perennial need for 21. In addition, two (2) Officers are retiring in January of 2023. We have 2 out on long-term illnesses and 2 are expected to transfer out to the YPD to take jobs in other neighboring boroughs. This would leave us with only ten full-time officers. It would leave us with only one person per shift. That is not enough, as we ideally need 4 or 5 per shift to safely patrol our streets and answer 911 calls.

**Suggested State Police Coverage is not Practical:** State police coverage would need to meet several criteria in order to be implemented. We would need to pay for the service. The state police would have to agree. It would also be based upon many criteria that needed to be met, including crime statistics to justify (a threshold we may not have reached yet). It is also not a panacea, as even if they can assist, they do not cover the same provisions as our regional policing. They don't make house calls, they don't solve crimes, and they don't know the neighborhood, so they cannot engage in community policing. They would be outsiders and issues concerning sensitivity with our community that have been a concern before, would only increase. It is not a sound option and would not alleviate our current public safety crisis.

**Staffing the Force with Suggested Part-Timers:** The suggestion of beefing up Part-Timers to complement our lack of Full Time Officers does not work. We know that by trying that in the recent past. First, we have advertised and are receiving fewer candidates wanting to become part-time officers. The lack of Police Officers is a crisis all over the country. Most officers have their choice of full-time jobs - and many have signing bonuses. Once they are trained as part-time officers, we have found that we pay for their training and then opt to take full-time positions elsewhere.

Our part-timer officer's hourly wage is at the bottom of all the neighboring boroughs at \$19.00 an hour - when our neighboring boroughs offer 22 to 24 dollars an hour. So, it's not competitive. The current climate that we advertise on the website blasting the chief and mayor puts a chilling effect on public safety and candidates wishing to come here when witnessing this infighting and bashing of our police department.

Even if we received all the part-time officers we needed and employed them, it would put us over the percentage back of hours that we faced before and would incur a penalty where we would have to pay the remaining full-time offers thousands to settle another grievance. At least when we did this before it was for the pandemic and social unrest and relief funds came in for that. There will be no such relief coming from the feds or the county this time around for a crisis of our own making.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn.

Moved By: Vice President Johnson

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by the Borough Secretary.