



**BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2022**

Meeting began

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Council-Harris announced that she will be hosting a virtual town hall to address some of the situations that have occurred in the Borough over the past 4 months, along with budgetary matters and updates on the status of current litigation matters.

The virtual town hall meeting will be held tomorrow night, 12/6/22 at 7 pm.

IV. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Boggs gave an update on an ordinance that Council will have to pass.

A process passed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for real estate taxes that allows someone to claim that they did not receive notice for their real estate taxes, and they would not have to pay any kind of delinquency. This is a directive for every Borough in Pennsylvania that must be passed and be a part of our code. His only question for Council is where they would like it placed.

V. ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. Pennoni sent the building evaluation report and will be meeting with Isaac and Mike P on 11/16 to review it
2. Storm repairs a. N. Providence – approved easement, work estimated at \$35,000
3. Whitby Ave & Longacre Blvd (\$73,755.25 construction, \$9,620 engineering/survey)
4. 626 West Cobbs Creek Parkway (\$10,200 construction)
5. Revere Road & Parmley Ave (\$15,200 construction)
6. 645 Church Lane (\$11,545 construction, \$3,500 engineering/survey)
7. Lansdowne Ave & Providence Road (\$6,200 construction, \$2,500 engineering/survey)
8. Fern & West Cobbs Creek Parkway (\$8,045 construction, \$2,500 engineering/survey)
9. Annual contracts – storm, sanitary, and paving. Currently out to bid, and award on December 15th Legislative Meeting.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's Forum: The Mayor held a Mayor's Forum on December 1, 2022, in the Borough Hall Auditorium. Approximately 35 people attended. We had prizes and giveaways, and the central theme was updating residents of public safety. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 2, 2023.

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

Six Recent Tragedies in Yeadon: In addition to the two (2) holding cell suicides, the borough of Yeadon also experienced four (4) executions in a four (4) week period. Two bullet-ridden bodies with shell casings were found in the gateway area on the Yeadon side of Longacre Blvd. and a few weeks later, gunmen opened fire in the parking lot of Restore after a party that had taken place at the Social Space in the 700 block of Church Lane.

Camera footage was provided by the Social Space that helped us apprehend one of the gunmen, while the other 4 gunmen are still at large. A dragnet is out for their arrest. The gunman is from Philadelphia as were the victims.

In light of all these rash incidents, we are certainly experiencing an erosion of public safety and the ability to keep our residents safe.

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 of 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.

Civil Service Commission: This needs to be reactivated immediately and full-time officers hired.

Memorandum of Understanding. between Upper Darby PD and YPD: 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 in light of two (2) recent hangings

VII. COMMITTEE REPORT'S

A. Ordinances & Zoning

Zoning Use Application: (0)

- None

Zoning Hearing Application (0):

- None

Hot Spots:

- Parkview Court apartments are still having issues with illegal dumping.
- Revere Crossing apartments are still having issues with excessive trash on Monday mornings due to trash being placed there by others who do not live in the complex.

Action Items:

- 517 Church Lane Africa Lift has been receiving citations for not complying with the removal of the front wall sign that is over 20sq ft per borough ordinance.
- Administrative search warrant was served, Code is working with the owner to see if the county has any programs to help senior residents.

Fire-related issues: (1)

- Dumpster fires at Evan school on Nov 25, 2022, was initially set. After investigating this fire myself and the supervisor of school safety and security Gary Rickards, the Perpetrators were apprehended and charged by the school district

Closed Items:

- Court Case- between Forest creek tenant-landlord issue with code violations by the property owner. Sewer issue in tenant's apartment.

Upcoming Items:

- There will be another zoning appeal hearing on January 4, 2023, on the 2nd floor of borough hall
- PACO Pennsylvania Association of Code official is having their yearly Christmas luncheon on December 8, 2022

IMPORTANT ISSUE:

- Need to appoint a new zoning officer
- Need to appoint members to the planning commission

2022 Paid Property Maintenance Abatements

- Total for November \$4,275.00
- Total to date \$32,581.10

November 2022 Code Department Revenue \$19,769.50

B. Emergency Management

The Yeadon Borough Emergency Management works with all the borough departments and other agencies to keep advised of all emergencies that may impact Yeadon Borough.

There is an upcoming Emergency Management Coordinator meeting on Dec 14, 2022, at the Delaware County emergency service building (911 center) in Middletown Media to go over items and issues from the County

Christmas fire safety statement: it's that time of year again, always remember to check all your Christmas electrical items for damaged cords and lights. If any are found discard them and buy new ones. Also do not leave any festival candles burning unattended.

C. Public Works**Announcements / Events for December:**

- E-Waste: 12/30/22 (Friday) 8 am to 3:30 pm
- Yard-Waste Drop Off:

Announcements/events for January:

- E-Waste: 01/27/23 (Friday) 8 am to 3:30 pm
- Yard-Waste: Suspended till the spring.

Leaf Season:

Leaf season will begin on October 17, 2022, and ends on December 20, 2022, and will follow the regular sweeper schedule, the sweeper will accompany the leaf machine to ensure our community is in tip-top shape.

Leaf pickup rules:

Leaves are to be placed by the curb on your regular sweeper day.

Trash will be on schedule for Christmas and New Year.**Raingarden:**

Our new rain garden at the Gunther Ave parking lot is completed and fully planted. Jamie Anderson from the Stormwater Collaborative and Duranti Landscaping completed this project with assistance from the Public Works Dept.

D. Public Safety**1. Police Department**

- For the month of November, the Yeadon Borough Police Department responded or prepared reports for 639 calls for service.
- There were 102 parking tickets issued.
- There were 4 non-traffic citations issued.
- There were 9 traffic citations issued.
- There were 3 criminal arrests for the month.

Lt Burns wanted to assure the residents that they are safe here in the Borough

E. Recreation

- The rain garden at Guenther and Church Lane has been installed. The garden has trees and shrubs already planted. The plantings are native plants. The project was paid for with a grant of \$19,500 from the Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Coalition. The coalition is looking for additional locations in Yeadon to help with stormwater runoff.
- Mr. Hunter is requesting that Council form a shade tree commission in order to get grants to fund the purchasing of additional shade trees to replace what has been cut down.
- Construction work on Kerr Field is due to start sometime in the spring. A new 8-lane track, football, baseball, and softball fields are projected. For more information, contact the William Penn School District. Mr. Hunter is encouraging residents to be involved in this endeavor.

- Christmas tree lighting ceremony is likely to happen next Friday

VIII. CITIZEN'S FORUM

1. Colleen Kennedy stated that she is thrilled to hear that the cameras and the sound system have been replaced. She noted there is still no ability to watch meetings from home. There is no active Civil Service Commission. She gave an outline of what community members have gotten accomplished over the last few months and asked that meeting videos be posted online, the rules of the Sunshine Act be followed, that there is a public review of the police department policies, and stop prioritizing one's own political scoring points and start focusing on the issues that the residents have been talking about.
2. Diamond Gibbs stated that respect is earned as well as trust and without transparency coming from Council President. She doesn't believe residents will be aware or get answers that are needed for public safety concerns.
3. Liz A. believes that nothing Council President has done this year has made any sense. She stated it is not ok for the officers or the residents for 12 officers to be dividing 21 shifts, that is not safe.
4. Ms. Anna stated that being as though all of Council are residents of Yeadon public safety should be the highest priority. The police force is understaffed and that is putting residents at risk. We need to convene the Civil Service Commission. She'd also like there to be hybrid meetings.
5. Clara Johnson asked that Council President be removed and to bring Chachi back.
6. Angela Lee her first concern is public safety. She states she doesn't feel safe here because we don't have adequate police. She feels she's forced to have to get a weapon because we won't hire police and we won't get the Civil Service Commission going. Grants why is everyone around us getting things and we're not. What are the plans for the winter?

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Borough Secretary.