



BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2024

Meeting began.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Rohan K. Hepkins, Mayor	Present
LaToya Monroe, President	Present
Liana Roadcloud, Vice President	Present
Carlette Brooks	Absent
Antoinette Truehart	Present
Nicole Beaty	Present
Jessie Peets	Present
Learin Johnson	Present *
Kilkenny Law, Solicitor	Present
Yolonda Hughes, Tax Collector	Present
Joseph Viscuso, Engineer	Present
Nafis Nichols, Finance Director	Present

* Councilor Johnson participated in the meeting remotely, but the Solicitor advised her that if she required assistance to hear the conversation, she could only attend as a resident. Following the Citizen's Forum, Councilor Johnson was no longer present at the meeting.

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

1. Ms. Liz A. welcomed the new officers and reflected on the 2021 election where 13 candidates vied for four seats, with notable names like Council-Harris Johnson and Brooks prevailing. She highlighted Antoinette's commendable campaign efforts, noting her decision to step back in 2023 when three strong candidates emerged. Had she not, Tamika might still be a Councilor, and Sharon would not be resigning. Ms. Liz praised Antoinette's civic-mindedness, ethical behavior, and extensive community service, asserting her as the ideal candidate to fill the vacant seat.
2. Michael Trent expressed his hope for Zoom meetings to increase accessibility for residents. He's asked about the \$25,000 Valero report paid for by the Council yet believes neither the Council nor residents have seen it. He's seeking guidance from the solicitor on obtaining the report.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Motion to amend the agenda to move the President's report to after the Citizen's Forum.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
2. Motion to accept the resignation of Councilor Sharon Council-Harris.
Moved By: Councilor Beaty
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Motion Passed: Unanimous
3. Motion to appoint Antoinette Truehart to fill the unexpired Council term of Sharon Council-Harris to expire in January of 2026.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Beaty
Motion Passed: Unanimous

Councilor Antoinette Truehart is sworn in.

Councilor Beaty left after this vote.

4. Motion to relocate the Mayor's office to the street-level entrance of Borough Hall.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
5. Appointment of Committee Chairs
 - Code and Public Works Committee – Vice President Road Cloud
 - Public Safety Committee – Mayor Hepkins and Councilor Peets
 - Personnel Committee – President Monroe, Vice President Roadcloud, and Councilor Truehart
 - Finance Committee – President Monroe and Nafis Nichols, Finance Director
 - Recreation Committee – Councilor Beaty

V. MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the December 26, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: 3 – 0, President Monroe abstained.
2. Motion to approve the January 2, 2024, Reorganization Meeting Minutes.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hopkins asked that his report stand as submitted.

1. Motion to advertise for Ordinance #2024-001 Concealed Faces.
Moved By: Councilor Truehart
Seconded By: Vice President Roadcloud
Motion Passed: Unanimous
2. Motion to hire Full-time Police Officers Richard Nizza, Stephen Gallagher, Thomas Reynolds, and Austin Bleacher effective January 22, 2024.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous

Officers Richard Nizza, Stephen Gallagher, Thomas Reynolds, and Austin Bleacher are sworn in as Full-time Officers of the Yeadon Police Department.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Nichols updated Council on the following,

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Flag Day, I want to emphasize our commitment to a vibrant celebration. We're launching fundraising efforts to ensure a memorable event, aiming for sponsorship from outside vendors. Mr. Hunter and I will kick off by forming a committee soon. Additionally, we've been awarded a \$120,000 Delco Greenways grant for Yeadon Community Park, with more details from Meagan to follow. Calendars are being mailed this week, fully covered by donations. Our \$11,363 cost was exceeded by \$12,250 raised, so no taxpayer expense. We're wrapping up the 2023 workers' comp audit and meeting with Senator Williams next week for potential grants. Our website makeover is underway, along with transitioning to a new webmaster. Departments are coordinating efforts for weather events, and the spring newsletter will return to a newspaper format, arriving in March. I'm pleased to report all state reports are completed, ensuring compliance. Unfortunately, the Borough will be closed tomorrow due to the weather.

1. Motion to terminate employee number 10261 effective January 12, 2024.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
2. Motion to hire a Part-time employee in the Yeadon Borough Library
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Truehart
Motion Passed: Unanimous

VIII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kilkenny provided an update to Council, expressing his pleasure in serving and being reappointed. He thanked them for their confidence in him and his firm. He reported on collaborating with the Mayor on the pending Ski mask ordinance, which involved research and consultation with the police chief to ensure compliance with Borough codes. He noted the potential for leading the way in neighboring municipalities. Additionally, he addressed the resignation and appointment of a new Council member. He ensured the proper delivery of the Quo warranto letter to Councilor Brooks and mentioned a follow-up with the District Attorney's office regarding the matter.

IX. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Hughes provided updates to both the Council and Yeadon residents, starting with changes to tax rebate laws aimed at raising the income limit. This adjustment allows individuals earning over \$35,000, but less than \$45,000 annually, to qualify for rebates up to \$1,000, a fact she intends to communicate through the newsletter. She also mentioned funding for the school district, which may aid in reducing school taxes, although any noticeable reduction might not occur until 2025. Ms. Hughes then outlined important deadlines for tax payments, including a cutoff date of January 25 for school taxes and the closure of Borough tax books on the same date. She emphasized the importance of avoiding bounced checks, which incur a \$50 fee and could result in taxes being considered unpaid. Lastly, she reported that 92 parcels paid taxes totaling \$161,014.60 between December 17 and January 12, 2024, with a face amount of \$146,376.93 and penalties amounting to \$14,937.67.

X. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Land Development for 404 Industrial Park Drive, review at February meeting

Budgeted 2024 Projects:

- Duff Avenue Road Improvements – construction starting in Spring.
- ADA Ramps and Crosswalks – under construction
- West Cobbs Creek Parkway Improvements – complete design in 2024
- MacDade Blvd & Church Lane ADA & Signal Upgrades – Completing PennDOT permit, bid in late Spring.
- Community Park Improvements – working with the solicitor on deed updates, bid Summer.
- Library window and door replacement – windows and doors expected in the Winter.
- Blunston Run Stream Restoration – complete design.

Yeadon was awarded a Delco Greenways grant of \$120,000 for fully funded construction.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

1. Motion to approve the Accounts Payable List for year-end 2023.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
2. Motion to approve the Accounts Payable List for January 2024.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
3. Motion to approve the Cash Balance Report
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Truehart
Motion Passed: Unanimous

B. Public Works

Mr. Mike, the Public Works Superintendent, updated everyone, saying that the e-waste event is set for January 26th, from 8 am to 2:30 pm. He talked about the recent storms causing power outages and a lot of debris but assured that his team is cleaning up the mess. They're also ready for the upcoming storm despite the current snowfall. He mentioned that the trash schedule has been okay, except for some missed recycling days due to holidays. They'll make sure to improve recycling pickups for next year. Overall, things are going well, and he thanked everyone for their help.

C. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

- For the month of December 2023 Yeadon Borough Police Department had responded to or prepared reports for 699 calls for service.
- There were 2 Criminal Arrests in the month.
- There were 7 Non-Traffic Citations Issued for the month.
- There were 86 Traffic Citations sent out for Unpaid Parking Tickets.
- There were 873 Parking Tickets issued for the month.
- The police department was awarded two grants: one for \$10,000 from the Edward Byrne

D. Recreation

- The winter basketball program organized by the Yeadon Educational Athletic Association (YEAA) is now underway. You can catch the games at Cypress Street and Bell Ave. For additional details, feel free to reach out to Leon Howard at 267-979-8173. The league welcomes both boys and girls.
- The Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative is seeking more locations in Yeadon to build additional rain gardens on borough property. Homeowners also have the opportunity to incorporate rain gardens on their properties. We are planning to organize a rain barrel workshop in the borough this year, with dates yet to be determined.
- Several residents participated in the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg on January 11th. As highlighted in our earlier report, the show focused on uniting urban and rural communities. The exhibits and programs featured concepts related to farmer's markets, youth programs, community gardens, food preparation, and local government projects funded by county, state, and federal grants. And of course, there was an abundance of delicious foods to enjoy.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn.

Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud

Seconded By: Councilor Truehart

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by the Borough Secretary.