



BOROUGH OF YEADDON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Meeting began

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. CITIZEN'S FORUM

NO PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins asked that his report stand as submitted and gave a brief overview on the following, the next Mayor's forum is scheduled for March 7th, with Dr. Becoats from the William Penn School District confirmed to attend. The forum will address community concerns, including access to facilities, policing strategies, scheduling preferences for football games, and following the significant legal victory for the William Penn School District, expected to bring increased funding, there's a potential for tax relief, especially for elderly residents on fixed incomes without children in school.

Other issues covered include a forthcoming vote on a ski mask ban, achieving full police staffing, and upgrades to holding cell facilities following recent incidents. Mayor Hepkins also honored the late former Councilor Jack Byrne for his community leadership. Mayor Hepkins also expressed sympathies for an unfortunate incident involving two officers in East Lansdowne, showing support for the affected families and law enforcement.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1. Motion to accept the resignation of Carlette Brooks from the Yeadon Borough Council
Moved By: Councilor Truehart
Seconded By: Vice President Roadcloud
Motion Passed: Unanimous

Presentation regarding 404 Industry Park Drive Project by Philly's Best Steak Company

President Monroe provided an update, noting that although it wasn't on the agenda, the personnel committee convened to discuss ongoing matters, including the Borough's vacant manager position. Efforts are underway to address this, aiming to ease the burden on Mr. Nichols, who has been wearing multiple hats. While thankful for his dedication, the committee anticipates positive changes in the coming year.

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Nichols reported that he had little new to report, as department heads typically provide detailed updates. However, he did bring attention to an important matter for the next meeting: an application requesting the use of the substation parking lot for a shredding event organized by the Yeadon Economic Development Committee. This application will be circulated to all Council members for review.

Meetings are now also accessible via Zoom for both Caucus and Legislative meetings, noting that the current session was also being conducted via Zoom to enhance accessibility. Mr. Nichols encouraged residents to participate in these real-time discussions and asked for patience as the Borough worked on consolidating its various social media channels.

Regarding other issues, Mr. Nichols mentioned the need for an executive session to address legal and personnel matters. He expressed his intention to schedule these sessions with the full Council soon.

VII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Colleen stated she is working with the Mayor and Borough Manager on several ordinances. She also provided updates on 725 Fern St. and 1100 Chester Ave.

VIII. TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Ms. Hughes informed everyone that the books for 2023 are now closed. Any individuals who have not yet paid their 2023 taxes are considered delinquent and will be contacted by collection agencies.

She provided a summary of the recent tax collections, stating that from January 13th to January 31st, 2023, \$7,996.29 was collected. From February 5th, 2023, until January 31st, 2024, a total of \$6,287,101.37 was collected for real estate, trash, and sewer taxes.

Ms. Hughes reminded residents that 2024 tax bills have been sent out and urged those whose mortgage companies are responsible for payment to ensure they are fulfilling their obligations. She emphasized that the tax office does not accept cash payments and provided information on payment procedures, including the importance of including the folio number, consequences of bounced checks, and leaving payments in the mail slot.

She reiterated that Borough tax payments cannot be made in installments and provided the tax office's operating hours. Additionally, Ms. Hughes reiterated information about the property tax or rent rebate program, noting the increased income eligibility and maximum rebate amounts for seniors and disabled individuals.

IX. ENGINEER'S REPORT

- Land Development for 404 Industrial Park Drive, review at February meeting; may need approval at February meeting

Upcoming Grants

- Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) grant due March 27 (possible application for ordinance update)
- Natural Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant March 21 (opportunities to conserve, restore, and protect habitats)
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) C2P2 grants due April 3 (opportunities for Park & Recreation, land acquisition, trails, and planning)
- Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Act 13 grants due May 31 (opportunities for Greenways, parks, trails, watershed restoration)

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

Mr. Nichols presented the finance report, stating he'll be requesting consideration for the February accounts payable list and the January 2024 cash balance report. He also seeks Council's approval for the sale of delinquent real estate taxes for 2023. The resolution for this sale was distributed for review this evening. This annual sale, conducted with Municipal Revenue Services, allows the Borough to receive its delinquent real estate taxes upfront. Mr. Nichols concluded his report.

B. Ordinances and Zoning

Zoning Use Application:

- 125 Chester Ave – Grocery store at 125 Chester Ave next to health office (APPROVED)
- 100 Lincoln Ave – replace garage & add an addition on the rear of existing home (approved)
- 608 Ruskin Lane – Rear Shed- Approved

Zoning Hearing Application:

- None

Hot Spots:

- 900 blk of Myra Ave odor of gas- public works & code monitoring this issue with Peco.
- 1024 Church Ln. Frankie Francis funeral director- cited for noncompliance of removal of graffiti.
- 725 Fern St- structure property was evacuated due to structural issues.
- 1219 S Longacre Blvd. owner is still working on cleaning up the property posted and notice was sent out to have plans submitted to the Borough for repairs or demolition by February 8, 2024, it will not start condemnation process.
- 1100-1108 Chester Ave- property posted and notice sent out to have plans submitted to the borough for repair or demolition by February 8, 2024, it received, condemnation process will start.

Action Items:

- Work at Fitzgerald Mercy to start on a dentistry lab once plans are submitted, reviewed, and approved.
- 520 Commerce Drive – construction for pizza distribution business
- 404 Industrial Drive - construction for meat distribution business
- 100 Lincoln Ave- renovation on property and garage
- New Dumpster Ordinance paperwork submitted to manager for Council to review and approve.

Fire Related Issues:

- 430 Holly Road, house fire (no injuries) house uninhabitable until renovated.

Closed Items:

- 900 Blk Myra Ave gas leak found and repaired by Peco- cracked gas main in street. No issues or damage to homes in the area.

Upcoming Items:

- Applications for all rental properties and complexes have been sent out for renewal.
- Handicap renewal letter being sent out February 1, 2024

IMPORTANT ISSUES:

- Need to appoint several Zoning Officers
- Need to appoint members to the Planning Commission
- Ordinance changed/new ordinance for street permit for dumpster pods and storage containers.

2024 Paid Property Maintenance Abatements for January \$707.38

2024 Code Department Revenue for January \$33,150.38

C. Public Works

The Public Works Events for February:

The Public Works Dept. is located at 582 West Cobbs Creek Parkway.

- E-Waste: 02/23/2024 (Friday) 8 am to 2:30 pm
- Yard-Waste Drop Off: 3/08/2024 (Friday) 8 am to 2:30 pm

Announcements/events for March:

March E-Waste is canceled due to the Good Friday Holiday

Projects:

- The Aqua project is ongoing on Yeadon Ave. Thank you all for your patience.
- Curb cuts: The ADA-compliant handicap ramps project will start in several locations throughout the Borough.

Storm Sewer Repair:

There are still two outstanding repairs remaining Church Lane at Longacre Blvd and Lansdown Ave at Providence Rd. These projects will be completed this winter.

Cleaning:

Due to Covid-19, the Public Works Department has ramped up its cleaning efforts. Daily, the Public Works is deep cleaning Borough Hall and Police Department top to bottom and disinfecting all high-touch surfaces and trafficked areas frequently throughout the day. Disinfecting Schedule (electrostatic disinfectant):

Library on Tuesdays and the Borough Hall on Wednesdays

D. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

- For the month of January 2024 Yeadon Borough Police Department had responded to or prepared reports for 1,309 calls for service.
- There were 5 Criminal Arrests in the month.
- There were 4 Non-Traffic Citations Issued for the month.
- There were 11 Traffic Citations sent out for Unpaid Parking Tickets.
- There were 673 Parking Tickets issued for the month.

Chief Giammarco expressed gratitude for the support received from Madam Speaker Joanna McClinton. He revealed that the police department secured several grants, including \$138,000 from a state grant, \$10,700 from a federal grant for overtime, \$4,500 from a gaming grant, and \$10,000 towards accreditation from the District Attorney. In total, the police department received \$163,200 in grant funding in the previous calendar year.

Chief Giammarco emphasized the importance of pursuing grants to secure necessary equipment, such as shields and helmets. He assured ongoing efforts to explore various grant opportunities to enhance the department's capabilities.

E. Recreation

- Mark your calendars for the spectacular celebration of the 75th Anniversary of FLAG DAY on SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024! We are seeking volunteers to help make this event truly memorable. Please reach out to Councilor Nicole Beaty at nbeaty@yeadonborough.com or Roy Hunter, Recreation Coordinator, at (215) 813-1597 or (610) 284-1606 x 149 at your earliest convenience.
- Camp Garrett is currently accepting registrations for its summer camp, welcoming youth aged 5-15. The camp is scheduled to run from June 17 to August 23. New families can start registering on February 19, 2024. Financial assistance options are available. Situated in Newtown Square, just a short 30-minute drive from Yeadon, Camp Garrett has been a cherished destination for over 12 years. More than 300 youth from Yeadon have participated as campers and/or counselors. For additional details, please reach out to the camp at 610-353-7690.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn.
Moved By: Councilor Beaty
Seconded By: Councilor Peets

Respectfully submitted by Borough Secretary.