



BOROUGH OF YEADDON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 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
Michael Trent	Present
Jessie Peets	Present
Antoinette Truehart	Present
Learin Johnson	Absent
Kilkenny Law, Solicitor	Present
Yolanda Hughes, Tax Collector	Absent
Joseph Viscuso, Engineer	Present
Nafis Nichols, Finance Director	Absent

III. CITIZEN'S FORUM

1. Liz Alecknavage discussed various issues, including proposing a change in ordinances to allow residents to keep chickens, advocating for a policy to protect Borough employees from hazardous outdoor conditions, and highlighted communication issues with scheduling and infrastructure projects.
2. Ms. Anna expressed gratitude for using Zoom for meetings but raised concerns about issues faced by some residents. She requested an investigation into these issues. Additionally, she highlighted communication gaps between the Zoning board, Borough Council, and Borough employees, suggesting the need for a policy or procedure to address such situations. Lastly, she requested an update on efforts to improve pedestrian safety at Church Ln and Baily Rd.
3. Jeal Collins stated she's a senior citizen residing on Long Acre Boulevard for 42 years. She voiced concerns about feeling targeted by the Borough. She cited excessive fines for tree and grass removal, difficulties obtaining assistance from the Borough, and unauthorized access to her property. Despite efforts to address maintenance issues, she faces the threat of her house being demolished.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins asked that his report stand as submitted and gave a brief overview on the following, Mayor Hepkins expressed gratitude for citizens' comments on event scheduling and highlighted the successful Mayor's forum held on March 7th, where Dr. Becoats came and discussed the William Penn School District track stating they're reviewing their policy on usage for residents and will get back to us in 3 months. He mentioned inviting school board directors Robert Wright and Valerie Cook Henry, who expressed support for the initiative. The Mayor also reported on the recent passing of a ski mask ordinance aimed at combating crime, making Yeadon one of the first municipalities in the William Penn School District to do so. He emphasized the importance of this ordinance in deterring criminal activity and noted that businesses and the community are being informed about its implementation. The Mayor concluded his report by mentioning a recent apprehension related to the ordinance and emphasized the importance of its enforcement.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Monroe stated that as a result of a request she would yield her time to the Solicitor for a presentation to go over the PA Right to Know Law and Sunshine Act.

Presentation on the PA Right to Know Law and Sunshine Act by Colleen Marsini

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Motion to amend the Yeadon Borough Hall Rental Application for use.

Moved By: Councilor Beaty

Seconded By: Vice President Roadcloud

Motion to amend the previous motion of amending the Yeadon Borough Hall Rental Application to include the changes that have been discussed.

Moved By: Councilor Truehart

Seconded By: Vice President Roadcloud

Motion Passed: Unanimous

2. Motion to approve the settlement agreement with Anthony Paparo.

Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud

Seconded By: Councilor Beaty

Motion Passed: Unanimous

VII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Before the Solicitor delivered their report, President Monroe announced that we held a 20-minute Executive Session before this meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Ms. Colleen provided updates on recent activities from the Solicitor's office. Firstly, she discussed rectifying a deed related to land granted to the Nile Swim Club in the 1940s to ensure compliance with open space regulations, facilitating progress on Community Park projects. Additionally, she outlined efforts to secure funding from the county for demolishing two dilapidated properties, following consultations with the Engineer and discussions with the magistrate. Ms. Colleen also addressed ongoing challenges with a repeat offender and clarified misconceptions about Code Enforcement procedures. Other updates included progress on a resolution for an industrial park and collaboration with the Code Department to address violations at 1100 Church Lane. She concluded by inviting questions from the audience.

VIII. TAX COLLECTOR REPORT

Crystal Sapp gave a summary of the recent tax collections, stating that from February 1st to February 29th, 2024, \$101,866.63 was collected from Borough real estate, \$30,360.00 was collected from Borough trash, and \$35,786.80 was collected from Borough sewer, for a total of \$168,013.43.

IX. ENGINEER'S REPORT

In the engineer's report, the first item concerns a county resolution necessary to apply for annual funding. This process remains consistent, and a resolution will be prepared for adoption at the next month's meeting. The funds obtained can be allocated for various purposes, which will be discussed with Nafis. The second item pertains to the ongoing efforts to finalize applications for the demolition of two properties, with all necessary certified letters received from the Borough and Solicitor to support these applications. Lastly, there's a mention of a grant application to the Natural Fish and Wildlife Foundation to supplement the Blunston Run stream restoration project. Despite receiving insufficient funding from an existing grant, this additional grant would ensure that construction costs are covered without burdening the borough financially. The engineer aims to submit this grant application within the month.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

Ms. Sapp announced Mr. Nichols will be providing a quarterly finance report in April.

B. Ordinances and Zoning

Vice President Roadcloud Code Department Chair reported on a recent Code Enforcement/Public Works Committee meeting held on March 12. During the meeting, concerns were raised about cats being dumped in the Park View Apartments and Foxcroft Apartment areas. Efforts to identify the exact locations of these incidents are underway to address the issue. Additionally, there are reports of makeshift shelters made of Styrofoam and piles of cat food being left in the area. It's imperative to determine the responsible parties, whether they are from shelters or other entities and take appropriate action. The focus is on addressing the problem, regardless of whether it occurs on Borough property or private property. The matter is under investigation to determine the best course of action.

C. Public Works

Emergency Call Out: The Public Works Dept. answered several emergency calls to assist the Police and Fire Dept. on several flooding issues: a water rescue and a Traffic accident at Church & Parmley.

The Public Works Events for March:

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

- E-Waste: 04/26/2024 (Friday) 8 am to 2:30 pm
- Yard-Waste Drop Off: 3/08/2024 (Friday) 8 am to 2:30 pm
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Announcements/events for March: March E-Waste is canceled due to the Good Friday Holiday

- Yard Waste Pick Up: Westside of Church Lane May 1st. Eastside May 8th.

Speed Signs:

New digital speed signs are now in place on the 600 block of Fern St. & the 1000 block of Yeadon Ave. per the direction of the Police Depts. These signs will be moved on a regular basis for traffic studies.

Projects:

- The Aqua project is ongoing on Yeadon Ave. Thank you all for your patience.
- Curb cuts: The ADA-compliant handicap ramps project is underway and almost completed. The last three are on Bailey Rd. between Holly Rd. and Cypress are to be started and completed during Spring Break 3-25 through 3-29 to prevent any conflict during school hours.
- Concrete restoration on the 800 block of Arbor Rd and Laural is on the way to completion.

Storm Sewer Repair:

The two outstanding repairs on Church Lane @ Longacre Blvd and Lansdown Ave @ Providence Rd. are complete. The Duff Ave stormwater project will start in the next several weeks.

D. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

- For the month of February 2024 Yeadon Borough Police Department had responded to or prepared reports for 1,207 calls for service.
- There were 7 Criminal Arrests in the month.
- There were 7 Non-Traffic Citations Issued for the month.
- There were 590 Traffic Citations sent out for Unpaid Parking Tickets.
- There were 780 Parking Tickets issued for the month.

Chief Giammarco provided an update, mentioning two sessions held at the library on February 27th to engage with residents. He announced upcoming sessions scheduled for the following Tuesday, with adjusted times: one in the morning from 10 am to 11 am, and another in the evening from 6 pm to 7 pm. Additionally, he discussed plans for a DEA drive in partnership with Tenant Health Systems and Mercy Fitzgerald on April 27th. This drive will allow individuals to dispose of unwanted medications conveniently. The event will be held in collaboration with Darby, the DEA, and the hospital system, located at the back of the friendship circle area. Swag bags will also be distributed during the event. Chief Giammarco then invited any questions from the audience.

E. Recreation

Councilor Beaty Recreation Chair expressed her gratitude to those who filled out the volunteer form for Flag Day and encouraged those still interested to do so promptly for T-shirt ordering purposes. She also reminded everyone that the Recreation Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm via Zoom, with details available on the Borough website. Additionally, Councilor Beaty informed everyone about an upcoming meeting with the County Council to discuss securing additional funds for Flag Day on March 28th. She also mentioned a scheduled Zoom meeting with Dr. Becoats and representatives from the school district to discuss logistics for Flag Day, emphasizing the importance of knowing sooner rather than later what activities will be permitted. Furthermore, she advised residents with concerns about Kerr Field to petition their school district representatives, Valerie Cook Henry and Robert Wright, for support in advocating for field usage. Their contact information can be found on the school district's website.

- The Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative is seeking an Urban Forestry Grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This grant will fund the creation of a tree inventory and management plan for municipal parks and street trees. It will also support the development of a replacement plan and determine the ideal locations for new trees.

- Please save the dates of Tuesday, May 14th, and Wednesday, May 29th for a FREE BACKYARD COMPOSTING WORKSHOP at YEADON BOROUGH HALL from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.
- We extend our gratitude to the YEADON BOROUGH residents who participated in the RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP at the HAVERFORD ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER on Saturday, March 2nd. Despite heavy rainfall, over 70 people attended.
- Remember to register for the CAMP GARRETT SUMMER CAMP.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets

Respectfully submitted by Borough Secretary.