

BOROUGH OF YEADON DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA BOROUGH COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES MARCH 21, 2024

Meeting began at 7:01 pm.

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	Present
Kilkenny Law, Solicitor	Present
Yolanda Hughes, Tax Collector	Present
Joseph Viscuso, Engineer	Present
Nafis Nichols, Finance Director	Present

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

- 1. Ms. Liz A. criticized the inadequate response to her concerns about ADA curb-cut ramps and crosswalks, arguing against their installation in hazardous locations. She highlighted the negative impact on property values and safety, emphasizing the need for proper decision-making by the engineering firm.
- 2. Ms. Anna expressed concerns about curb cuts, emphasizing the need for a thorough cost-benefit analysis before implementing them. She highlighted the potential negative impacts on parking and property values, especially for elderly residents like the one affected. Ms. Anna asked for a reevaluation of the project, stressing the importance of community input and proper consideration of alternative locations.
- 3. Ms. Clara Johnson raised two questions regarding the concerns raised by the previous speakers. First, she inquired whether any of the homeowners directly contacted the Borough with their concerns. Second, she asked if either of the two previous speakers had encouraged the residents to reach out to the Borough with their issues.

IV. MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the February 8, 2024, Caucus Meeting Minutes.

Moved By: Councilor Truehart Seconded By: Councilor Peets Motion Passed: Unanimous

2. Motion to approve the February 15, 2024, Legislative Meeting Minutes.

Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud

Seconded By: Councilor Beaty Motion Passed: Unanimous

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins asked that his report stand as submitted during last week's Caucus meeting and mentioned attending the Delaware County Council meeting to discuss Flag Day and deferred to Councilor Nicole Beaty for additional details.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Monroe provided an update on recent developments, noting that during the Caucus Meeting, she had yielded her time for a presentation on a right-to-know request, emphasizing the Council's commitment to transparency. She expressed appreciation to her fellow Councilors for their hard work and dedication to their roles, acknowledging the challenges they face. President Monroe also thanked the Mayor and everyone involved for their contributions, highlighting the collaborative efforts to address the Borough's needs and move forward together.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Nichols provided an update, indicating that the bulk of his report focused on legal and personnel issues that were discussed during an executive session. He highlighted progress on several fronts, including plans to implement a robust online system for forms and payments, following meetings with various municipal companies. Collaborative efforts with the engineering firm to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing aging infrastructure were also emphasized, with specific projects detailed in the upcoming newsletter. Additionally, he addressed the need to modernize employee handbooks and job descriptions to ensure compliance and efficiency, particularly as the Borough transitions to an online platform. Regarding right-to-know requests, Mr. Nichols urged residents to complete forms fully to expedite responses, noting recent improvements in handling such requests.

VIII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kilkenny presented the solicitor's report, beginning with an announcement of an executive session held before the Council meeting to discuss potential litigation matters. He proceeded to provide updates on various ongoing initiatives. Firstly, he mentioned that Miss Marsini, from his office, is currently reviewing the rental agreement for Borough Hall to ensure that all indemnification clauses are up to date to protect the borough's interests.

Furthermore, Mr. Kilkenny shared positive news about the settlement of a previous case discussed during the last meeting. He informed the council that Miss Kennedy had submitted a request to settle and discontinue the case, which has been approved by the court, thereby removing it from the books.

Moving forward, Mr. Kilkenny addressed discussions with District Judge Williams regarding persistent code violations and challenges in obtaining judgments for problematic properties, particularly the Frankie Francis property. To address these issues, he mentioned efforts to facilitate a meeting with Judge Williams, himself, Mr. Nichols, and a representative from court administration to explore potential solutions.

Additionally, Mr. Kilkenny discussed collaboration with the police chief on drafting a booting ordinance, indicating that draft language has been forwarded and will be presented as an ordinance for council review, possibly in April.

Regarding grant applications for demolition projects, Mr. Kilkenny informed the council that ongoing collaboration with Pennoni engineers has led to the submission of grant applications for properties at 725 Fern Street and 1219 Long Acre Boulevard. He expressed optimism about the approval of these applications, citing positive feedback received from county council members Monica Taylor and Christine Ruther.

In conclusion, Mr. Kilkenny reiterated the dedication of his office to working closely with council staff on various matters, while also acknowledging that some discussions from executive sessions were not suitable for public disclosure. He invited any questions from the council regarding his report.

IX. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Hughes asked that last week's report, read into the record by Ms. Sapp, remains unchanged. However, I want to note that it does not include taxes collected directly at Republic Bank. Additionally, there have been issues with the website for accessing lockboxes, which I attempted to resolve twice this week. Hopefully, this will be resolved soon so that a full report for February and March can be provided at the next meeting. I want to remind taxpayers that the 2% discount ends on March 31, coinciding with Easter Sunday. For those mailing in payments, ensure they are postmarked by the 30th to qualify for the discount, as it will not apply after April 1st. To accommodate taxpayers, extra hours will be available next week: on March 25 from 10 am to 3 pm, March 26 from 1:30 pm to 4 pm, and March 27 from 10 am to 3 pm. That concludes my report.

X. ENGINEER'S REPORT

1. Motion for the approval of the 2024 County Aid Application.

Moved By: Councilor Johnson

Seconded By: Vice President Roadcloud

Motion Passed: Unanimous

2. Motion for the approval of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant submission for Blunston Run Stream Restoration.

Moved By: Councilor Beaty
Seconded By: Councilor Truehart

Motion Passed: Unanimous

XI. REPORTS AND MOTIONS

A. Finance

1. Motion to approve the Accounts Payable List for March 2024.

Moved By: Councilor Trent Seconded By: Councilor Johnson Motion Passed: Unanimous

2. Motion to approve the Cash Balance Report.

Moved By: Councilor Johnson Seconded By: Councilor Truehart Motion Passed: Unanimous

B. Ordinances & Zoning

1. Motion for the adoption of Ordinance #2024-002, Regulating Waste Dumpsters.

Moved By: Councilor Peets Seconded By: Councilor Truehart Motion Passed: Unanimous

C. Public Works

Mr. Pozzuolo asked that his report stand as submitted at the Caucus meeting with one update that the concrete restoration project on the 800 block of Arbor Rd. and Laurel Rd. has been completed one week ahead of schedule.

D. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

Chief Giammarco asked that his report stand as submitted at the Caucus meeting.

E. Recreation

Councilor Beaty, Recreation Chair, reported that Mr. Hunter is absent as he's with the Penn Woods track team at Penn State. There's no update from his report. However, she met with Superintendent Dr. Becoats and others regarding Flag Day and Kerr Field usage. Permission was granted, and logistics are being arranged. She and the Mayor petitioned County Council for additional funds, receiving positive feedback. They plan to submit a formal request soon. The next recreation meeting is on April 2nd at 6:30 pm via Zoom. If you want to volunteer, please fill out the online form. This helps us order volunteer t-shirts for the event. Thank you, and that ends my report.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn.

Moved By: Councilor Peets Seconded By: Councilor Beaty

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by the Borough Secretary.