



BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
MAY 9, 2024

Meeting began at 7:04 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	Absent
Kilkenny Law, Solicitor	Present
Yolanda Hughes, Tax Collector	Absent
Joseph Viscuso, Engineer	Present
Nafis Nichols, Finance Director	Present

III. CITIZEN'S FORUM

1. Liz Alecknavage raised concerns about not receiving the newspaper newsletter and possible address deletion. She reported suspected prostitution near Kerr Field and urged neighbors to call 911 for suspicious activities. She noted that the Yeadon Democratic Committee can no longer meet at Borough Hall due to various issues and sought clarity on how this affects nonpartisan groups like Yeadon Good Neighbors (YGN). She also highlighted confusion over the hall rental application, calling for clearer information on fees, deposits, and requirements.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins asked that his report stand as submitted and emphasized several key points. Firstly, the Mayor's Citizens Forum has been rescheduled to Tuesday, June 4th. He also noted that Public Safety Committee meetings are now active and progressing well, with the next meeting on Saturday, May 25th at 9:30 AM via Zoom.

He discussed transitioning from Crime Watch to the MyCivic app, highlighting cost savings of approximately \$3,400 annually and better outreach potential. The Mayor mentioned that the school district has responded positively, allowing residents to use the Kerr Field track starting April 22nd from 5 AM, as requested.

Additionally, the Mayor spoke about improving relations with the school district and enhancing community events. He highlighted plans for our annual Flag Day celebration on June 15th, with invitations extended to prominent officials, including President Biden. He concluded his report with gratitude for everyone's involvement and support.

V. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Nichols provided the following updates:

- The Tax Collector's Report is postponed until next week for more complete information.
- Residents are encouraged to sign up for MyCivic App to receive email and push notifications. Current sign-ups are over 200, but more are needed.
- Efforts are underway to increase engagement on official social media accounts.
- ECODE updates are in progress after resolving upload delays since early 2022.
- Banking with Republic Bank remains stable, with a transition to Fulton Bank planned but all deposits are secure and insured.
- A proposed expansion project for two local schools aims to reduce traffic congestion, with a tentative start in December. More details will be provided as we receive them.

Additionally, various resolutions and ordinances will be presented at next week's meeting.

VI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Ms. Marsini reported that her updates would be part of the engineer's and police reports. The chief will request permission to introduce a revised ordinance on vehicle immobilization (booting) at the next meeting. This ordinance updates the language and shifts responsibility from parking meter attendants to the police. The revised ordinance has been sent out, and Ms. Marsini is available for any questions.

VII. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Joe Viscuso reported the following updates:

Yeadon received \$154,625 from the county CDBG grants to replace the sanitary sewer on Myra Avenue, although this is \$100,000 less than requested. Discussions are ongoing to possibly redirect funds to a more critical street.

In June, a public hearing will be held to discuss the TA Set-Aside Project, which includes traffic control medians and partial signal upgrades on West Cobbs Creek. This is required to meet DVRPC grant requirements.

Two demolition projects on Fern and Longacre are under review. The county has capped funding at \$85,000 per property, but additional information will be provided to justify higher costs.

Bids for signal improvements at MacDade and Church will be reviewed before the June council meeting, with the goal of awarding the project if bids are satisfactory. Improvements at Church and Bailey, supported by a \$600,000 grant, are progressing, as are efforts to address drainage issues on Hereford Place.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

Mr. Nicholes provided updates during his report, mentioning three considerations for next week's meeting: an AP list, AP list additions for May, and a cash balance report. Please remember that the Caucus meetings for June, July, and August are canceled for the summer break. Council has already approved the annual calendar, which does not include Caucus meetings for these months.

B. Ordinances and Zoning

Hot Spots:

- 814 Longacre Blvd – we received neighbor complaints that the tenants for this property were possibly operating an “auto repair business”. The owner and tenant have been issued citations.
- 1219 S Longacre Blvd – this property is at a standstill because it is in litigation regarding the status of ownership.
- 1100-1108 Chester Ave- Litigation found in favor of the previous owner and the Invoice for the temporary fence has been paid to the Borough. He has started the “demo” aspect and permits for the proposed work have been issued.
- 1024 Church Ln.- owner, Frankie Francis. Still an ongoing problem. The legal team has all the files for this property.
- 725 Fern St- The property is still on Realtor.com for sale. No other updates have been given. All abatement bills have been sent to the Legal team for property to be liened.

Action Items:

- Holy Cross Cemetery – The Maintenance Department has begun painting fences.

- Washington Woods Apts. – Certified violation letter sent regarding dumpster ordinance and getting the required enclosure, plus (9) Citations for trash/debris have been sent to the owner.
- 402 S. Union Ave. – Notice and citations have been given for “illegal dumping” at this site. Code, Yeadon Police, and Public Works are aware of the situation.
- 404 Industrial Drive, Philly’s Best Steak – First Phase, foundation permit approval has been issued by the Commercial BCO, M. Cosentino.
- 100 Lincoln Ave. – Permits have been issued for the renovation of the property and garage.

Fire Related Issues:

- 820 Fern St – owner has been notified to make repairs to the garage door, due to a fire. To date, the owner has not complied. Citations have been issued.
- 190 Park Place – fire in the bedroom, windows needed to be boarded up. The inspector talked to a contractor working at the property. He said they are still clearing out fire-damaged materials on the second floor.

Upcoming Items:

- Inspectors are in the Borough leaving notices regarding high grass, sidewalks, and driveway repairs. The next step will be the issuance of citations to those who do not comply.
- Annual Rental inspections for Apartment complexes will start to be scheduled this month.
- 900 Duncan Ave. – Commercial property was purchased and will be opening soon as a convenience store.
- 917 Longacre Blvd – this was one of our past abatement properties. The property was sold, and the new owner has applied for permits for the rehab.
- 901 Longacre Blvd – The owner is still waiting for his engineer to come do a thorough inspection of the property.
- 14 W Providence Rd – since no demo of the property was needed, the new owner is in the process of getting the required permits for the renovations of the property.

IMPORTANT ISSUES:

- We are grateful that an attorney has been appointed by Council to take care of the abatement/lien process for the properties in the Borough. Thank you, Council and Nafis Nichols.
- In conjunction with Chief Giammarco, Code will be looking into the problem that exists where residents are advertising vehicles for sale and the rental of vehicles, over the internet. There is an ordinance that prohibits this type of business in a Residential area. This seems to be an up-and-coming business for people to make money.
- Still need to appoint Zoning Officers and/or Alternates.
- Still need to appoint members to the Planning Commission

2024 Paid Property Maintenance Abatements for April \$3,497.38

2024 Code Department Revenue for April \$54,680.36

C. Public Works

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

- E-Waste: 05/31/2024 (Friday) 8 am to 2:30 pm
- Yard-Waste Drop Off: 5/10/2024 (Friday) 8 am to 2:30 pm

Announcements/events for May: Yard Waste Pick Up is as follows, West side of Church Lane. May 1. Eastside May 8.

Projects:

- The Aqua project is ongoing on Yeadon Ave. Thank you all for your patience.
- Community Park Improvement: I'm in constant communication with our engineering firm.
- All Borough-owned plots are being maintained weekly.
- Abatements are in full force.
- Several sanitary sewer issues have occurred and were handled ASAP.

Moving to Flag Day preparations, banners are installed, and flags will soon adorn Church Lane. Digital signs will be placed on Church Lane and Baltimore Avenue to inform about Flag Day events.

D. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

- For the month of April 2024 Yeadon Borough Police Department had responded to or prepared reports for 1,059 calls for service.
- There were 5 Criminal Arrests in the month.

- There were 6 Non-Traffic Citations Issued for the month.
- There were 372 Traffic Citations sent out for Unpaid Parking Tickets.
- There were 880 Parking Tickets issued for the month.

Chief Giammarco provided the following updates:

We're currently transitioning to a new RMS system called InfoShare, enabling information sharing across Delaware County agencies. This system was generously provided by the DA's office. Additionally, we're upgrading our body cam system thanks to a grant from Speaker Joanna McClinton, with installation scheduled for next week using the Motorola platform. Tomorrow, I'll be meeting with William Penn School District to enhance communication regarding their events, ensuring timely notifications. Recently, I met with local DA Jack Stollsteimer and Police Chiefs from neighboring areas to discuss collaboration, particularly in addressing regional challenges. We're also monitoring developments in nearby Philadelphia, such as in Kensington, to prepare for potential impacts on our community. Before concluding, I want to highlight our upcoming Battle of the Badges blood drive on June 6th at 9 a.m. It's crucial, especially for those of African descent, as one in three donors can help children with sickle cell anemia. Please consider participating and choose to donate with the police to support our efforts. Lastly, I request consideration for the immobilization of vehicles ordinance at our next meeting.

E. Recreation

Mr. Hunter gave the following updates.

- The first-ever Rap Curry Invitational Track Meet at Kerr Field was a triumph. With 49 schools from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia participating, over 600 student-athletes had the chance to showcase their talents. A heartfelt thanks goes to the William Penn School District, Yeadon Police Department, Yeadon Fire Department, and Public Works for their essential support in facilitating this event.
- Remember to mark your calendar for the Backyard Composting Workshop hosted by the Pennsylvania Resources Council. Join us on Tuesday, May 14, at Yeadon Borough Hall, 2nd floor, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. This informative workshop is free to attend, but registration is necessary.
- The Yeadon Community Park's Community Garden is gearing up for its fourth season. Last Saturday, volunteers gathered for garden cleanup and planting activities.
- The Yeadon Recreation Department is collaborating with Urban Roots Farms to determine the start date for our fourth season of the vegetable and fruit giveaway program. Stay tuned for further details.

- Join us for the "Good Gardening Plant Sale" this Saturday, May 11th, from 9 am to 2 pm at Smedley Park, 20 Paper Mill Rd, Springfield, PA. Discover a variety of native plants, perennials, specialty annuals, vegetables, and herbs for your garden.
- As we approach summer, keep an eye on the Yeadon Borough website for updates on youth programs in our community.

Councilor Beaty shared updates on the upcoming Flag Day celebration, parade, and festivities. We've confirmed participants including Council members, our fire and police departments, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and hopefully Pennwood's marching band. We'll gather at 10 a.m. near TriStar to kick off the parade up Church Lane, concluding in front of the library for the opening ceremony around 11 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. Then, we'll move to Kerr Field, or Rapp Curry Athletic Complex, for the second half of the day filled with fun activities. We've added a line dance instructor, which promises to be enjoyable for all ages. Please invite your family and friends; there'll be something for everyone to enjoy. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted by Borough Secretary.