



BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2024

Meeting began at 7:06 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 (agenda items only – comments limited to 3 minutes)

1. Mr. Blair Wilson, a 33-year resident of Yeadon Borough, stated, "I'm here to request speed bumps on the 500 block of Laurel Road to address the issue of cars speeding and ignoring stop signs. Our street has a posted speed limit of 25 mph and signs indicating a blind pedestrian, but drivers often disregard them. With a daycare center and school at the end of our block, the safety of our children and residents is at risk. I urge you to take proactive measures to prevent accidents and ensure our community's safety."
2. Ms. Liz Alecknavage raised several concerns, urging the Borough solicitor to review slander, libel, and defamation with Council after a councilor publicly mocked a resident's resume submitted for a volunteer position. She noted that Council's vote to advertise a police towing contract bid led to an inappropriate and burdensome request for qualifications, questioning its legality and intent. Additionally, she criticized the police chief for changing the police uniform without informing the community, highlighting the lack of communication over the past four months and inconsistencies in officers' patches.

IV. MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the May 9, 2024, Caucus Meeting Minutes.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
2. Motion to approve the May 16, 2024, Legislative Meeting Minutes.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Truehart
Motion Passed: Unanimous

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins reported the following: "My report stands as submitted, but I want to underscore two things. At the last Mayor's Forum on Tuesday, June 14, we awarded commendations for acts of heroism, and I want to thank the public and salute our dedicated police force. We are now fully staffed with 20 full-time officers and one part-time officer. Special thanks to Mr. Norman Rowland, one of our awardees, for his volunteer work.

On Saturday, June 15, we celebrated Flag Day, which was a great success. I extend my gratitude to Councilor Nicole Beaty, Roy Hunter, and the Recreation Committee for their outstanding work in organizing the event. Thanks to their efforts, we had a successful gathering with vendors, bands, and all necessary arrangements in place. We were also honored by the presence of our county officials, including Dr. Monica Taylor, County Sheriff Jerry Sanders, District Attorney Jack Stollsteimer, Speaker of the House Joanna McClinton, and Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon.

I would also like to thank the heads of our departments for their contributions: Chief Giammarco of the Police Department, Mr. Summers of the Fire Department, and the entire Code Department. A special mention goes to Mike Pozzuolo in Public Works for his extensive efforts.

This year's Flag Day was the most cohesive and cooperative event I've seen in nearly 40 years of involvement. I also want to acknowledge our President, Latoya Monroe, for her behind-the-scenes efforts in keeping everything running smoothly and supporting everyone involved. Let's give her a round of applause. That concludes my report."

Mayor Hepkins also emphasized the significance of Flag Day in Yeadon, highlighting Thomas Kerr's pivotal role. Kerr, a longtime resident of Cypress Street, played a crucial part in advocating for Flag Day's recognition as a national holiday. Mayor Hepkins noted that Kerr's efforts spanned decades, culminating in an invitation to the White House by President Truman in 1949 to witness the signing of legislation honoring Flag Day. Despite Kerr's birth in Pittsburgh, he chose Yeadon as his home and contributed significantly to the community as a charter member of Yeadon Presbyterian Church and an athletic director in the William Penn School District. Reflecting on Yeadon's rich history, Mayor Hepkins underscored Kerr's lasting impact and expressed gratitude to the Kerr family for their ongoing connection with the town.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Monroe presented awards to Councilor Nicole Beaty and Mr. Roy Hunter for their exceptional roles in organizing Yeadon's 75th annual Flag Day. Although Mr. Hunter couldn't attend due to personal reasons, I would like to share the award we prepared for him, featuring our town flag Presented to Elmore "Roy" Hunter for the successful planning and execution of Yeadon's 75th Flag Day 2024. President Monroe also thanked Councilor Nicole Beaty for her dedication to commemorating the event and presented her with the same award. Thank you for your hard work, and we'll make sure Mr. Hunter receives his award.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Motion to appoint Earl Boyd to the Yeadon Borough Planning Commission effective immediately, with a term to end December 31, 2025.
Moved By: Councilor Beaty
Seconded By: Councilor Trent
Motion Passed: Unanimous
2. Motion to appoint Patricia Shannon to the Yeadon Borough Planning Commission effective immediately, with a term to end December 31, 2025.
Moved By: Councilor Beaty
Seconded By: Councilor Trent
Motion Passed: Unanimous
3. Motion to appoint Antoinette Truehart to the Yeadon Borough Planning Commission effective immediately, with a term to end December 31, 2026.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: 5 – 0, Councilor Truehart abstained.
4. Consideration to appoint Ronald Francis to the Yeadon Borough Planning Commission effective immediately, with a term to end December 31, 2027.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
5. Motion to appoint Iva Allen to the Yeadon Borough Planning Commission effective immediately, with a term to end December 31, 2028.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
6. Motion to terminate the employee with employee ID ending in XX855 effective immediately.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Beaty
Motion Passed: Unanimous

7. Motion to appoint Rafi Cave to the position of Borough Manager/ Secretary/ Right to Know Officer at the salary of \$90,000 per year, effective July 1, 2024.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Trent
Motion Passed: 5 – 0, Councilor Beaty abstained.

VIII. SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Ms. Briana Bryant from Kilkenny Law updated the Council on several key matters. Firstly, regarding the smoke shop ordinance, her office has drafted revisions based on Council feedback to include more restrictive language on permitted activities and proximity limitations. The revised draft will be resubmitted to Council by Monday, June 24th. Following Council approval, the ordinance will be sent to the Delaware County Planning Commission for review and feedback, per municipal planning guidelines. Secondly, Ms. Bryant discussed amendments to the parking boot ordinance, which were recently advertised in the Delco Times newspaper. Council held a public hearing on the amendments and is set to vote on the ordinance. Lastly, she reported on progress in the litigation involving Frankie Francis, noting that Mr. Francis has been served with the complaint in Philadelphia, marking the beginning of the litigation process.

IX. ENGINEER’S REPORT

1. Motion to award MacDade and Church Lane ADA & Signal Upgrades to Lenni Electric in the amount of \$486,268.30.
Moved By: Councilor Beaty
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
2. Motion to proceed with the advertising and bidding of the 2024 Borough Road Program.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous

Mr. Viscuso presented an update on the Cobbs Creek Parkway project, which is funded by a substantial state grant managed by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). Regular monthly meetings with DVRPC track the project's development. One requirement from DVRPC and PennDOT is a public presentation outlining the project's scope, although bidding for the project won't start until 2025. The project, originally secured by a previous engineer, focuses on installing traffic-calming medians along Cobbs Creek Parkway from Parmley Avenue to MacDade. Specific improvements include new handicap ramps, and medians at strategic locations such as Fern Street, Cypress Street, and Connell Road, as well as curb upgrades and striping modifications. The goal is to reduce traffic speed by narrowing lanes with medians and encouraging safer driving practices. Recent traffic signal upgrades at MacDade and Church complement this effort by restricting left turns and improving overall intersection safety. Despite bureaucratic challenges associated with the grant, valued at over a million dollars, the project is progressing with ongoing coordination with PennDOT and DVRPC throughout the year.

X. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Nichols read the tax collector's report as submitted.

- The tax collection is currently in the penalty phase, and taxpayers are encouraged to make payments promptly to avoid delinquent fees.
- The May tax intake report does not account for payments sent directly to Republic Bank.
- The tax collector suggested hiring an administrative assistant for the tax office.
- The bounced check fee will be set at \$50, with \$20 of this fee allocated to the tax collector for administrative expenses.

For the period from May 1st to May 31st, the total taxes collected was \$512,553.95.

- Real estate: \$421,446.25
- Borough trash: \$37,290
- Borough sewer: \$53,817.70

XI. REPORTS AND MOTIONS

A. Finance

Mr. Nichols reported the following finance update: The budget season is starting earlier this year at Council's request, with departments beginning the process within the next two to three weeks. A calendar for public and finance committee meetings will be established to gather resident input. There was a recent attempt at fraud in Yeadon Borough, but Fulton Bank quickly addressed the issue. The public is advised to be vigilant about banking activities and sharing account information, as fraudulent activities are becoming more common. Yeadon Borough has strong firewalls to prevent such attacks, recently blocking an attempt to change direct deposit information for employees. Plans are in place to educate the community, especially seniors, about these fraudulent activities. The district attorney's office in the county is also conducting awareness programs for senior citizens who are frequently targeted.

1. Motion to approve the Accounts Payable List for June 2024.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
2. Motion to approve the Accounts Payable Addition List for June 2024.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Truehart
Motion Passed: Unanimous
3. Motion to approve the Cash Balance Report.
Moved By: Councilor Peets
Seconded By: Councilor Beaty
Motion Passed: Unanimous

B. Ordinances & Zoning

1. Motion for the adoption of Ordinance #2024-003 Regulating Immobilization of Vehicles.
Moved By: Councilor Trent
Seconded By: Councilor Truehart

A public hearing was opened for Ordinance #2024-003 Regulating the Immobilization of Vehicles.

Motion for the adoption of Ordinance #2024-003 Regulating Immobilization of Vehicles.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Beaty
Motion Passed: Unanimous

C. Public Works

Mr. Pozzuolo reported the following: My report stands as submitted. Our E-waste event is scheduled for June 28th, Friday, from 8 AM to 2:30 PM at the Public Works yard. Regarding Aqua, they will restore the concrete from Redwood Avenue to Bailey Road and will continue restoring up to MacDade Boulevard. They will bring the surface to a harder binder state, preparing it for future repaving. This will be a lengthy process over the next few months on Yeadon Avenue. Notifications will be sent out via the website Nextdoor, mail, and press releases, starting by Tuesday. Everyone will be well-informed.

D. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

- For the month of May 2024 Yeadon Borough Police Department had responded to or prepared reports for 1,255 calls for service.
- There were 4 Criminal Arrests in the month.
- There were 5 Non-Traffic Citations Issued for the month.
- There were 853 Parking Tickets issued for the month.
- There were 40 Traffic Citations issued for the month.

Chief Giammarco provided the following report:

We recently held a blood drive with 12 donors, launched the new InfoShare police record management system funded by a DA's office grant, and updated our body cameras through a grant from Speaker McClinton's office. Today, we met with the Lieutenant Governor and the Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to request more funding for Delaware County police agencies, facilitated by Jack Stollsteimer. The meeting was productive, and we hope to secure additional funding.

We are experiencing a significant issue with dog dumping in Yeadon. Our previous handler can no longer house dogs, so we have been using Brandywine Vet at a high cost. I recommend entering an agreement with Brandywine SPCA, as neighboring areas do. Shelters are overwhelmed, and dog abandonment is increasing, impacting all of Delaware County. We may be the only county without an SPCA program, which is a growing concern.

1. Motion to enter into an agreement with Brandywine Valley SPCA.
Moved By: Councilor Beaty
Seconded By: Vice President Roadcloud
Motion Passed: Unanimous

E. Recreation

Councilor Beaty, Recreation Chair, reported the following:

Thank you once again for all the well wishes and your attendance. A special thank you to everyone who was part of the Flag Day committee. Mike P., I can't thank you enough for your help on Flag Day, along with Roy. You were both a godsend. Thank you, Mr. Nichols, for all your assistance, and to my colleagues on council and the mayor—thank you, thank you, thank you.

Flag Day was beautiful, but there were some hiccups, as expected. We recognize areas for improvement and aim to address them for next year. It was my first time planning the event, though not my first time attending, as I grew up here. It was a beautiful day, and I want to build on that success.

For the remaining recreation programming, I'll discuss budget matters with Mr. Hunter and Mr. Nichols. I hope to organize an event for our veterans in November before my birthday, and perhaps a non-denominational winter celebration if the budget allows. We'll revisit this in September after taking a summer break.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by the Borough Secretary.