



BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2024

Meeting began at 7:12 pm.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Rohan K. Hepkins, Mayor	Present
LaToya Monroe, President	Present
Liana Roadcloud, Vice President	Present
Nicole Beaty	Absent
Michael Trent	Present
Jessie Peets	Present
Antoinette Truehart	Present
Learin Johnson	Present via telecommunication
Kilkenny Law, Solicitor	Present
Yolanda Hughes, Tax Collector	Absent
Joseph Viscuso, Engineer	Present
Nafis Nichols, Finance Director	Present
Rafi Cave, Borough Manager	Present

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

1. Ms. Shulene Thorpe, a three-year resident of Orchard Avenue, expressed concerns about the street turning into an expressway over the past year and a half, making it dangerous for children and seniors. She suggested installing a speed hump to reduce traffic speed and enhance safety.
2. Pamela Thornton of Pound Cake Heaven raised concerns about a new ordinance banning commercial vehicle parking in Yeadon. She has been parking her truck in the same lot for nearly 14 years and now has only 45 days to find alternative parking. This change complicates her event preparations, which require early mornings. Ms. Thornton, a long-time resident and business owner, is seeking guidance on how to continue her operations under the new regulations.
3. Ms. Candy Jackson requested help to have the overgrown grass and vegetation at her neighbor's yard at 537 Orchard Ave cut.

IV. MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the July 18, 2024, Legislative Meeting Minutes.

Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud

Seconded By: Councilor Peets

Motion to amend minutes to correct action item B under the Manager's Report from the July 18, 2024, Legislative meeting for the amendment of Ordinance No. 2024-005 amending 285-51 Metered Parking Lots.

Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud

Seconded By: Councilor Peets

Motion Passed: Unanimous

V. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins provided his report with a few additional notes. The next mayor's forum will be held on Thursday, September 5th, at Borough Hall. He noted that two full-time officers left the force last month, leaving the department two officers short, with three more expected to retire in January, increasing the shortfall to five officers. The Civil Service Commission has been notified. Kerr Field, previously closed due to a budget impasse, has reopened as of July 22nd. The National Night Out event on August 7th was a success, thanks to the collaboration with East Lansdowne and the hosting by the Lansdowne Police and Fire Departments. Mayor Hepkins thanked Madam President and Madam Vice President for their attendance. He emphasized the importance of community-based policing and outreach efforts with neighboring municipalities.

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cave reported on his first six weeks, noting significant learning and some mistakes made in the effort. His initial goals include learning, observing, and listening. He has conducted self-guided training and discussed staffing, projects, processes, and systems, with recommendations to follow soon. A major focus is the development project at 1100 Chester Avenue, which he has visited eight times. He has noted resident concerns about parking, restrooms, site plans, and communication. On August 8th, he met with the developer, solicitor, and engineer to address these issues. The next step involves resolving some violation history, with updates forthcoming.

VII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kilkenny provided updates on several key issues. He reported progress on the smoke shop ordinance, which Ms. Bryant will present through the Municipalities Planning Code process. Regarding the development at 1100-1108 Chester Avenue, a recent meeting yielded deliverables from the developer, and we aim to resolve issues internally before considering court action. Mr. Cave will verify citation payments with existing records.

For properties at 1219 South Longacre and 725 Fern, updates are pending from the county. The chief is working on updating Civil Service Commission rules for police officer testing, which will be reviewed and voted on by the council.

In the Frankie Francis matter, a default judgment was filed, and a response was received.

VIII. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

The discount period for taxes has ended, and penalty amounts will be collected until December 31, 2024. On October 12, 2024, a tax and tea workshop for residents will be held. Please ensure checks are written in dark blue or black ink.

For July, the collections were as follows:

Real estate taxes: \$20,966.18

Trash fees: \$5,775

Sewer fees: \$6,908.69

The total amount collected was \$33,649.87.

IX. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Megan from Pennoni Engineering provided the following updates:

- Green Light Go Program: A new grant for intersection improvements at Church and Bailey has been awarded. This grant will fully fund the project, eliminating the need for borough funds.
 - CDBG Project Award: The borough received \$177,995 for a sanitary sewer replacement on Myra Avenue. However, due to more urgent conditions on Parmley Avenue, Megan proposed reallocating the funds to Parmley instead. Myra Avenue is in good condition, while Parmley faces more serious public health risks. The council agreed to consider this shift, prioritizing Parmley Avenue.
 - Demolition at 1219 Longacre Boulevard: The county awarded the demolition project for 1219 Longacre. The project will proceed to bid once the agreement is signed. The county has requested progress on this project before considering additional demolition requests for 725 Fern. Although bundling both projects was preferred for cost efficiency, the county approved only Longacre for now. Megan will keep the council updated and ensure bidders are informed of potential additional projects.
1. Motion for the approval to proceed with preparing contract specs and advertisement for the demolition project at 1219 Longacre Blvd. with the award of County Demolition funds.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous

X. REPORTS AND MOTIONS

A. Finance

1. Motion to approve the Accounts Payable List for August 2024.
Moved By: Councilor Peets
Seconded By: Councilor Truehart
Motion Passed: Unanimous
2. Motion to approve the July Cash Balance Report.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
3. Motion for the approval to ratify Ordinance No. 2024-06 amending the police pension fund, Chapter 284 to revise the service increment for officers.
Moved By: Councilor Truehart
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous
4. Motion for the approval to accept Eastern Salt Company, LLC as the salt contractor for the 2024/25 winter season in the amount of \$69.75 per ton.
Moved By: Vice President Roadcloud
Seconded By: Councilor Peets
Motion Passed: Unanimous

Each municipality must publicly report its minimum municipal obligation (MMO) for pension funds by September 30th to comply with regulations and qualify for state aid from Pennsylvania. For the 2025 budget period, the MMO for Yeadon Borough is as follows:

- Municipal Police Department: \$824,959
- Non-Uniform Defined Contribution Fund: \$94,848
- Non-Uniform Union Defined Contribution Fund: \$44,262

B. Ordinances & Zoning

Code Director Womack reported the following, an increase in vehicle violations and towed cars in July, with 37 more violations and 12 additional tows compared to previous months. This uptick resulted from a rise in abandoned vehicles and resident complaints. The goal for the coming month is to focus on long-term compliance and reduce repeat violations. Monitoring will continue to identify trends and develop effective strategies. Additionally, Mr. Womack recently visited the 1100 Chester Avenue site, noting positive progress with contractors, including approved inspections and ongoing concrete work. At 1301 Angora, a fallen tree that obstructed roadways and sidewalks has been cleared by Public Works. In his first 14 days, Mr. Womack has emphasized collaboration with residents, Council, and officers to enhance compliance and Borough beautification, prioritizing listening and understanding local ordinances to address community needs effectively.

C. Public Works

Mr. Pozzuolo provided updates on the Aqua project and other borough matters. The road restoration on Yeadon Avenue is progressing, with work moving from Allen Drive to Bailey Road, including sidewalk and curb restoration. Notifications about the project have been inconsistent, and he acknowledges this issue, taking responsibility for any communication lapses. Aqua is now expanding their work to Alfred Avenue, Chester to Patricia, Allen Drive between Duncan and Church, and Church between Allen and Chester, as well as Herford Place. This phase will last another six to seven months, and while it may cause inconvenience, it is aimed at improving infrastructure. Once completed, Yeadon Avenue will be repaved from Redwood to MacDade.

Regarding trash collection, there will be no pickup on Labor Day, with Monday's trash collected on Tuesday and Tuesday's on Wednesday. E-waste will be collected on August 30th from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the Public Works garage. Construction updates, including notifications and potential water interruptions, will be communicated through flyers, signs, and the borough website. Residents will receive advance notice of any water service disruptions, and efforts will be made to manage parking issues and minimize inconvenience.

D. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

- For the month of July 2024 Yeadon Borough Police Department had responded to or prepared reports for 1,267 calls for service.
- There were 7 Criminal Arrests in the month.
- There were 5 Non-Traffic Citations Issued for the month.
- There were 1,223 Parking Tickets issued for the month.
- There were 55 Traffic Citations issued for the month.

Chief Giammarco reported the following, thank you to Madam President and Madam Vice President for attending National Night Out, which was a great success. Lansdowne was an excellent host, and East Lansdowne's participation highlighted our strong collaboration. Over the weekend, I had the honor of attending the Delaware County Health Department's back-to-school event and speaking at the Liberian Mandingo Conference in West Philadelphia, where I connected with many Yeadon residents. The symposium on gun violence was particularly impactful, and it was encouraging to discuss ways to address language barriers in our community.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for October 26, 2024, for the second annual Trunk or Treat event at Kerr Field, organized with the school district's support. We aim to have at least 55 cars for the children.

Lastly, we have free gun locks available at the station. Please stop by to pick one up, especially in light of recent events in Darby.

2. Emergency Management

Chief Giammarco reported that I assumed the position last month and have already met with our team. We currently have two members on the team and are working on expanding it. We plan to include updates in our upcoming newsletter. I am also engaged in extensive training, including various online courses. That concludes my emergency management report.

E. Recreation

- The Vegetable Program has reached the one-third mark of its fourth season, with around 60 residents participating in the weekly gatherings. We sincerely thank Public Works and Renita Austin for their continued support of the program.
- Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 9th, for the Veterans Day Brunch at Borough Hall. More details will be shared soon.
- YEAA successfully wrapped up its 5th season of summer basketball, with over 200 boys and girls participating.
- The next Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3rd, at 6:30 PM via Zoom. More details will follow.
- "Trees—The People's Champions" is a walking tour led by ISA Certified Arborist and Landscape Designer William Lighter. The tour will take place on Saturday, August 24, 2024, from 10 AM to noon, rain or shine, at Collingdale Park, 501 Jackson Street, Collingdale, PA 19023. Last year, several Yeadon residents attended this event

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kilkenny announced:

I wanted to inform everyone that the Council convened at 6:45 this evening for an Executive session to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

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

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by the Borough Secretary.