



BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2024

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
Kilkenny Law, Solicitor	Present
Yolanda Hughes, Tax Collector	Absent
Joseph Viscuso, Engineer	Present
Nafis Nichols, Finance Director	Absent
Rafi Cave, Borough Manager	Present

III. CITIZEN'S FORUM

1. Hakimah Jabbar, a YPL board member, advocated for the library staff and the search for a new library director. She requested a salary increase for the director and overall staff to remain competitive with other municipalities, emphasizing the importance of equitable pay.
2. Ms. Anne D. criticized Council President Latoya Monroe for calling her a disruptor after she left a meeting early, emphasizing her commitment to the community and condemning Monroe's behavior as inappropriate. She highlighted issues such as the need for better internal financial controls, maintaining the tax collector as an elected position, balancing the 2025 budget without raising taxes, capping the engineering firm's net amount at \$100,000, and negotiating better terms for the police contract. Anna urged residents to speak out against derogatory comments from Council members and called for fiscal responsibility and improved governance.
3. Mr. KC Drayton expressed gratitude for veterans, noting his family's military service across four generations. Though he couldn't attend the recent event, he heard it was wonderful. As a new resident, he also appreciated the improvements on Rundell Avenue and Yeadon Avenue streets, making it easier for his wife to drive her new car.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins reported the following highlighting two key points.

First, he praised the recent Veterans Day event in Yeadon, calling it one of the best attended and thanking Nicole Beaty, Roy Hunter, and the recreation committee for their efforts. Second, he announced that Restore Dispensary will hold its third annual Turkey holiday giveaway at 735 Church Lane on Saturday, December 21st, starting at 10 a.m. Additionally, he reported on two incidents of fights at Kerr Field in October, noting the involvement of neighboring police departments and the need to reconsider the timing of games. He mentioned efforts to collaborate with the William Penn School District to develop a more robust policy for managing these events, as Yeadon Police are primarily responsible for policing the field. No more home games are scheduled for the rest of the year, but the field is still rented out to other entities. Further updates will be provided as the situation develops.

V. MANAGER'S REPORT

Rafi Cave provided the Manager's Report, outlining several key items to be brought for consideration in the upcoming week. These include one termination and a recommendation for the fire marshal position. He introduced Ms. Carla Yengo-Khan, the new front desk receptionist and hall coordinator, praising her high energy and versatility. Amendments to ordinances 172-2 and 172-3, which pertain to handicapped parking application fees and approval factors, will be considered, as well as the adoption of ordinance 285-29, which regulates the sale of vehicles on streets or public parking lots. A lead inspection ordinance will also be introduced, with the goal of passing it by January or February. Additional topics include a parking meter enforcement moratorium for the holiday season and authorizing Pennoni Engineering to conduct a stop sign abuse study at various intersections. Mr. Cave announced the first manager's breakfast with the boroughs of the William Penn School District and encouraged participation in the blood drive on November 22nd.

VI. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Megan from Pennoni Engineering provided two updates. First, she announced that the borough was awarded a \$238,000 Local Shares Account (LSA) grant for a borough-wide infiltration and inflow (INI) study. This will involve monitoring the storm and sanitary systems to identify areas where flow is being lost, which is essential for future development, especially given the current moratorium.

The second update was about the next round of LSA grants, due by November 30th. Megan discussed options for the Community Park Phase 2 project and proposed four potential items for consideration: field restoration, additional parking along Providence, rubberized surfaces, and a comfort station with bathrooms and concessions. She recommended focusing on one item, as including all four would be too ambitious. Megan suggested postponing the comfort station to Phase 3 due to its complexity and permitting requirements, including a water source connection from Providence. She confirmed that no features would be installed that would later need to be removed. Megan requested feedback on the proposal and noted that the resolution for the application would need approval at the next meeting.

VII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Briana Bryant of Kilkenny Law provided updates on the firm's work with the Borough. They have been drafting the smoke shop ordinance, which will be ready for the November 21st meeting, as well as working on ordinances related to prohibiting the purchase and rental of cars on public streets and the lead inspections ordinance. The firm is also preparing for trial for 1024 Church Lane and drafting a complaint in equity for 1007 Bullock Avenue. Additionally, they have been holding monthly meetings with the Borough manager, engineer, and public works, along with weekly communications with the Borough manager to ensure smooth and open collaboration.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

Council President Monroe announced that the finance report will be presented at the next meeting. A budget presentation will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, November 20th at 7 p.m., allowing residents to log in, ask questions, and engage in a more interactive format. The following day, Thursday, there will be a budget hearing before the Legislative session.

B. Ordinances and Zoning

Mr. Cave reported the following there was a significant increase in code revenue for October, totaling \$70,070.86, compared to \$20,671.53 in September. This spike is typical before the winter months. Enforcement activities also saw an uptick, with violations rising to 116 in October from 65 in September, citations increasing to 33 from 26, and permits issued rising to 50 from 28. He attributed the increased enforcement to the efforts of the code enforcement team and the support from Councilwoman Roadcloud. One common violation is the warehousing of abandoned vehicles on private property, which negatively impacts property values. Also discussed were plans for replacing shade trees that were removed due to sidewalk damage, emphasizing the value of trees to the community's aesthetics and residents' well-being. A request form for shade tree replacements will be added to the Borough's website, allowing residents to express interest. The Public Works Department and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) will assist in planning the replacements.

C. Public Works

Mike Pozzuolo provided several updates. The Stormwater Collaborative is donating 21 trees, with delivery scheduled for tomorrow. He will also pick up an additional 20 larger trees, and these will be available for residents to request on the Borough's website before being planted. Pozzuolo reminded residents that Delaware County has declared a no-burn policy due to drought conditions, which bans open burns, fire pits, and fireworks, though grilling and smoking are still allowed. Yard waste collection is suspended until spring to prioritize leaf collection, which is ongoing until December 20th. E-waste drop-off will be available on November 22nd from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

He also informed residents about upcoming road closures for Aqua restoration work on Allen Drive, Patricia Drive, Parkview Court, Hereford Place, and parts of MacDade Boulevard and West Cobbs Creek Parkway. Pozzuolo concluded by highlighting the success of recent events, including the Veterans Luncheon, Trunk or Treat, and the Legacy Brick Garden, all of which saw great participation.

D. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

- For the month of October 2024 Yeadon Borough Police Department had responded to or prepared reports for 1,083 calls for service.
- There were 8 Criminal Arrests in the month.
- There were 6 Non-Traffic Citations Issued for the month.
- There were 166 Traffic Citations issued for the month.
- There were 889 Parking Tickets issued for the month.

Chief Giammarco provided the following updates:

Chief Giammarco expressed his gratitude for the success of the Trunk or Treat event, which he estimated had around 300 kids in attendance. He thanked the participating councilors, including Councilor Blade and Councilor Trent, who were actively involved in the event. He also extended thanks to the school district for allowing the event to be hosted there. Giammarco mentioned that the event was a great time for all and looks forward to making it even bigger and better next year. Additionally, he reported visiting Makemie Court to address some ongoing issues, and the visit was productive.

Chief Giammarco provided an update on the incident at Kerr Field, where allegations were made that officers used foul language while interacting with children. An internal investigation was conducted, which included reviewing body cam footage and conducting interviews. Despite multiple requests for the complainant to come forward, they did not. As a result, both officers were exonerated, and a final letter was sent to the complainant, informing them that if they disagreed with the decision, they could contact the county CID for further investigation. Giammarco confirmed that the body cam footage did not show any use of foul language toward the children, and the allegations were deemed unfounded.

E. Planning Commission

Councilor Truehart reported that the Planning Commission is working on defining goals and objectives for the next three to five years for the community. Regarding a property at 101 Lincoln Avenue, the process began four years ago when a neighbor purchased 2,000 square feet from a neighboring property to expand their driveway. After reviews by the engineer, attorneys, and approval from the Delaware County Planning Commission, the Planning Commission held a special meeting and approved the proposal. However, they are waiting for an additional document before bringing it before the council for a formal vote. Updates will be shared, as the process began in 2020.

F. Recreation

Mr. Hunter gave the following updates:

The Veterans Day program was a tremendous success, with 60-70 attendees. He expressed appreciation to everyone involved, including public works, Chief Giammarco, and Pennoni Engineers, who donated to support the event. The following day, 40 Yeadon residents visited Urban Roots Farms, where they received fresh produce and toured the farm. The program has grown to serve nearly 90 people, including those who are homebound. Mr. Hunter thanked Jack Goldenberg and the farm for their continued efforts. He also reminded everyone that the final distribution of vegetables, including sweet potatoes, acorn squash, and cauliflower, is next week.

Additionally, Mr. Hunter reported that the Borough is receiving 21 trees from the Stormwater Collaborative. These trees will be planted in various locations, including some in Community Park. The collaborative also secured a \$276,000 grant from DCNR to improve parks in the eight boroughs, including Yeadon. He mentioned plans to work with the collaborative on acquiring shade trees for both public spaces and private properties.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Borough Secretary.