



BOROUGH OF YEADON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2025

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	Absent
Nafis Nichols, Finance Director	Present
Rafi Cave, Borough Manager	Present

III. CITIZEN'S FORUM

1. Ms. Liz A. criticized Council for continuing to violate the Sunshine Act despite previously receiving training on the law. She highlighted their private discussions, lack of transparency, and a recent decision to move a public matter to a private executive session. She also questioned the absence of records for an approved employment agreement, raising concerns about accountability and governance.
2. Ms. Clara Johnson brought attention to an eyesore property at Bullock and Whitby Avenue, urging Council to address the issue if they were not already aware of it.
3. Mr. Hamlin expressed frustration over the lack of a recreation center in Yeadon, particularly for indoor sports during the winter. He questioned Council about its location and plans, noting that while improvements are being discussed for the swimming pool area, a dedicated indoor facility remains absent.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins reported updates on the following,

The next Mayor's Forum will be held on Thursday, March 6th. The Borough's flag is currently flying at half-staff in honor of former President Jimmy Carter, in accordance with the governor's mandate for all state and municipal buildings, and will remain so until Tuesday, January 28th.

The Yeadon Police Department has launched a Bus Patrol Program to improve compliance with school bus stop laws at no cost to the borough. The program uses AI-powered cameras to record vehicles illegally passing stopped school buses. License plate photos and video evidence are securely sent to the police department, where citations are issued to violators. This program began on Monday, January 6th.

Additionally, the police department is currently short two full-time officers, with three more expected to leave early this year. The Civil Service Commission plans to begin advertising for new officers by the end of this month.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Monroe addressed allegations made during the Citizens Forum regarding handicap parking and alleged Sunshine Act violations. She clarified that Council voted to table the issue to gather more information, as they lacked sufficient background to make an informed decision. She emphasized that this was not an instance of private collaboration or deliberation, as the Council does not and would not engage in such actions.

President Monroe also stated that the discussion did not violate the Sunshine Act, noting that certain aspects of the handicap parking issue involve property concerns, which are legally permitted to be discussed in executive session.

VI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Briana Bryant of Kilkenny Law expressed her office's commitment to a successful and productive year as the Borough's solicitor. She provided an update on ongoing efforts, including defending the Borough in active litigation, representing the Borough in summary code violations and appeals before the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, reviewing the Yeadon Code to refine definitions of nuisances and eyesores for improved compliance, and responding to subpoenas involving borough officials. She welcomed any questions regarding these matters.

Ms. Bryant also announced that Council held an Executive session ahead of tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters and litigation.

VII. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Nichols reported that he and Mr. Cave are conducting an assessment and analysis of the tax office. They are focused on closing and reconciling the 2024 tax records while also preparing for the 2025 pre-tax work to ensure that bills are sent to residents on time by February 1.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

Mr. Nichols announced plans to present a 2024 Fiscal Year in Review at the February Caucus meeting. Next week, he will seek consideration for an Accounts Payable (A-P) list and a cash balance report. Additionally, the finance department is actively working on the PennDOT 965 report and other state-mandated reports due in January for the borough.

B. Ordinances and Zoning

Mr. Cave provided the December code report, which includes a recap of the 2024 property maintenance abatements, violations, citations, court appearances, inspections, and permits issued. In December, the department issued 76 violations, 28 citations, had zero court appearances, performed 40 inspections, and issued 37 permits.

He also addressed concerns regarding snow and ice removal following the recent snowstorm. Eleven violations were issued to properties that did not address the snow and ice promptly. After inspections the following day, two of those properties still had ice present, including as of this morning. Citations will be issued today. He reminded everyone that there is a 24-hour requirement to clear snow and ice from residential, commercial, and shared driveways once the snow has stopped falling. The ordinance was made available for further review.

C. Public Works

Mike Pozzuolo shared several important updates. First, there will be an e-waste drop-off event on January 31st, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. He also announced a shredder event sponsored by the YEDC, which will take place on Saturday, January 11th at the Gunther Avenue parking lot. The event will occur rain, shine, or snow.

The gas restoration project on MacDade Boulevard has been completed and is now in the restoration phase. The next phase will involve repaving the 900 block of MacDade Boulevard, with at least half of the street being repaved from Church Lane to West Cobbs Creek Parkway, and West Cobbs Creek Parkway from Chester Avenue to Cypress Street.

There have also been improvements to Borough Hall, including painting in the police lobby, with plans to continue work on the lobby, third floor, and auditorium.

Regarding MacDade Boulevard between Church Lane and West Cobbs Creek Parkway, one-way directional signs will be installed by mid-February to indicate the change. Letters will be distributed to residents in the affected areas to keep them informed of the upcoming changes.

D. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

- For the month of December 2024 Yeadon Borough Police Department had responded to or prepared reports for 881 calls for service.
- There were 1 Criminal Arrests in the month.
- There were 2 Non-Traffic Citations Issued for the month.
- There were 4 Traffic Citations issued for the month.
- There were 981 Parking Tickets issued for the month.

Chief Giammarco provided the following updates:

First, he announced an upcoming Q&A session on Tuesday, January 21st, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the library. This will be an open forum for residents to come and ask questions.

He also provided an update on the bus patrol program, which went live on January 6th. As mentioned by the mayor, this program uses AI technology on buses. If a vehicle overtakes a bus while the stop arm is extended, the system records video and takes still photographs, which are then securely emailed to the police department for review. Citations are issued for a fine of \$300. This program is at no cost to the borough.

Regarding snow removal, Chief Giammarco reminded residents not to "save" parking spots after shoveling by putting out chairs, garbage bags, or cones. He clarified that items left on the street will be removed by public works, as the street is not privately owned, even if residents live in row homes. He humorously added that this includes no "Elvis heads," mattresses, or other objects, encouraging everyone to follow the rules.

2. Fire Department's Report

Fire Chief Shaheed Summers introduced himself and provided a brief report for the month of December. The Yeadon Fire Company responded to a total of 85 emergencies, with 32 of those occurring in the Borough of Yeadon. This brings the yearly total to 1,149 incidents, with 780 of those in Yeadon. In December, the department responded to a working structure fire on the 700 block of West Cobbs Creek. Thankfully, there were no injuries to residents or fire personnel, and there was no extension of the fire to any nearby residences.

Chief Summers concluded his report and introduced the new Fire Marshal, Vinny Zappacosta.

Fire Marshal Zappacosta began by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Borough of Yeadon. He shared that while he is newer to the position, he has been in the fire service for 15 years and also serves Norwood Borough, where he grew up. He emphasized his commitment to making residents safer and being available to answer questions. In terms of fire safety, Marshal Zappacosta provided some important tips, particularly for the winter months, the deadliest time for home fires. He advised residents to take extra care with heating elements, space heaters, and fireplaces, which can be a fire risk if not properly maintained. He recommended keeping space heaters away from materials, replacing old or kerosene heaters with newer, safer models, and ensuring that fireplaces are well-maintained.

He encouraged residents to reach out with any questions and provided his contact information: firemarshal@yeaddonborough.com. For additional inquiries, residents can also contact the Borough Manager, who has his contact details.

E. Planning Commission

Councilor Truehart provided an update regarding a recent resignation from one of the members due to personal family obligations, which would prevent them from being able to dedicate the necessary time. As a result, there is now a vacancy in the Planning Commission. The plan is to advertise the position to invite resumes from interested residents. These will be reviewed, and a recommendation will be made for the position. In addition, Councilor Truehart mentioned the intention to also look for potential alternates who could step in if needed. The advertisement and instructions for submitting applications will be posted on the borough website.

F. Recreation

Councilor Beaty gave an update on the Recreation Department. She explained that Mr. Hunter was absent due to attending a field trip to the Farm Show and was likely exhausted from the day's activities.

She then shared details about the January 7th Recreation meeting, highlighting that Flag Day planning is underway. This year, the event will be relocated back to Longacre Boulevard, stretching from West Cobbs Creek to Church Lane, with exciting plans in the works. The fireworks display is also planned, pending approval from Dr. Becoats and Mr. Deans of the school district, with whom Councilor Beaty is set to meet.

Councilor Beaty also mentioned that the Nile Swim Club approached her to discuss a potential partnership for the Juneteenth event. While she made it clear that she couldn't manage two major events in the same week, she's open to collaborating and suggested offering the event for free to Yeadon residents, even those who aren't members of the Nile. She's also considering Community Park as a potential location and will discuss this idea with the borough manager.

Finally, Councilor Beaty provided Mr. Hunter's report: Camp Garrett registration will be opening soon, offering scholarships for families in need and employment opportunities for youth counselors and staff. For more information, residents can visit Camp Garrett's website or call 610-353-7690.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Borough Secretary.