



BOROUGH OF YEADDON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 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	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. Ms. Clara Johnson thanked Public Works and Recreation for improving Graceland Cemetery and requested a "Curb Your Dog" sign at the back fence to prevent pets from defecating on the sacred grounds. She asked the Council to consider funding the sign and Public Works to install it.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins reported updates on the following,

The next Mayor's Forum has been moved to Thursday, February 27th, at Borough Hall Auditorium, featuring safety tips from the Yeadon Fire Department and a William Penn School District update on building upgrades. He reported on police staffing, stating that after recent vacancies and retirements, the hiring process is underway, with six candidates remaining and three expected to be hired pending final screenings. He highlighted the decline in police applicants over the years and the challenges of retention. Mayor Hepkins also congratulated the Philadelphia Eagles on their Super Bowl win, mentioned the victory parade details, and wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day.

V. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cave reported that next week's legislative session will include several personnel topics for discussion in an executive session. The Council will also consider an appointment to the Zoning Hearing Board, which is seeking two members and an alternate. In the coming days, residents will have the option to sign up for DELCO Alerts through a prominent link on the Borough website, allowing them to receive notifications on emergencies, road closures, meetings, and special events. He also noted that Borough offices will be closed tomorrow and Monday, February 17th, in observance of President's Day.

VI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Briana Bryant of Kilkenny Law provided updates from the solicitor's office, including handling summary appeals for code violations, preparing for ongoing litigation and trial for 1024 Church Lane, assisting with land bank property referrals, coordinating upcoming sheriff's sales, and managing liens for delinquent property taxes.

VII. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Megan Todaro of Pennoni Engineering announced that the borough received a \$150,000 grant for Providence Road stormwater improvements, though it was less than requested. Adjustments will be made to the project scope to fit the available funds. She also noted the upcoming Small Water and Sewer grant application due April 30th, with potential projects under review. Lastly, she provided an update on the MacDade and Church project, stating that delays due to ramp and PennDOT approvals have pushed back the expected timeline, but a meeting next week aims to resolve the issues. Further updates will be shared as available.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ordinances and Zoning

Mr. Cave reported that January was a busy month for inspections, particularly rental inspections, which are required annually. The code department conducted 142 inspections, reflected in increased revenue. The Zoning Hearing Board approved a special exception for William Penn School District on January 20th, and on January 29th, the Court of Common Pleas upheld the board's petition to quash an appeal regarding a banquet hall at 708 ½ Church Lane. He also issued ordinance reminders, emphasizing that rental properties must be registered and licensed and that storing unused vehicle parts unlawfully has been on the rise. Ordinance details will be posted online.

B. Public Works

Mike Pozzuolo shared several important updates. The E-waste drop-off event is scheduled for February 28th from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the Public Works Garage. In other updates, all parking meters will be removed due to the launch of our Passport parking app, which is expected to go live at the end of this month or early next month. The Chief will provide further details on this transition. Additionally, I would like to request permission to add the sale of the old parking meters to the agenda.

Regarding vehicle disposal, I am seeking approval to list several retired vehicles on Muncibid, including two police vehicles, one parking enforcement vehicle, and an emergency management unit. These vehicles require repairs that would cost more than their actual worth, making their sale the best option.

PECO Energy will be installing a new one-mile gas main, beginning at Union Avenue and Fairview, continuing to Bailey Road, Wycombe Avenue, and MacDade Boulevard. This project will result in road closures and detours, which will be clearly posted on our website, social media, and with signage. The work is expected to continue through October or November.

Abatement efforts have been ongoing, with the 700 block of Bullock Avenue and the 1000 block of Church Lane being addressed multiple times this month. Additionally, my report includes a snowstorm planning project for review. Recent storms have been particularly challenging due to freezing temperatures and ice, making management difficult. While we acknowledge concerns and complaints, we are doing our best to respond effectively.

C. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

- For the month of January 2025 Yeadon Borough Police Department had responded to or prepared reports for 1036 calls for service.
- There were 5 Criminal Arrests in the month.
- There were 4 Non-Traffic Citations Issued for the month.
- There were 44 Traffic Citations issued for the month.
- There were 911 Parking Tickets issued for the month.

Chief Giammarco provided the following updates:

The Bus Patrol program officially launched on January 6, 2025, following discussions last month. So far, approximately 57 citations have been issued, with video footage revealing that many violations are severe, including drivers dangerously overtaking buses. The program is proving effective, as new violations continue to be recorded daily.

In terms of community engagement, I recently had the opportunity to speak at the library, where over 30 people attended, thanks to Ms. Samuels' efforts in organizing the event. Additionally, I have been invited to speak at the Darby Rec Center on February 22nd for a screening of *Aftershock*, a powerful documentary addressing disparities in women's healthcare within Black and Brown communities. While we originally planned to host the screening at our location, the decision was made to hold it at Darby's new rec center and police station, which is expected to draw significant interest.

The borough will soon be releasing information on the Everbridge notification system, which will improve communication with residents. Additionally, last Friday, I had the privilege of meeting with Speaker Joanna McClinton to discuss grant opportunities and various community initiatives. She continues to be a strong advocate for the police department, always willing to provide support when needed.

Regarding parking updates, the borough manager and I have been working on launching Passport Parking, a mobile-based payment system similar to the one used in Media. This will replace traditional parking meters, which are outdated and too expensive to repair. While we are exploring the possibility of installing a kiosk for those who prefer to use cash, the cost is a challenge. The borough has also introduced updated parking tickets, which will include instructions for online payments. Patrol officers will continue issuing old tickets, but the new system will be implemented at the parking enforcement level, making the process more efficient.

On the topic of recruitment, I will be requesting permission next week to hire three new officers, contingent upon successful background checks, psychological evaluations, and physical assessments. The hiring process attracted 14 candidates, a strong turnout compared to other departments, some of which have seen as few as five applicants. While a few individuals withdrew due to concerns about salary, the talent pool included highly qualified and experienced candidates.

2. Emergency Management

Chief Giammarco reported the following, on January 31st, we witnessed the tragic events at the Roosevelt Mall in Northeast Philadelphia, which is especially significant to me as I spent many weekends there. This incident truly underscores the importance of emergency management and preparation. It also highlights how vital it is for all communities to work together, break down silos, and collaborate during times of crisis. While the response was commendable, it serves as a reminder of how unpredictable emergencies can be.

Given our location near a flight approach path, we must remain vigilant and prepared for similar situations. I'm sure we'll dive deeper into these topics at the next emergency management meeting, as we continue to work together to ensure we are ready for whatever comes our way.

On a different note, we're expecting more severe weather this weekend, with ice storms, sleet, and rain that could accumulate up to 1 to 3 inches. Mike, I know you're keeping an eye on the weather updates, and we'll be monitoring it closely to make sure everyone stays safe.

D. Recreation

Councilor Beaty gave an update on the Recreation Department.

Flag Day plans, for this year the event will be moved to Longacre Boulevard instead of Kerr Field. A meeting with the school district is scheduled for the 28th to discuss using the baseball diamond. The committee is considering replacing fireworks with a drone show due to concerns about fireworks affecting individuals with autism, PTSD, and pets. The cost of a drone show is being evaluated. Entertainment for Flag Day is lined up, and the committee is working hard to secure vendors. The parade will still take place, and more information will be shared soon. The flyer is ready and will be posted on the website.

Additionally, Councilor Beaty met with Council President Lucille Pratt from Darby about collaborating more with Darby on events.

Councilor Beaty also discussed partnering with the Nile for Juneteenth. Due to financial limitations, the Borough can't fund both events, but Councilor Beaty is working with the Nile to organize Juneteenth and provide support for each other's events. More updates will follow.

Mr. Hunter reported the following:

- Camp Garrett is gearing up to start, and they are currently recruiting for several positions, including teachers, assistant teachers, camp counselors, junior counselors, camp coordinators, and a school or camp nurse. A recruitment event will be held at Penn Wood High School. We will be posting this information on the website and sharing it through all of our social media channels. Additional details can be found in the report.

- A FREE Rain Garden Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center, located at 9000 Parkview Drive, Haverford, PA 19041. Registration is available at: <https://www.dcva.org/event-6016052>. The workshop will cover the basics of stormwater management and provide steps you can take on your property to help reduce stormwater pollution.
- Plans are underway for a Rain Barrel Workshop to be held in Yeadon this April or May. Stay tuned for more details!
- The Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative and Penn State Cooperative Extension are working together to provide trees to homeowners in designated Environmental Justice areas.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Borough Secretary.