



BOROUGH OF YEADDON
DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
BOROUGH COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 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	Present
Nafis Nichols, Finance Director	Present
Rafi Cave, Borough Manager	Present

III. CITIZEN'S FORUM

NO COMMENTS

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hepkins reported the following:

The last Mayor's Forum was held on Thursday, February 27th. The next forum is scheduled for Thursday, June 5th.

A Public Safety Meeting was held via Zoom on Saturday, April 26th at 9:30 AM. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, May 31st, also via Zoom. The link is available on the Borough website, and all are welcome to attend.

The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, May 20th. Polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM at three locations: Evans School, Bell Avenue School, and Penn Wood East on Cypress. While the police are not stationed at polling places, they will respond to any 911 calls or disturbances.

The Police Department is currently at full staffing with 20 full-time officers. Three new officers were sworn in during March. One part-time officer, Officer Roland, remains. One retirement is expected in August.

Mayor Hepkins thanked all who participated in the Earth Day Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 19th, particularly Vice Chair Liana Roadcloud for leading the effort, along with Mike Pozzuolo and the Public Works team, and Chief Giammarco.

Lastly, the Mayor addressed recent hospital closures. Crozer-Chester, Crozer-Taylor, and Delaware County Memorial Hospital have closed or significantly reduced operations. This places a strain on emergency and mental health services in the region. Mercy Fitzgerald is currently the only local facility equipped to handle 302 admissions and will serve as a clearinghouse to direct patients to appropriate care. The closures are the result of financial difficulties and ownership changes, and efforts by county, state, and healthcare stakeholders to prevent these outcomes were unsuccessful.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Monroe reported that the county has established a hotline for those seeking information or resources related to recent hospital closures. The hotline number can be found on the county website.

She reminded everyone that Election Day is May 20th. Given the area's political makeup, the primary often determines final representation. Residents are encouraged to stay informed, know the candidates, and exercise their right to vote.

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cave reported the following:

Personnel matters will be discussed in the upcoming executive session and presented at the next legislative meeting.

Last month, an amendment to Ordinance 220-70, titled Abatement Impounding and Violations, was advertised. This change would allow the Borough to issue citations for vehicle-related violations on private property. A new ordinance will be advertised to regulate tarp-covered vehicles on public streets, as they pose increasing safety concerns. A resolution will be introduced to adopt updated permit fees and authorize the removal of outdated fees from E-Code 360, referring instead to a centralized fee schedule.

The June legislative meeting will be held on June 12th in observance of Juneteenth.

The Yeadon Borough spring newsletter is now available digitally on the Borough website and will be delivered by mail soon.

VII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kyle Miller of Kilkenny Law reported that he will be covering caucus meetings in the absence of Briana Bryant, while Sean will continue attending legislative meetings.

Mr. Miller has begun coordinating with Ms. Criswell and the code enforcement team on ongoing property issues and is also in communication with the Borough Manager on various matters. While he is still getting fully up to speed, he noted that a system is being developed for efficient information sharing and timely responses to Borough needs.

As warmer weather arrives, code enforcement efforts will increase to ensure compliance with the property maintenance code. Mr. Miller expressed his commitment to supporting those efforts and maintaining the appearance of the Borough.

VIII. TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

For the month of April, the Borough collected \$2,445,175.48 in real estate taxes, \$982,732 in sewer fees, and \$618,420 in trash fees. All accounts have been reconciled to the penny as of yesterday. Tax collections are progressing very well.

IX. ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Viscuso reported the following:

Council will be asked to consider several items at the upcoming legislative meeting.

First, there is an opportunity to reapply for the DCED Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant. The proposed project includes the next phase of the Community Park: a rubberized surface, an additional parking lot off Providence Road, stormwater management improvements, and field restoration. Submitting again increases the chance of securing funding to offset the Borough's matching portion.

Second, a resolution is needed to authorize a Borough representative, likely Rafi, to sign documents related to the Cobbs Creek Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Project.

Lastly, the Borough was awarded a \$120,000 Delco Greenways Grant for a basketball court at Community Park. Since Council did not favor that location, an alternative is being considered: a tennis court, which could also accommodate two pickleball courts. This option appears to be feasible within the existing budget, despite higher fencing costs. Council is asked to consider whether they would support repurposing the grant for this revised use before a formal request is made to the granting agency.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance

Mr. Nichols reported that an accounts payable list and a cash balance report will be submitted for consideration at the upcoming legislative session.

The Finance Department is also conducting a cost analysis for the collective bargaining agreements (CBAs) currently up for negotiation with the Public Works and Police Departments. Once completed, the analysis will be shared with the Personnel Committee and the Borough Manager.

B. Ordinances and Zoning

April was an active month for building permits and citations. The office received two zoning use applications, both for new fencing.

A reminder to residents and business owners: permits are required for all fence installations or repairs. In addition, a zoning use application and a property survey are required to establish proper boundary lines before installation. This ensures contractors place fences accurately.

C. Public Works

Director Catherine Houck reported that the PECO project is ongoing, with traffic currently being diverted from Baily Road. A new main is being installed on Baily and will continue north on Union Avenue. She thanked residents for their continued patience and acknowledged the Police Department for their traffic support.

Several sanitary sewer issues were resolved promptly over the past month. Borough properties are being maintained regularly, weekly or more often, as needed due to recent heavy rainfall.

Preparations are underway for Flag Day, including the installation of a new flagpole at the circle. Concrete has been poured, and the pole will be installed soon.

Ms. Houck also informed Council of a federal grant opportunity, Safe Streets for All, which could support future traffic safety and complete streets initiatives. Applications are due in June, and she encouraged Council to consider applying.

For the record, Ms. Houck introduced herself to the public as the new Director of Public Works. She is an engineer by training, previously worked for the Philadelphia School District and the EPA, and is a lifelong Lansdowne resident. She expressed enthusiasm about her new role and thanked everyone for the warm welcome.

D. Public Safety

1. Police Department's Report

- For the month of April 2025 Yeadon Borough Police Department had responded to or prepared reports for 1,058 calls for service.
- There were 7 Criminal Arrests in the month.
- There were 3 Non-Traffic Citations Issued for the month.
- There were 60 Traffic Citations issued for the month.
- There were 1,130 Parking Tickets issued for the month.

Chief Giammarco reported that an officer was injured on Sunday while assisting Darby Police during a domestic incident. The officer's foot was run over by a vehicle, but he is recovering and expected to return soon.

The Chief also noted that Earth Day was a success and thanked everyone for the invitation to participate in the cleanup event.

In April, the department participated in Black Maternal Health Week, and Chief Giammarco was honored to attend a roundtable hosted by City Council President Kenyatta Johnson.

Additionally, officers completed training for the Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI), a program allowing police to divert individuals with substance use issues to treatment instead of incarceration. The department has already successfully utilized the program in two cases, helping connect individuals to needed care while providing an alternative to traditional criminal charges.

2. Emergency Management

Chief Giammarco reported that the ongoing crisis resulting from the closures at Crozer-Chester continues to create challenges. Procedures and protocols for mental health emergencies have changed frequently, causing confusion and requiring constant updates.

The Borough is currently partnering with Elwyn, which has been an excellent resource. Their team has responded directly to scenes to assist officers in handling individuals in crisis.

At present, individuals requiring a 302 commitment are being transported to Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, which then determines appropriate placement. Chief Giammarco emphasized that this remains both an emergency management and policing issue, and the team is doing its best each day to adapt and provide support to the community.

E. Planning Commission

Councilor Truchart reported that the Planning Commission has been actively engaging with the Yeadon Economic Development Corporation to review and improve the Borough's commercial and industrial districts. The goal is to create a more walkable community with a cohesive and inviting look across business corridors.

The Commission is currently reviewing existing neighborhood and business district codes to identify necessary updates that will support new business development and enhance the overall appeal of Yeadon, from the top of Church Lane to its lower end.

The 700 block business district is a current priority, supported by grant funding recently discussed by the Borough Engineer. A business forum is being organized to gather input directly from local businesses on streetscaping needs, including sidewalk design, landscaping, lighting, and consistent aesthetics.

The Commission also plans to incorporate input from the Historical Commission to highlight Yeadon's rich history, possibly through decorative flags, historical markers, and themed signage, especially in recognition of Flag Day.

Work is also underway with the Borough Engineer to explore enhancements to Borough gateways, with a vision similar to that seen in Media Borough, featuring a welcoming and unified entrance design.

Lastly, the Commission is coordinating with the Code Commission to ensure a collaborative approach when proposing code updates to Council. The focus is on working together to present informed, unified recommendations.

The next phase will focus on improvements to the 700 block as the first project under this initiative.

F. Recreation

Councilor Beaty reported that Flag Day planning is nearly complete. The parade will take place on Baily Road this year, not Church Lane. Community members are encouraged to line up along Baily Road or gather at Community Park to see the parade's start. The parade will proceed up Baily Road to the circle, with the program beginning around 11:00 a.m.

Festivities will continue throughout the day on Longacre Boulevard, concluding with a drone show at the athletic complex at 9:00 p.m. Residents are encouraged to bring family and friends to enjoy the celebration.

Councilor Beaty also invited the public to attend the Yeadon Democrats' Candidate Forum on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Middle School on Cypress Street. This event is an opportunity for residents to hear directly from council candidates and raise questions, including those related to the proposed recreation center.

The next Recreation Committee meeting will be held via Zoom on June 3rd at 6:30 p.m. to finalize Flag Day plans. After that, the committee will break for the summer and reconvene in September to plan fall programming. Further updates will be provided at that time.

Mr. Hunter reported the following:

- Free Watershed and Rain Barrel Workshop happening on Wednesday, May 14th, from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM at Yeadon Borough Hall (2nd Floor). This informative session is presented by the Pennsylvania Resource Council in partnership with the Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative.
- Good Gardening Saturday Plant Sale: Join us on Saturday, May 10th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Smedley Park, 20 Paper Mill Road, Springfield, PA, for a vibrant plant sale event! Shop a wide selection of native plants, vegetables, specialty annuals, and herbs, and take part in educational gardening workshops throughout the day. This event is proudly sponsored by the Penn State Master Gardeners.
- The rain garden at Community Park is now complete! It's specially designed to capture rainwater and help prevent flooding along Union Avenue. In addition, the community garden at Community Park is up and running. If you're interested in getting involved, feel free to stop by on Saturday mornings between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.
- Information on our free vegetable program will be shared soon. Interest is already growing, with calls coming in early. The program is expected to begin in July and run through November. More details will be provided in the coming weeks.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to adjourn.
Moved By: Councilor Truehart
Seconded By: Councilor Peets

Respectfully submitted by Borough Secretary.