

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2025**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:	Scott Bomboy (absent) Chuck Brooks Kelly Laustsen Steve Rose Jim Ryder Robin Schilling Dave Weaver Dave Worthington Vacant
Youth Councilor:	Jeff Hollenbach
Mayor:	Andrea L. Coaxum
Borough Manager:	Linda Reid (absent)
Assistant Borough Manager:	Rebecca Deemer
Finance Director:	Lauren Moll (absent)
Parks and Recreation Director:	Robert Schurr (absent)
Police Chief:	Harold Stone (absent)
Electric Superintendent:	Jeff Tulone
Public Works Director:	Brendan Callahan, Esquire
Borough Solicitor:	Doug Rossino, P.E. (absent)
Borough Engineer:	

Council Vice-President Brooks convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. An invocation was given by Mayor Hollenbach, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Tara Bergey from 5 Jessica Drive in Sellersville approached Council with her concerns about the speed limit on 9th Street, which is 25 mph in Sellersville and increases to 35 mph in Perkasie Borough. She and her two children walk with a service dog. Ms. Bergey stated that the Borough is ADA compliant, and added that the service dog has been trained to cross only where there are pedestrian crossings or crosswalks. She asked that the Borough keep up with painting the pedestrian crossings and sidewalks on the roads from 9th to the Library, since that is how they travel on foot. They also have issues crossing 9th Street to get to their bus stop, since there are no crosswalks there, and cars do not slow down to allow them to cross. Ms. Bergey is asking that Council consider changing the speed limit on 9th Street from 35 mph to 25 mph.

The Borough Manager informed Ms. Bergey that she does not have to wait for a Council meeting to discuss her concerns; we can definitely set up a meeting to discuss this further with the Borough Engineer, to get an engineering perspective and determine whether a speed limit change would be possible or not. Ms. Coaxum added that if the Borough is able to make the change, the process could take several weeks since a speed limit change would require a change to the ordinance.

Ms. Coaxum also informed Ms. Bergey that Borough does do line painting every Spring at the pedestrian crossings and crosswalks, but that they can also discuss areas where Ms. Bergey may be seeing any issues.

Vice President Brooks told Ms. Bergey that she came to the right place and the Borough can definitely look into these things.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Council President Ryder thanked the staff and Council for working through the obstacles and projects that came up during the last 12 months, adding that he feels Council did the best we possibly could. Mr. Ryder stated that going forward, the Council will need to continue to be as up front and transparent as possible, because once the electric bills hit, we could start to receive a lot of phone calls, and there could be more residents in this room with a lot of questions will need to be answered. Mr. Ryder encouraged Council members to be prepared and be up front, since people will want to speak their peace. He thanked Council for being great team players in the last year and stated that he's looking forward to another year.

INTERVIEW COUNCIL APPLICANTS

Borough Council began the process to fill the vacancy on Council created by the recent resignation of Jeremy Wano. Interested applicants who applied for the position were Randy Faulkner and Dale Schlegel. Each applicant was asked several questions by various Council members and the Council will appoint one of these two candidates at the January 20th meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

There was no business to bring before the Public Works Committee.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE

Perkasie Wholesale Power Cost Summary

Councilman Weaver provided an update on the most recent call that he and the staff had with GDS. The Committee reviewed Perkasie's November 2024 Wholesale Power Cost Summary report provided by GDS Associates.

Installed Capacity Update

Councilman Weaver thanked the staff for getting the electric rate increase information out on Facebook and the Borough's website.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Update on Construction Progress – Constitution Square

The Borough Manager briefly reviewed the items listed in the Engineer's update on the construction progress at Constitution Square.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before the Parks & Recreation Committee.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Accept Resignation of Public Works Employee

Upon a motion by Ryder, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously accepted the resignation of Adam Turley.

Consider Promotion of Part-Time Permanent Laborer to Full-Time Public Works Position

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Rose, Council unanimously promoted Vitaly Parkhomchuk from the position of Part-Time Permanent Laborer to Full-Time Public Works Employee, at the hourly rate of \$19.57. Further, once Mr. Parkhomchuk receives his CDL license, he will be promoted to the Truck Driver A0 position, which has an approved hourly rate of \$28.18 on the Salary & Wage Schedule for 2025.

Consider Hiring of Permanent Public Works Employee

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved the hiring of Willie Williams as a Part-Time Permanent Laborer at the rate of \$19.57 per hour, conditioned upon passing a pre-employment physical and drug screening, and the necessary background checks.

Review Appointments to Boards & Commissions for 2025

Vice President Brooks reported that there have been no changes since the last Council meeting to the list of available board positions and names of those who expressed interest in being re-appointed for another term. The Borough Manager reminded everyone that the Borough is also still looking for a Youth Councilor for Borough Councilor and a Youth Delegate to the Parks & Recreation Board.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before the Finance Committee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Consider Special Event Permit Application – 2025 Upper Bucks Celtic Fest

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved the Special Event Permit Application from the Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce for Celtic Fest on Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; the motion also includes the approval of the Chamber's request for the Borough to partner with them to co-present the event, and the approval to add Celtic Fest to the Borough's annual list of co-sponsored and co-presented events.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before the Public Safety Committee.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

There was no business to come before the Historical Committee.

REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCILOR

This position is currently vacant.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council President Jim Ryder asked if there was an update on the covered bridge project. The Borough Manager informed Council that we should receive the inspection report this week and should be able to provide a report at the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM


Nothing at this time.

PRESS FORUM

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.



Andrea L. Coaxum
Borough Manager/Secretary