

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2025**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members:

Scott Bomboy
Chuck Brooks (absent)
Kelly Laustsen
Steve Rose
Jim Ryder
Robin Schilling
Dave Weaver
Dave Worthington

Youth Councilors:

Shiv Gandevia
Colin Moyer

Mayor:

Jeff Hollenbach

Borough Manager:

Andrea L. Coaxum

Assistant Borough Manager:

Linda Reid

Finance Director:

Rebecca Deemer

Parks and Recreation Director:

Lauren Moll

Police Chief:

Robert Schurr

Electric Superintendent:

Harold Stone

Public Works Director:

Jeff Tulone

Borough Solicitor:

Jeffrey Garton, Esq.

Borough Engineer:

Douglas Rossino, P.E.

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDER DRAFT ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 96 OF THE PERKASIE BOROUGH CODE OF ORDINANCES – GARBAGE, RUBBISH & REFUSE

A Public Hearing was held to consider the adoption of an ordinance that would amend Chapter 96, "Garbage, Rubbish & Refuse", of the Code of Ordinances of the Borough of Perkasie. The ordinance was advertised appropriately, and the Solicitor gave an overview of the proposed amendments. There were no comments from the public. Upon a motion by Bomboy, seconded by Rose, the Public Hearing was closed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Joe Green from 15 South Main Street in the 3rd Ward commented on the recent 19% increase in electric rates, adding that he has lived in the Borough for the last 30 years, and has been in the electrical industry for the past 25 years. Mr. Green is wondering why the Borough is continuing to buy block power, and stated that there are 33 other public utilities in Pennsylvania who purchase power differently, at a 10-year contract. He further asked that, especially today with the volatility of

energy, if Council thinks it's the best decision to continue to buy block power.

Council President Ryder and the Borough Manager provided detailed explanations as to how and why the Borough purchases power the way they do, adding that the recent increase had to do with installed capacity.

Councilman Bomboy stated that the Borough's problem is installed capacity, and clarified that Mr. Green is running for Council in Ward 3. Mr. Bomboy further stated that he doesn't think the residents have an issue with the electric utility, that the Borough offers a fair product and good service, and that he has no problem with how the Borough's electric utility is run, adding that the Borough has only lost power for 9 hours since 2013.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Council President Jim Ryder thanked everyone for another successful Celtic Fest and acknowledged the Assistant Borough Manager and the Public Works and Electric Departments for the great job they did, adding that all of the feedback he has heard about the event has been very good.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Rose, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved the revised Committee meeting minutes from February 3, 2025, the minutes from the Council meeting on February 17, 2025 and minutes from the Committee meeting on March 3, 2025.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Hollenbach echoed Mr. Ryder's comments about Celtic Fest, stating that he has heard wonderful things about the event, and thanking everyone involved.

Taxes Collected

Upon a motion by Faulkner, seconded by Rose, Council unanimously approved the Taxes Collected Report for February, 2025.

Budget Status

Upon a motion by Rose, seconded by Faulkner, Council unanimously accepted the budget status report for the month of February, 2025.

Engineer's Report

The Borough Engineer reported that site improvement work has started on the 306 North Fifth Street project, and new pedestrian crossing signage has been installed at the intersection of Fifth Street and Shadywood Drive. He further reported that the Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course project will go out to bid tomorrow on PennBid, and the storm sewer installation work on North Fifth Street will start in early April. Council President Ryder asked when the 2025 Road Program bid will go

out, and Mr. Rossino stated that it will go out to bid in the next few weeks.

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Faulkner, Council unanimously accepted the Engineer's monthly report for the month of February, 2025.

Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission will not meet in March.

Zoning Hearing Board Report

The Zoning Hearing Board will meet in March to review an application from the Perkasio Fire Company requesting a variance for a full-color LED sign to replace the existing sign at 5th and Arch Streets.

Police Report

The Police Chief reported that a new item was added to the monthly report pertaining to school bus violations; the number went from 21 violations in January to 6 violations in February, and when School District first started the program, there were 80-90 violations at times, so the program is definitely working. Violations result in a Civil fine of \$300.00, which is automatically issued by the camera company.

Chief Schurr also reported that Chris Doheny had 24 new engagements in February with residents who needed assistance. He added that the School Board will be recognizing the three Chief for a Day students at Monday night's School Board meeting.

Chief Schurr informed Council that there were 413 calls in February between Perkasio and Sellersville Boroughs, adding that there were no issues at Celtic Fest, only a few minor parking issues. He also thanked the Public Works and Electric Departments for all of their cooperation that day.

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Faulkner, Council unanimously accepted the Police Department report for the month of February, 2025.

Fire Department Report

Council reviewed the Fire Department reports for the month of February, 2025.

Perkasie Regional Authority Report

Council reviewed the minutes from the Perkasie Regional Authority meeting on February 10, 2025.

Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Report

Councilman Faulkner reported that a new ultra-violet system is being put into place at the PWTA plant. Councilman Weaver asked if the staff could follow up on any expenses the Borough can anticipate for the plant, and the Borough Manager stated that she can ask for an update and a copy

of PWTa's Capital Budget.

Council reviewed the minutes from the Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Board meeting on January 27, 2025.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Public Works Superintendent reported that spring leaf collection will be the week of April 14th, and that a pre-construction meeting was recently held with PennDOT District 6-0 regarding Park Avenue and Tunnel Road.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Works Superintendent's report for the month of February, 2025.

Consider Ordinance to Amend Chapter 92 – Garbage, Rubbish & Refuse

Upon a motion by Faulkner, seconded by Rose, Council unanimously approved Ordinance #1064, an ordinance of the Borough of Perkasié, Bucks County, Pennsylvania amending Chapter 96, Garbage, Rubbish & Refuse of the Perkasié Borough Code of Ordinances.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Electric Superintendent's report for February, 2025.

Installed Capacity Update

Councilman Bomboy reported that we are waiting to see what happens with the auction this summer that will determine what the Borough's additional fee will be, which could be as much as \$250,000. Mr. Bomboy stated that Council discussed installed capacity at numerous public meetings that were held before the 2025 Budget was passed and we are tracking it very closely. He added that a letter was sent to the FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), which went before Governor Shapiro and the Governor filed a complaint with FERC against PJM, so we are very aware of the impact this issue is having on our community and it is out of our control – it is a federally-mandated charge.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Administrator Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Code Enforcement Administrator's monthly report for February, 2025.

Update on Construction Progress – Constitution Square

The Borough Engineer reported that construction at Constitution Square will now resume in April.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Parks and Recreation Department Report

The Parks & Recreation Director informed Council that over 75 kids are now enrolled in camps since registration opened on February 1st. Ms. Moll also reported that there are currently 430 Menlo memberships, which is 50 more than there were at this time last year.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Parks and Recreation Director's report for January, 2025.

Consider Event Application – Good Time Motorvators Car Show

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Faulkner, Council unanimously approved the Goodtime Motorvators Car Show at Lenape Park Skate Park on May 25, 2025 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, with a rain date of May 26, 2025.

Consider Reservation Request & Request for Fee Waiver – Perkasio Garden Club

Upon a motion by Faulkner, seconded by Schilling, Council unanimously approved the reservation request from the Perkasio Garden Club for the use of Menlo Pavilions 1 and 2 for their annual plant swap on Sunday, May 18, 2025. The motion also included the waiver of the pavilion rental fee.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Accept Resignation of Crossing Guard

Upon a motion by Schilling, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously accepted the resignation of Angela Benes.

Nominate Voting Delegate for 2025 PSAB Conference

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Schilling, Council unanimously appointed Scott Bomboy as the Perkasio Borough voting delegate for the 2025 PSAB Conference.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Authorization to Pay Bills

Upon a motion by Faulkner, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously authorized payment of the bills as presented.

Consider Resolution #2025-19 – 106 & 108 N. 7th Street – JEER, LLC – Release of 18-Month Maintenance Bond & Professional Services Escrow

Upon a motion by Faulkner, seconded by Rose, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2025-19, a resolution of the Perkasio Borough Council authorizing the return of the 18-month maintenance bond in the amount of \$4,528.50 and the professional services escrow in the amount of \$1,353.64 for the JEER, LLC project located at 106 & 108 N. 7th Street, and authorizing the signature of the Borough Manager on the releases and close out of the accounts.

Consider Resolution #2025-20 – DCNR Land Acquisition Grant – Community Garden

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2025-20 to authorize the submission of the Borough's application for a DCNR Land Acquisition Grant to purchase the Community Garden.

Consider Reallocation of Impact Fees & Letter of Cash Commitment – Community Garden Land Acquisition

Upon a motion by Faulkner, seconded by Rose, Council unanimously authorized the staff to reallocate \$150,000 of the Park & Recreation Impact Fees to the potential Community Garden land acquisition, and the remaining \$66,793 of the Park & Recreation Impact Fees to the Skate Park ramp replacement. The motion also authorized the Borough Manager to sign the letter of cash commitment to DCNR.

Consider Resolution #2025-21 – Constitution Square Escrow Release #5

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Rose, Council unanimously and conditionally approved Resolution #2025-21, a resolution of the Perkasio Borough Council authorizing a reduction in the escrow for the Construction Square project as approved by Gilmore & Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$110,059.98 to reduce the total escrow to \$419,008.75 and authorizing the signature of the Borough Manager on the escrow reduction, once the \$10,000 professional escrow check from Kay Builders has cleared.

Consider Donation Request – Quakertown Rotary Club

Upon a motion by Schilling, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously approved a donation of four daily passes to Menlo Aquatics Center for the 2025 season to the Quakertown Rotary Club's annual Purse Bingo Fundraiser on May 9, 2025.

Consider Donation Request – Quakertown Community Day

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Schilling, Council unanimously approved a donation of four daily passes to Menlo Aquatics Center for the 2025 season to the Borough of Quakertown for their Community Day event on July 4, 2025.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Community & Economic Development Report

The Assistant Borough Manager acknowledged the Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce for

their role with Celtic Fest, adding that they are a great organization to work with. Ms. Reid then reported that she is working with the American Legion on planning the Memorial Day parade and service.

Ms. Reid informed Council that the Borough has received special event applications from the Indian Valley Soap Box Association for the annual Soap Box Derby and from PTIA for First Fridays; PTIA is proposing 4 events to be held in a new location this year – on Walnut Street between 5th and 7th Streets, instead of 7th and Market Streets. She also reported that a page has been added to the Borough's website for the Park Avenue Improvements Project, and pages will be added soon for the Kulp Park and Covered Bridge projects. Further, a postcard will be going out shortly regarding the changes to the Bulky Waste program, and a Public Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, where residents and businesses are invited to attend and share their thoughts regarding the Borough's Economic Development Plan update.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Councilman Bomboy provided an update on the National Register project which involves 1,080 properties, 800 of which are within the Borough, that are eligible for consideration in the National Historic District of Perkasio. Mr. Bomboy has started the inventory of the properties in our Borough. He also provided an update on the South Perkasio Covered Bridge Rehabilitation project.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCILORS

Youth Councilor Shiv Gandevia reported that spring sports have started up again, and that track made it to Nationals for three different events. Youth Councilor Colin Moyer reported that he will be attending the next School Board meeting, so he will report on that at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Bomboy asked the Youth Councilors if they had any thoughts on graduation being moved back from Lehigh to the High School, and Colin remarked that it will be good to bring it back to a place the students feel more connected to, rather than having it at some other location.

PUBLIC FORUM

Collin Garr from 121 Strassburger Road in the 3rd Ward approached Council and announced he is running for Borough Council. Mr. Garr stated that he was recently speaking to a fellow church member at St. Andrews United Church, and heard the Borough might have some extra funds for Parks & Recreation; he also mentioned her concerns from the recent news story of a woman who was killed on the Rail Trail when a tree blew down and struck her, due to the high winds. He wondered if the Borough has ever considered a survey of the walking trails and asked what measures are being taken

by the Borough so that something like this doesn't happen.

The Borough Manager thanked Mr. Garr for bringing this up, and assured him that the Borough is very proactive with removing diseased or dying trees throughout the park system and the town. Ms. Coaxum added that the Borough has a contractor who comes into town every Wednesday and alternates between working one week with the Electric Department to trim trees around wires, and the next week working with the Public Works Department within the Park system. She also told Mr. Garr that the Borough has a replacement program in place to replace any trees that are taken down, and encouraged Mr. Garr that if he sees something and wants to report it, he is always welcome to contact the Borough, just in case it's not on our list.

PRESS FORUM


Nothing at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.



Andrea L. Coaxum
Borough Manager/Secretary