

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2026**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:	Lilli Benner Jaclyn Cornelius Collin Garr (Absent) Joe Green Emma Hawkins Kelly Laustsen Robin Schilling Dave Weaver Dave Worthington
Youth Councilors:	Shiv Gandevia Colin Moyer (Absent)
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:	Jeff Garton, Esq.
Borough Engineer:	Doug Rossino, P.E.

Council President Robin Schilling convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. An invocation was given by Pastor Garcia from Iglesia de Cristo Hefziba Ministerios Ebenezer on Seventh Street, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Resident Lee Rush from 128 Ridge Avenue distributed copies of a book to Mayor Hollenbach and the Council members and stated that the book contains good ideas regarding a community blueprint for belonging. Mr. Rush then distributed a flyer about upcoming book club meetings he will be hosting at Penn Community Bank. He also briefly spoke about the Health Communities Coalition and a voluntary survey entitled What's Happening with our Youth, adding that he would be happy to share the results of the survey with Council.

Chad Davis from 140 North 7th Street spoke about his concerns about the solar endeavor the Borough is considering and stated that he wants to see a full proposal before the Council decides anything, adding that he thinks it will be a big burden on the community. Council President Schilling explained that the reason Council is considering solar and talking about it is because they don't want electric rates to go up, and they think they can save costs and keep rates down for the residents.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Council President Schilling thanked the Public Works Department for their work with the snow removal. She then informed Council that this was her first week of signing checks, and it was well documented, easy to follow, and good to see that a lot of local businesses are used.

Ms. Schilling then provided an explanation of the Unfinished and New Business items that appear on the agenda, and stated that Council will be following the Robert's Rules of Orders when motions are made.

Ms. Schilling also congratulated the new Fire Chief, Jordan Schoeller, and thanked him for being willing to serve. Chief Schoeller thanked Council and spoke briefly about his years of service with the Fire Company, then introduced other Fire Company officials in attendance. He then provided an overview of 2025 which included 449 total fire calls, the majority of which occurred between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm on weekdays. Members participated in 107 training events throughout the year that garnered 1,980 hours of volunteer training, averaging out to approximately 50 hours of training per member. Mr. Schoeller added that there have been 16 calls so far this month.

Mr. Schoeller also stated that he appreciates the strong, dependable working relationship that the Fire Company has with Chief Schurr and the Police Department, one that's strong with communication and mutual respect.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council President Schilling called attention to the minutes from the December 15th Council meeting and stated that her name should be added to the group of Council members who thought that the Recycling Center should remain open on Saturdays.

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved the amended minutes from the Council meeting on December 15, 2025 and the minutes from the re-organization meeting and Committee meeting on January 5, 2026.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Hollenbach stated that he is encouraged by the Fire Company and all that they are doing, and complimented the Police Chief on the camaraderie and respect, adding that Perkasio benefits from the way these two organizations work together. The Mayor then asked who puts the lights up on the Twin Bridges, and the Public Works Director confirmed that the Rotary puts them up.

Mayor Hollenbach then mentioned the e-mail that he and Council members received about discontinuing the invocation at Council meetings. He stated that he is open to talking about it, adding that it was a very respectful e-mail and he would like to continue doing invocations at the meetings. The Mayor encouraged the Council members to reach out to him to discuss it.

Mayor Hollenbach also mentioned Penn Ministries and stated that they do a lot for the community, and asked Council to think about what could work as a Code Blue shelter.

Assistant Borough Manager's Report

The Assistant Borough Manager reported that she has been talking to the Department Heads about everyone getting the Committee Chairs what information they need, and she provided an update

on projects that are being worked on, and what the priorities are. Ms. Reid stated that we are looking at updating the work rules and making sure they reflect any changes, and she is also working with the Finance Director on a digital HR system to get the Borough's HR policies online so that we can make sure everyone is reading them.

As per the recommendation of our insurance company, the employee Safety Committee has been re-established and met today – there is an employee from each department on the Committee, and the Committee will meet quarterly. Ms. Reid also read the working mission statement established by the Committee.

Engineer's Report

The Engineer provided an update on several projects, including Constitution Square, Perry Mill Townhomes, 306 N. Fifth Street Re-Development, Green Ridge Estates East, Green Ridge Estates West, 9 Fairview Avenue, Pleasant Spring Creek Stabilization Project and the Kulp Park baseball field.

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously approved the Borough Engineer's monthly report.

New Business

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Review of Superintendent's Report

Councilman Weaver asked if the Borough's salt supply is ok, and the Public Works Superintendent stated that we will most likely be over budget for salt, and there are currently 300 tons on order. Mr. Tulone added that it has been the busiest winter since he's been with the Borough, and thanked his crew, adding that they did a nice job.

The Borough Manager stated that the Public Works crew collected 122 loads of leaves in the fall season, 2,400 tons of refuse, and approximately 275 tons of commingled recyclables.

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

Perkasie Regional Authority Report

Council reviewed the minutes from the Perkasie Regional Authority meeting on December 8, 2025.

Penridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Report

Council reviewed the minutes from the Penridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Board meeting on November 17, 2025.

Consider Resolution #2026-5 – Authorization to Sign Award Letter – Green-Light-Go Funding for S. Ridge Rd./W. Park Ave. Signal Modernization Project

Councilman Weaver noted that Perkasie Borough was 1 of only 2 municipalities in Bucks County who received this grant, and complimented the staff on the good job they did on the grant application.

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-5, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasié approving the acceptance of the grant for the Green-Light-Go award and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Borough of Perkasié.

Discussion on Food Waste Diversion – Feasibility Study

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved the extended Scope of Work for the Food Waste Diversion Feasibility Study.

Update on Park Avenue Improvements Project

Council reviewed a memo from the Assistant Borough Manager that contained an update on the funding for the Park Avenue Improvements Project.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Electric Department Superintendent informed Council that the Department was busy in December with putting up holiday decorations in the Borough, the Tree Lighting and other Borough projects. Mr. Stone stated that the crew had to halt tree collection on Friday, January 16th to handle two electric issues, and added that the last scheduled day for tree collection is Friday, January 23rd, and any remaining trees will have to be put out on the first Wednesday in February for brush collection. Mr. Stone also provided an update on the Borough's generator activity.

Council President Schilling asked about the 3PH shutdown for solar interconnect on Virginia Avenue referenced on the monthly report, and Mr. Stone explained that it was related to St. Andrew's solar installation; in order for them to do the interconnect, it requires a brief shutdown, less than half an hour, to complete the project.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Electric Superintendent's report for the month of December, 2025.

Consider Authorization to Engage Professional Consultants to Study the Feasibility of a Behind-the-Meter Solar Project

Council President Schilling stated that Council is looking into exploring the option of solar because there is an investment tax credit which can give us a 30% rebate, and an additional 10% credit if we buy domestic. In order to have 4 years to finish the project, the project would have to be started by July 4th; if you start after July 4th, you would have to have the project completely finished by the end of 2027.

At the last meeting, Council authorized the staff to put a lot of time and energy into exploring this possibility, and Ms. Schilling thanked the staff for all of their efforts; she also thanked the Public Utility Committee, which met three times in the last two weeks to meet with GDS Associates, Exact Solar and the Borough's utility engineer.

Council Member Green thanked the Public Utility Committee for their efforts and assured the public that Council is looking into this not to raise rates, but to lower rates. He added that, being a public utility, with the cost of capacity rates going through the roof with PJM, the only way we can combat this is

to produce our own electricity. Mr. Green stated that the Borough already has some diesel peakers that lower our capacity rate when they turn on, but with the implementation of solar, we could help reduce our energy rates, stating that the quickest and easiest way to do that is renewable energy. The great thing about solar is that when you do the project and turn it on, you have immediate savings; it starts to generate power immediately. Mr. Green asked David Hammes from Exact Solar to explain what solar can do for our community.

Mr. Hammes thanked Council for the opportunity to speak about solar. He stated that he has been working in this industry for a couple of decades, and emphasized that the intent is to save money. He informed Council that Exact Solar is working with many municipalities and schools in the area and they're all saving a whole lot of money, adding that in some cases, for those who have been doing this a long time, they don't even have an electric bill.

Mr. Hammes informed Council that he created a chart outlining cost savings if the Borough were to replace about 3%, 6% and 9% of their electricity with solar. He stated that yes, there is a cost, but the savings would be multiples of that cost. We want to find out if it's doable, if it will save the Borough money, and if it is something worthwhile for the community to consider, and if it is, then we'll find out how to do it.

In reviewing the chart that Mr. Hammes prepared, Council Member Green stated that, if the Borough doesn't do anything, the Borough will spend \$14.5M on purchase power in the next 25 years, and if we do 9% of our usage in solar, the Borough will save \$10.1M. Mr. Hammes confirmed that was correct. Council President Schilling asked if Mr. Hammes was assuming a \$.095 cent power purchase price for that calculation, and Mr. Hammes confirmed that he was using a \$.09 cent price for his calculation, and a 3% increase over the next 25 years. Using a proposed 3% increase over the next 25 years, based on \$.09, the savings using solar would be greater than this.

Council President Schilling stated that the Borough received a proposal from GDS Associates for consulting services. She added that the most critical thing in determining cost is where the location is, so the Borough would need to identify locations – lease land or lease rooftops – and enter a 25-year agreement if people agree to have solar, then have a clause if they would want to get out of it. Ms. Schilling added that's why the second action would be to have the staff start exploring discussions with property owners for either roof space or land, which will determine whether the Borough can do the project and how quickly we can do it.

Ms. Schilling then stated that the other discussion would be how the Borough would go about doing this, and work with GDS Associates, since this would have to integrate into our power supply, since the Borough currently has power through 2028, averaged at \$.095/hour.

Council Member Laustsen asked Mr. Hammes if he could tell Council about any work he's done with a neighboring municipality who has their own electric company. Mr. Hammes replied that he has not worked with a municipality that has its own utility, other than working with the Borough's Electric Department Superintendent on a number of projects that have been done in the Borough over the years.

Council Member Green stated that he was personally involved with a project at Borough of Lansdale, who does own their own utility, which was a 500kW dual access solar ray, and they were able to gain 30-40% more production with dual access trackers and offset purchase power by \$100,000/year, adding that's \$100,000 in savings with an ROI of 7 years, so the project was paid off in 7 years, and the Borough of Lansdale now generates electricity for free with the sun. He added that solar panels will lose a little bit of their efficiency, a fraction of a percent over the years, but most panels last about 25 years and are warrantied for 25 years, but they will last longer than that. Mr. Green added that he's been in the

electric utility for over 20 years with public power and the private sector.

Mr. Hammes stated that, if you bring solar energy to what you're currently using, that means you don't need the other capacity that you are currently using, so there's a trade-off there, as opposed to piling solar on top of everything that your system is already using, adding that there's a concern about the infrastructure. He asked if we could speak to that a little bit. Council Member Green stated that the concern is, since the Borough has diesel peakers, that he thinks put out about 4.8 megawatts. While they are running, the one circuit may be maxed out with how much it could take, so we would want to spread out any other generation on our grid out to maybe the other 2 circuits. That would be ideal. And if you had both peakers running on one circuit, and all of the solar running on the other circuit at the same time, when an event happens, you can actually offset your capacity rates even more if it's during a time when the sun's out.

Council Member Weaver stated that he wanted to add to what Council Member Green and others have been saying, and that he thinks the goal is next step working with GDS Associates to have a clear idea of what our costs are and what our benefits are, and have transparency – we want to people to hear and see what's going on. He added that he thinks it's our goal as Council members to collect this information and present it in a clear way and be up front with it. We hear a lot about the benefits, but we need to hear about the cost side as well, and GDS is going to help us gather some very accurate information to help us understand about cost and benefit and see how those two work together, to help us get a clear understanding. Mr. Weaver thinks an important step would be working with someone like GDS as well as Exact Solar to refine some of these numbers.

Council Member Worthington stated that he keeps hearing that we're going to get 30-40% back, and asked if someone could explain how the grant works, and apparently is what's driving this July 4th deadline. He asked what is the grant, do we have to abide by BABA, do we have to pay Davis-Bacon act? He added that it was mentioned that this is a Co-Stars project, and we just adopted a purchasing policy that whenever things are purchased through Co-Stars, we have to have three bids.

The Borough Manager confirmed that yes, the staff recommended in the new purchasing policy having more than one bid, and added that we did learn through the Kulp Park lighting project that going with Co-Stars is not necessarily the best deal, but by finding more than one on Co-Stars we did get much better pricing from a second vendor. Co-Stars is competitive bidding, and Council could choose to go with a Co-Stars vendor; we would just need to get the info from Exact Solar to make sure the labor and panels are both bid on Co-Stars, and Mr. Hammes confirmed that they are.

Council Member Green clarified that this is not a grant, it's a tax credit for tax-exempt entities such as ourselves, and once the project is done, the Federal government will cut you a check for up to 30-40%, so we don't have to apply for anything, we just have to notify them the project is done.

Council Member Worthington asked if that means putting money up front; Mr. Green confirmed that it does mean we would have to put money up front, which could mean through a loan, or even a bond, but as soon as you start making payments and turn the system on, you are generating real savings. He added that, for example, in theory, if the loan payment is \$1,000 a month, that solar is going to generate about \$1,500 a month, then you're net positive \$500.

Council President Schilling stated that another option is that the Borough could also pay up front out of pocket, then get the check back, or we could do a power purchase agreement, where someone else pays up front, and we commit to paying a price, and then they get the tax credit back, and that reduces our price. Ms. Schilling then asked Mr. Hammes to provide some more information on the requirements and how the tax credit works.

Mr. Hammes explained that there's been a 30% tax credit available for quite some time; the deadline for residential projects was December 31, 2025; for commercial projects, it changed so that there are stricter guidelines to follow, such as, having a project under contract prior to July 4, 2026. If you do that, then you have up to 4 years to complete it. If you miss the July 4th deadline, in order to get the tax credit, you would have to have your project completed by the end of 2027 or you miss the opportunity for the tax credit, so there is a lot of urgency to try to make sure they take advantage of the credit.

Ms. Schilling asked what documentation would have to be submitted, and Mr. Hammes stated that when there's a contract to place an order for a project, Exact Solar goes forward with procuring the equipment, and we need to show the physical start of the project to some degree that's acceptable; once it is, they ask that you continue that until it's finished in the four-year period. When it's completed, you file a pre-application identifying the project, then when you have permission to operate from the utility, you file a tax return, and because the Borough is tax-exempt, the Treasury would send the Borough a tax rebate.

Council Member Worthington asked if there was any risk of this tax credit going away anytime soon, and Mr. Hammes stated that for the short-term, it is not likely. Mr. Worthington further asked if there was any possibility of this tax credit going away during the Trump administration, and Mr. Hammes stated that he could not speak to that.

Council Member Laustsen stated that back in December, Council put forth that we were going to work with a consultant to look into solar with AMP, and asked if we got any feedback or response on that. The Borough Manager explained that is a different type of project, not a behind-the-meter project. The AMP project is moving forward, a little slower than they had hoped, and it is what they call a utility scale solar project; there are 2 of them – one in Kentucky, one in Ohio – that would involve a power purchase agreement. You wouldn't own the project, you would be purchasing power off of them. They are not running up against the same timelines that we are discussing here, it is a much larger scale project; all of those solar panels have already been procured, and the attorneys are still working on the final documents.

The Solicitor stated that there is some need for careful but prompt consideration of this idea. Council Member Green stated that is why we have GDS involved as our consultant, to help us out with this.

Council Member Worthington asked, if this is putting power back into the transmission system, is PPL involved in any review of this project. Council Member Green stated that PPL would probably talk to the Borough about putting quick relays on our main substation. Mr. Worthington asked how quickly PPL review this. The Borough Manager stated that our understanding so far, after speaking with GDS and Utility Engineers is that, if we get closer to 1 megawatt and above for the project, that is when the Borough would need to speak with PPL to do some installation of additional facilities. Since the Borough is its own utility, we cannot push any power back to PPL, we can only accept power. Ms. Coaxum added that once we get to the locations, then we can determine the size of the project. If we would get to the 1 megawatt size or above for the project, and the consultants confirm that we need to start conversations with PPL, we would also need to hire a different law firm to represent us in front of PPL.

Council Member Worthington asked what budget line item the funding would come from. Ms. Coaxum stated that the staff would recommend that it come out of the Electric Fund, and any excess could come out of the Fund Balance.

The Solicitor suggested that Council consider a bond resolution, which means that if you spend money on a bond, you can pay yourself back – the bond proceeds would pay your Fund Balance back. This resolution can be prepared for the next meeting.

Council Member Green asked Mr. Hammes if it is a concern to find locations for solar and should that be our biggest concern. Council President Schilling stated that we would need to find at least one location to start a contract; we can always add more locations. Mr. Hammes confirmed that is correct.

Council Member Laustsen asked if we have any idea how much it would cost for projects like these, that the Borough could be leasing space for. The Solicitor stated that it will be driven by your partner in the arrangement, and added that it may not be easy to find a location in the Borough, and if you go beyond the Borough, you may get into land development issues, which may create additional timeframe for you to be concerned about. Ms. Schilling asked about rooftops, and the Solicitor stated that rooftops do not require land development, because it's already impervious surface.

Council Member Green stated that he has some raw numbers, about \$300 to \$2,000 per acre per year would be the going rate. Council Member Worthington asked how many acres we're talking about, and Mr. Green stated from 1 acre to as many acres as we can get – the bigger it is, the more we can generate, the more we can save.

Ms. Schilling provided an example that 4.8 megawatts generate about 5 million kilowatts per hour, which would take 10-15 acres. Mr. Green stated we can scale this however we want.

Council Member Worthington asked what the Public Utility Committee's goal is, what their target is, as far as megawatts, and what they're looking to achieve. Mr. Green stated that the target is to potentially install 4.2 megawatts using ground and roof if we can find big enough space on the ground.

Council Member Cornelius stated that we all know A.I. is here; there are data centers in lower Bucks County and there are discussions about one being put in Limerick, adding that these are things that the borough needs to take into consideration. Ms. Cornelius stated that these projects are big for the industry and are happening, and renewable energy is a way for a Borough to support our community and put less strain on the grid, since those data centers will continue to put more strain on them.

Council Member Laustsen asked, if we were to do this project and start in July, when would we start receiving the money. Mr. Green stated that we would receive the money when the project is complete; if we start by July, we have 4 years to complete it, but will be finished way sooner than 4 years.

Council Member Worthington stated that his biggest concern is the permitting process, getting the land, getting the space...not the project itself, but all the other incidentals that can throw a roadblock up, and then we're out 4 years until we get money back. Not so much the program, but all the permitting. He added, when we go to find a piece of property, do we own it or lease it, and if we lease it, then someone else is making money off of the Borough. If we purchase the property, then find there's an environmental problem or wetlands on it, then we have property that we have to correct ourselves. That's where he has his issues with this project.

Council Member Weaver stated that we want to take a due diligent, strategic approach to it, look at it step by step, not get ahead of ourselves adding that without this step, we won't know where we are. Mr. Weaver added that this is a step that's needed to understand the feasibility, the cost, the benefits; people are raising good questions, but unless we take this step, we're just going to have a lot of questions.

Council Member Laustsen agreed, then asked if we should start talking to private property owners or wait until we first hear back from GDS about the scope of the project.

Council Member Green stated that we should start immediately talking to property owners.

The Solicitor stated that you want to at least alert people of what might be down the road; you're not going to be signing agreements, but want to take the temperature of people, to see if there is interest or not.

Council Member Cornelius stated that it is important that we continue to be transparent with the Borough and have special meetings with the public so we can address concerns.

Council Member Laustsen stated that she would love to have all Public Utility Committee meetings available to the public.

The Borough Manager said that we can absolutely do that, the issue with the last 3 committee meetings was the timing with advertising.

Council Member Green stated that, if for whatever reason, GDS says it's not feasible, he would personally not want to move forward with it; if this does not save us money, he will not want to move forward with it. This project is not simply to have renewable energy in our portfolio, it's to save money for the public.

Council President Schilling stated that makes sense, to do the analysis first. She added that we need to start actively feeling it out, with our connections, knowledge, and may want to also consider power purchasing options, then be sure to have things written into the contract, like an out clause.

Upon a motion by Schilling, seconded by Green, Council unanimously authorized the expenditures of funds towards consulting work to be done by the Borough's general engineer, solicitor, Utility Engineers, GDS Associates and any other consultants as approved by the Chair of the Public Utility Committee, and Council President and Vice-President, keeping in mind the goal to minimize cost, to determine the feasibility of building a solar farm in or near Perkasio Borough with the goal of lowering power purchase costs.

Consider Authorization for the Staff to Engage in Discussions with Private Property Owners for the Lease or Purchase of Roof Space or Land as Site Locations for Behind-the-Meter Solar

Upon a motion by Schilling, seconded by Hawkins, Council authorized the staff, Solicitor and members of Borough Council to begin discussions with private property owners in and around Perkasio Borough for the purpose of acquiring space by lease or sale for solar panels. The motion carried 7-1. Council Member Worthington opposed.

It was the consensus of council that if any Council members talk to private property owners, they should advise the Borough Manager and Chair of the Public Utility Committee, so that they are informed and can let the rest of Council know.

Installed Capacity Update

Nothing at this time.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Administrator Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Code Enforcement Administrator's monthly report dated January 13, 2026.

Planning Commission Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Planning & Zoning report dated January 13, 2026.

Zoning Hearing Board Report

The Solicitor informed Council that the applicant for 505 Constitution Avenue has filed an appeal to the Court regarding the decision that was issued for that case.

The Committee reviewed a report that recapped the eight Zoning Hearing Board cases in 2025.

Consider Waiver of Land Development – Perkasio Regional Authority

The Solicitor provided an overview of this application and stated that he will prepare a Waiver of Land Development Agreement to be considered at the next meeting. Mr. Garton will also ask Perkasio Regional Authority to attend the meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Parks and Recreation Department Report

The Parks & Recreation Director informed Council that there were 350 activities offered by the Department in 2025, including free programs in July for National Parks & Recreation Month, with over 2,000 participants. Ms. Moll added that there are 277 memberships so far for 2026 at Menlo Aquatics Center, and camp registration will open on February 1st, with 19 different camps being offered this summer.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Parks and Recreation Director's year-end report for 2025.

Consider Reservation Request & Rental Fee Waiver Request – Guth Elementary

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously approved the reservation request from Guth Elementary School to use Menlo Pavilions 1 and 2 on May 29, 2026 from 12:00 pm to 1:10 pm for their 4th grade field trip, with a rain date of June 1, 2026. The motion also includes the waiver of the pavilion rental fee.

Update on Community Garden Grant

Council reviewed a memo from the Parks & Recreation Director that contained an update on the land acquisition grant for the Jerry D. Kratz Community Garden.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Consider Appointments to Boards, Committees, Authorities & Commissions

Zoning Hearing Board

Nominations were opened for a three-year term as an Alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously appointed Naomi Coll as an Alternate to the Zoning hearing Board for a three-year term through December, 2028.

Nominations were opened for a second three-year term as an Alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board. Upon a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Green, Council appointed Steve Nathan as an Alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three-year term through December, 2028. The motion carried 6-2. Council members Weaver and Worthington opposed.

Vacancy Board

Nominations were opened for a one-year term on the Vacancy Board. Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Laustsen, Council appointed Chuck Brooks to a one-year term on the Vacancy Board through December, 2026. The motion carried 6-2. Council members Cornelius and Green opposed.

Consider Hiring of Full-Time Public Works Employee

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously concurred with the Borough Manager’s decision to move Brayden Kett from the position of Part-Time Permanent Laborer to Full-Time Public Works Employee. Brayden will remain at the hourly rate of \$20.45, and once he obtains his CDL Class A license, he will receive the appropriate increase to \$29.45 per hour, per the approved Salary & Wage Schedule for 2026.

Consider Resolution #2026-6 – First Contract HR Agreement

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-6, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasio approving the Service Agreement between Singletary Group, Inc., d/b/a First Contact HR (“First Contact”) and Perkasio Borough for the purpose of allowing Perkasio Borough to use the services provided by First Contact as a risk management tool in screening candidates for employment and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Borough of Perkasio.

Consider Resolution #2026-7 – Allow Participation & Voting by Telecommunications’ Device

The Solicitor provided an overview of this resolution, and clarified that a quorum has to be present in person first, before participation via device can be allowed. Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-7, a resolution to allow participation and voting by telecommunications device.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Taxes Collected & Budget Status Reports

The Finance Director informed Council that the Taxes Collected report and the Budget Status report were preliminary reports since we do not have all of the year-end numbers yet. It was the consensus of Council to approve these reports when they are complete with the year-end numbers.

Ms. Deemer also provided an explanation of the check registers in the Council packet.

Authorization to Pay Bills

Upon a motion by Benner, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously authorized payment of the

bills as presented.

Consider Resolution #2026-8 – Spruce Street Townhouses – Escrow Release #5

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-8, a resolution of the Perkasio Borough Council authorizing a final reduction in the escrow for the Spruce Street Townhouses Project as approved by Gilmore & Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$110,004.43 to reduce the total escrow to \$0.00, and authorizing the signature of the Borough Manager on the escrow reduction.

Consider Resolution #2026-9 – PACAZ Realty, LLC – Final Escrow Release

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-9, a resolution of the Perkasio Borough Council authorizing the release of the professional services escrow in the amount of \$2,000.00 and financial security escrow in the amount of \$8,617.88 for the PACAZ Realty, LLC project as approved by Gilmore & Associates, Inc., and authorizing the signature of the Borough Manager on the escrow releases and close out of accounts.

Consider Resolution #2026-10 – 208 Ridge Avenue – Final Escrow Release

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-10, a resolution of the Perkasio Borough Council authorizing the return of the professional services escrow in the amount of \$1,526.57 for the 208 Ridge Avenue project located at 253 Ridge Road (Lot 1) and 208 & 210 Ridge Avenue (Lots 2 & 3), and authorizing the signature of the Borough Manager on the escrow release and close out of the account.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Community & Economic Development Report

Council member Laustsen provided an update on the recent Steering Committee meeting, adding that the next Public Meeting will be held on March 11th.

The Committee reviewed the Community & Economic Development Report dated January 13, 2026.

Special Events Report

The Committee reviewed the Special Events Report dated January 14, 2026.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Police Report

The Police Chief reported that there was a total of 465 incidents in Perkasio & Sellersville Boroughs during the month of December, as well as 20 new outreaches and 7 live calls for Chris Doheny. Chief Schurr told Council that the cover of his monthly report had the winning design of the holiday card contest from a Guth Elementary student, and that he's received tons of positive responses about the contest.

The Borough Manager informed Council that there were 24 bus violations in December. Chief

Schurr reminded Council that the Police Department is reviewing every violation that is reported to confirm whether or not they are actual violations.

Council Member Worthington asked if the Chief for a Day event would be taking place again this year, and Chief Schurr stated that the event will be in March, with Guth Elementary School, and provided an overview of the event. Mayor Hollenbach stated that this is a terrific event and a great connection with the schools.

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Benner, Council unanimously accepted the Police Department report for the month of December, 2025.

Fire Department Report

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

Consider Resolution #2026-11 – Updated Internship Agreement with West Chester University

Council reviewed a memo from the Police Chief and an updated Internship Agreement with West Chester University. Council President Schilling asked if other universities participate in the internship program with the Police Department, and Chief Schurr stated that the Department has had interns from Penn State, Alvernia and Kutztown University so far, in addition to West Chester University.

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-11, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasio approving an Affiliation Agreement between the Borough of Perkasio Police Department and West Chester University, and authorizing the Chief of Police to execute the Affiliation Agreement on behalf of the Borough of Perkasio Police Department.

Update on Police Department Grants

The Police Chief provided an update to Council on the two Local Share Account grants that the Police Department received at the end of last year – one for \$56,309 to purchase a dedicated vehicle for Chris Doheny and another for \$101,171 to purchase a Traffic Safety Vehicle for the Department's Traffic Safety Officer.

Update on PennDOT Meeting – Walnut Street

The Borough Manager spoke briefly about the recent meeting that was held with Representative Shelby Labs, and representatives of the Borough and PennDOT, adding that she did not have any answers, but the Borough's concerns were acknowledged.

Council Member Worthington asked about the status of the paving of Fifth Street, and Ms. Coaxum stated that the PennDOT's plans have not changed.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Update on New Committee

The Borough Manager stated that she is hoping the Committee will have its first meeting in February.

Council Member Worthington asked for an update on the FEMA/PEMA funding for the Covered

Bridge project, and Ms. Coaxum provided one.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCILOR

Youth Councilor Shiv Gandevia reported that Thursday is the last day of the semester, and the students are looking to having off on Friday.

PUBLIC FORUM

Resident Greg Martin from 320 West Market Street approached Council and stated that he is not anti-solar; he tried to put it on 5 years ago, but had the wrong roof for it. Mr. Martin spoke of the work he did in 2024 with the Borough Manager, Assistant Borough Manager and Electric Department Superintendent to apply for a grant from the Department of Energy for cybersecurity for the Borough. The Borough received Part 1 of that grant for \$50,000, then developed a plan for implementing cybersecurity for the Borough and the Electric grid. An application was submitted at the end of 2024 for a follow-up grant for \$100,000, and the Borough still has not received an update on that application. The Borough Manager reported that the Borough did receive an e-mail around the holidays with an explanation that the program has not been cancelled, it is still on hold. Mr. Martin just wanted to suggest that when you are building a plan, that you keep in mind that government programs today are not promises. In his opinion, you should not commit to anything until you are certain you will get the money back. And if you can't get that commitment, you need to figure in not getting your money back, and make sure you can afford that as well.

PRESS FORUM

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.



Andrea L. Coaxum
Borough Manager/Secretary