

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Council Member:

Lilli Benner  
Jaclyn Cornelius  
Collin Garr (Absent)  
Joe Green  
Emma Hawkins  
Kelly Laustsen  
Robin Schilling  
Dave Weaver (Listened in)

Youth Councilors:

Dave Worthington  
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:

Jeffrey Garton, Esq.

Borough Engineer:

Doug Rossino, P.E.

Council President Schilling convened the meeting at 7:01 pm. Mayor Hollenbach thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, stating that he has given a lot of thought to this, and remarking on the long history of invocations at Council meetings. He stated that he is aware that some of the community are uncomfortable to some level with this, so he's going to propose a bit of change for this calendar year, where, on the first meeting of the month, we'll do a moment of silence, then pledge the flag, and on the second meeting of the month, he'll continue to invite clergy in to lead us in the invocation. He asked that people let him know next January what they think.

A moment of silence was observed, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Chad Davis from 140 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street commented that Council has been very busy in the last two weeks and expressed his concerns that they are rushing the behind-the-meter solar project and asked about the bond resolution on the agenda. The Solicitor explained that, in the event that Council would decide to proceed with a project and borrow money, the resolution only authorizes them to repay back to the Borough in the Electric Fund the monies that were expended before the bond issue from the proceeds. If they decided to proceed, the Borough would be reimbursed for the bond issue.

Council President Schilling commented that the five new Council members have been talking to the community a lot about electricity and have been looking into it, and added that the reason we're pushing this so hard is that the potential of getting 40% back makes it very profitable for the Borough.

Council Member Cornelius commented that she has been in the energy industry for the last seven years, and Council Member Green has been in the industry for 20 years, and added that if we truly feel it doesn't make sense, we're not going to do it, but we at least want to do the due diligence of trying to be as financially responsible in it as well. That is our main concern and will always be our main concern. Ms. Cornelius told Mr. Davis that she understands his hesitation and appreciates him coming forward and sharing what those hesitations are. Ms. Cornelius added that she is aware others may have the same hesitations but won't come forward to share them, so that is being taken into consideration as well, and she thanked him for coming forward.

Council Member Green stated that GDS Associates is doing a feasibility study for the Borough, and nothing is being done until that study comes back. He added that the bond resolution is to get us ready if we make the decision after the feasibility study to move forward. If we feel that that are significant savings and we move forward with it, then we would float a bond. He stated that, just to be clear – nothing is being done until the engineers look at the feasibility study. The electric staff would only help with the grid tie and stated that maintenance on solar, if it's a fixed array, would be minimal. It would use one additional meter that would be read with the rest of the Borough's electric meters. Mr. Green stated that he lives here, too, and he's not going to do something that's going to cost us money; this is all about saving money. He added that if the Borough does nothing, we are going to have projected rate increases for the next 10 years through PJM with our auctions. We're trying to curb that and the only way to do that is to generate our own electricity so it's less power that we purchase on the market. That's the reason for this. He stated that if there's no savings, we will not move forward with it, adding that he guarantees that. This is not just to have clean energy in our portfolio – this is to save money for the community.

Council President Schilling stated that the plan is to make all of the Public Utility Committee meetings public, and Mr. Green confirmed that is correct. Ms. Schilling asked if the meetings would be on a weekly basis, and Mr. Green stated that he did not know how often the meetings would be, but whenever they are, they will be public.

## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Council President Schilling thanked all of the departments, and the Police & Fire Departments for all of their work with the snow, adding that it was an incredible effort, a lot of long hours, and very much appreciated. Ms. Schilling also thanked the Police Benevolence Association for delivering the notification to her home that the negotiations are beginning for the contract this year, and she acknowledged Officer Jeffries for a nice e-mail that was received from a member of the community saying how kind he was and how much compassionate and care he showed to a young man who'd been in an accident, and how he helped calm him.

Ms. Schilling also stated that Lee Rush from 128 Ridge Avenue wanted to be here for Public Forum but asked her to share that there will be an event at Pennridge High School on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on the relationship between smart phones and mental health. Everyone is welcome.

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

### Consider Amending the 2026 Budget – Expenditure for Elevator Repair at Borough Hall

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously amended the 2026 budget to allow for a repair to the Borough Hall elevator utilizing additional funds from the Repairs and Maintenance Services line item.

### Consider Amending the 2026 Budget – Capital Purchases for Public Works Department

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously amended the 2026 budget to allocate \$1,360.00 of the surplus capital funds for the purchase of the Recycling Center gate and infield groomer.

### Consider Resolution #2026-12 – Green-Light-Go Grant Contract

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-12, a resolution of the Borough of Perkasio approving the Green-Light-Go Program Grant and Reimbursement Agreement and authorized the signature of the Council President and Borough Manager on said Agreement.

The Public Works Director thanked the Police Department and Electric Department for their assistance with the snow, adding that it was a real team effort. He then mentioned the shortage of salt in the state, and stated that the Borough's salt shed is currently half full, which is fine for right now.

The Borough Manager thanked Perkasio Regional Authority for their assistance with the snow, along with East Rockhill Township and West Rockhill Township for their manpower and equipment. Council President Schilling asked how many days the Borough had of contracted help, and Ms. Coaxum stated that all 3 days were needed.

## **PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE**

### Perkasio Wholesale Power Cost Monthly Report

The Committee reviewed Perkasio's December 2025 Wholesale Power Cost Summary Report provided by GDS Associates. Council Member Green provided some comments on the report.

### Update: Behind-the-Meter (BTM) Solar Project

Council Member Green stated that GDS Associates is currently working on this and will have some answers for us about site locations, hopefully next week. He added that we are waiting on that feasibility study.

### Consider Resolution #2026-13 – Bond Anticipation for BTM Solar Project

Upon a motion by Green, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-13, a resolution of the Borough of Perkasio authorizing the Borough Manager, Solicitor, Financial Advisor, Investment Banker and Bond Council directly do all acts necessary in preparation for the

issuance of the Borough's general obligation bonds after parameters of the project have been finalized and the Borough Council has authorized proceedings in accordance with the provisions of this resolution.

#### Installed Capacity Update

The Borough Manager reviewed the dates of the next capacity auction.

### **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE**

#### Consider Waiver of Land Development Agreement – Perkasio Regional Authority

Two representatives from Pennoni Associates, the engineer for Perkasio Regional Authority, provided an overview of this project, and the Solicitor confirmed that they are willing to comply with everything set forth in the Borough Engineer's latest review letter.

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously approved the Land Development Waiver Agreement between Perkasio Regional Authority and the Borough of Perkasio for the construction of a booster pumpstation located on tax parcel 33-003-011 on the south side of Ridge Avenue at the intersection of North Ridge Road in Perkasio Borough.

### **PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

#### Consider Reservation Request – Bucks County Intermediate Unit

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Schilling, Council unanimously approved the reservation request for the Bucks County Intermediate Unit to utilize the Lenape Park Skate Pavilion on May 29, 2026 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

#### Consider Reservation Request – Walton Farm Elementary School

Upon a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously approved the reservation request for the Walton Farm Elementary School to utilize the Menlo Park Lions' Pavilions on May 15, 2026 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

#### Consider Park Event Application – Healthy Kids Running Series

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously approved the park event application for the Healthy Kids Running Series in Lenape Park on April 19, May 3, May 17, May 31 and June 7, with a rain date of June 14, 2026 from 11:45 am to 3:30 pm.

#### Consider Donation Request – Guth Elementary Home & School Association

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Schilling, Council unanimously approved the donation of six Menlo daily pool passes to the Guth Elementary Home & School Association for their 11<sup>th</sup> annual Family Bingo Night to be held on February 20, 2026.

#### Consider Resolution #2026-14 – Valpak/Clipp Participation Agreement – Menlo Aquatics Center Advertising

Upon a motion by Schilling, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-14, a resolution of the Borough of Perkasio approving the Valpak Franchise Operations Participation Agreement and authorized the Borough Manager to sign the Agreement.

Consider Approval of Change Order #1 for Kulp Park Phase 2 Improvements Project

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Green, Council unanimously approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$8,600.00 to cover the cost of drilling foundation due to unexpected rock soils for the Kulp Park Improvements Project.

Discuss Potential Fundraising for New Scoreboard at Kulp Park Sport Field

Council reviewed several options for a scoreboard at Kulp Park. Council Member Worthington stated that the Park & Recreation Board reviewed these same options and recommended that Council go with Option 4, which is \$71,275.00. Mr. Worthington then highlighted some features of the scoreboard.

After some discussion, upon a motion by Green, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously authorized the Borough Manager and the Mayor to solicit donations or sponsorships to raise the necessary funds for the purchase of a new scoreboard for the Kulp Park Sport Field.

**PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

Consider Appointment for Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously appointed Matthew Valley to the Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals for a term ending on December 31, 2027.

Consider Hiring of Permanent Part-Time Laborer

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Green, Council unanimously concurred with the Borough Manager's decision to promote Kymani Dacres to the position of Permanent Part-Time Laborer in the Borough's Public Works Department.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Update on Borough Grants

The Finance Director provided Council with a spreadsheet of grant activity for the Borough. Council President Schilling asked about the funding for the Covered Bridge and how much has been funded by taxpayer money, and how much has been funded by grants with Borough matches.

The Finance Director stated that the Borough received a \$100,000 grant from the PA Historic Preservation Office back in 2019 and the required match for that was supported by donations that were raised by the Bucks County Covered Bridge Society, which total \$117,000. Ms. Schilling clarified that the \$117,000 was all raised by individuals, to get the match, so it wasn't any taxpayer money, but that it went out of our line item. Ms. Deemer confirmed that none of it has been spent so far, and the Borough Manager clarified that we're still on line items through the FEMA money, and reminded Council that there are 3 funding sources – FEMA and PEMA, which are related to Hurricane Ida, and the State

Historical grant. Ms. Coaxum explained that FEMA has committed to covering all damage related to Hurricane Ida, so in the end, if it exceeds the budgeted amount, FEMA has committed to covering those costs. Until the project is completely done, construction is finished and we've received all the invoices and processed them, then we will get any remaining amount due back to the Borough. She then provided an update on the timeline of the project.

Mayor Hollenbach thanked the Finance Director for the grant information.

#### Payment of the Bills

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Green, Council unanimously approved the payment of the bills.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

There was no business to bring before the Economic Development Committee.

Council Member Laustsen provided an update on the recent Steering Committee meeting and shared some of the marketing strategies and ideas that the business owners on the Committee discussed were: marketing Perkasio, wayfinding signage, weekly business feature on social media, façade grants, mixed use development, beautification of Town Center/downtown, arts & culture and increasing property values & attainable housing. Ms. Laustsen stated that there will be a Public Meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to provide an update on the Economic Development Plan, and the Steering Committee will meet sometime after that meeting.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

##### Consider Resolution #2026-15 – LSA Traffic Control Grant Contract

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Green, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-15, a resolution of the Borough of Perkasio approving the Local Share Account Grant contract between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Perkasio Borough for the purpose of purchasing equipment and a vehicle associated with the Traffic Safety Program project and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Borough.

##### Discuss Ordinance for Parking Tickets

Council discussed the current ordinance regarding parking tickets. Council Member Green asked where people get tickets in the Borough, and the Police Chief stated the Department has been getting complaints from businesses that cars are parking in the two-hour parking spaces and leaving them there all day; they have also gotten complaints about people parking too far away from the curblines at 7<sup>th</sup> Street & Blooming Glen, and there is a vast array of areas within the Borough where tickets are issued, including blocked driveways, people parking too close to stop signs and near fire hydrants, but emphasized that the Department gives warnings first.

Upon a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously authorized the Borough Manager and Solicitor to draft an ordinance removing the parking ticket fee from the Borough Code and instead referencing that the fee exists in the yearly Fee Schedule.

Council Member Benner announced that Pizza with the Police will be held at Pomodorino Pizza tomorrow night from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, and Chief Schurr encouraged everyone to attend.

## **HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

There was no business to bring before the Historical Committee.

Council Member Hawkins spoke of the new Historical Committee that was recently created and stated that she really wants to create a bridge with the existing Perkasio Historical Society since the new committee was formed in order to align our priorities for the preservation of our town and really connect with the Historical Society to resources that may be more easily available through legislative bodies like ours. She added that she thinks it would be wise for her and for the Vice-Chair of the Historical Committee of Council to attend the general meeting of the Perkasio Historical Society on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and their Board meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> before making any major decisions about the Committee's future. Ms. Hawkins added that, since there's no precedent set for this Committee, she wants to make sure we're going about it in the correct way.

Council President Schilling asked when the new Historical Committee will meet, and the Borough Manager stated that she would have that date soon.

## **REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCILOR**

Youth Councilor Shiv Gandevia reported that the students just finished up winter sports. Mayor Hollenbach recognized Shiv for his attendance at both the Council meetings and the Park & Recreation Board meetings and thanked him for all that he does.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Council Member Worthington stated that he's seen some social media posts about Perkasio Porchfest being on May 9<sup>th</sup>, and asked if there has been any discussion about block party applications or event applications, since that's three months away.

Council President Schilling stated that there has been preliminary discussion about having it at businesses, and ongoing discussions about what that would look like, and whether that would be block parties, adding that she doesn't know if it would be indoors. She added that there have been preliminary talks about keeping it smaller, and just doing the businesses.

Mr. Worthington asked about the potential need for Borough services, including Public Works and Police services, and Ms. Schilling stated that it would depend if the event meets that need, and the thinking is that they would maybe not need them. She added that she thinks there will be another discussion shortly, and then we can bring it to Committees and to the Administration.

Council Member Green asked when you would need police enforcement. The Borough Manager stated that the definition of all of that is in the Special Events Ordinance, and added that she can get him a copy of the ordinance; she stated that it is also on the Borough's website.

Council Member Worthington explained about the Events Application being a form that needs to be filled out about what the event is, what it involves, does trash need to be collected, how many

barricades need to be put out...all things that require the Borough to be reimbursed for services, since it's not a Borough-sponsored event. Council President Schilling thanked Council Member Worthington since it is an important topic, and it is coming in three months' time.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Chad Davis from 140 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street approached Council a second time about the potential behind-the-meter solar project, and asked if there was a conflict of interest for Council Members Cornelius and Green, since they both work in the energy industry. Council President Schilling stated that she had asked the same question and the Solicitor confirmed that there is no conflict of interest.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.



Andrea L. Coaxum  
Borough Manager/Secretary