

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 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 (Absent)
Youth Councilor:	Shiv Gandevia
Mayor:	Jeff Hollenbach
Borough Manager:	Andrea L. Coaxum
Assistant Borough Manager:	Linda Reid (Absent)
Finance Director:	Rebecca Deemer
Parks and Recreation Director:	Lauren Moll
Police Chief:	Robert Schurr
Electric Superintendent:	Harold Stone
Public Works Director:	Jeff Tulone (Absent)
Borough Solicitor:	Brendan Callahan, Esq.
Borough Engineer:	Doug Rossino, P.E.

Council President Robin Schilling convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. An invocation was given by Father Rossi from St. Agnes in Sellersville, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Robin Adler from 220 Spring Lane expressed concerns about issues with water runoff in the area, and about Perkasie Regional Authority wanting to get approval to expand operations in the area of Well #10. Mr. Adler mentioned that he is in possession of a study that the Borough conducted back in the late 90s which identified the water runoff problems in that area as severe, adding that nothing has been done to address them. Mr. Adler also informed Council that a few years ago, there was a very heavy rainfall; the detention basin in the area overflowed, and people's fences were under water. He'd like to get this addressed, and stated that proper maintenance isn't being done, further asking how he could get a copy of the stormwater runoff plan so that he could begin to address it with his neighbors.

Council President Schilling asked the Borough Engineer if he was familiar with the situation, and if he would like to speak to it. Mr. Rossino explained to Council that a swale runs behind the properties and there are some things that Gilmore & Associates will be looking at when they do their review for PRA's Well #10 project. Mr. Rossino added that the basin, which is actually a pond, should not have overflowed, so that is something they will definitely need to look into.

Ms. Schilling asked Mr. Adler to give his information to the Executive Assistant so that the Borough can get him a copy of the stormwater runoff plan.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Nothing at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously approved the minutes from the Council meeting on March 16, 2026 and the minutes from the Committee meeting on April 6, 2026.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Hollenbach expressed his deep appreciation for the plethora of opportunities and activities that the Parks & Recreation Department is working on for the summer, and also reminded Council of the following upcoming events: Little League Opening Day Parade on April 25th, Memorial Day Parade in Sellersville on May 23rd, Fire Company Carnival from June 23rd through June 27th, with Community Day and fireworks on June 27th. The Mayor then invited Council and the employees from the various Borough departments to participate in the cornhole tournament at Community Day, and encouraged people to please take advantage of the Farmers Market, First Fridays and Summer Concert Series, and to also stay safe.

Assistant Borough Manager’s Report

Council reviewed the Assistant Borough Manager’s report dated April 14, 2026.

Engineer’s Report

The Engineer informed Council that the 2025 Concrete Program is complete, and the final section of sidewalk has been installed at the Kulp Park Improvements Project. Mayor Hollenbach asked if there is an update from PennDOT on the paving of Fifth Street, and the Engineer and Borough Manager stated that there is no update at this time.

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

New Business

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Works Superintendent’s report for the month of March, 2026.

Perkasie Regional Authority Report

Council reviewed the minutes from the Perkasie Regional Authority meeting on March 9, 2026.

Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Report

Council reviewed the minutes from the Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Board meeting on February 23, 2026 and the PWTA Audit for 2025.

Update on Park Avenue Improvements Project Funding

The Borough Manager provided an update on the funding for the Park Avenue Improvements Project.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Electric Department Superintendent reported that the Department has been getting ready for the Menlo Aquatics Center opening and should be finished by the end of this week. The Department has also been checking all of the lighting in the pavilions and the parks, and has about 600 new meters left to install throughout the Borough.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Electric Superintendent's report for the month of March, 2026.

Update on Behind-the-Meter Solar Project

Council Member Green reported that the Public Utility Committee of Council has been working closely with GDS Associates to finalize a draft RFI and gather budgetary information needed to support informed decision making. Council also reviewed an Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost of preliminary costs for remediation of the Perkasio Landfill as a possible site to support ballast-anchor foundation systems for solar panel arrays. The Engineer provided an overview of the EOPC and explained how he came up with the numbers. Council President Schilling thanked Mr. Rossino for getting the accurate cost information, and the Borough Manager stated that the staff is still gathering information, adding that a draft RFI was received today, but the Public Utility Committee still needs to review it.

Installed Capacity Update

Nothing at this time.

Consider Resolution #2026-25 – Bright Mountain Master Services Agreement

Council Member Green asked the Electric Department Superintendent to provide an overview of what GDS is recommending. Upon a motion by Green, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-25, a resolution of the Borough of Perkasio approving the form of Bright Mountain Solar Schedule with the American Municipal Power, Inc., subscribing up to 3.2 MW, and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the Borough.

Consider Resolution #2026-26 – Potomac Energy Master Services Agreement

Council Member Green informed Council that the Public Utility Committee does not recommend going forward with this project. No action was taken by Council on this item.

Consider Resolution #2026-27 – NYPA Hydropower Updated Agreement for Electric Service

Upon a motion by Green, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously approved Resolution

#2026-27, a resolution of the Borough of Perkasio approving the agreement for electric service between Perkasio Borough and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the Borough of Perkasio.

Council President Schilling commented to resident Kim Bedillion, who was in the audience and had questions at the previous meeting about the solar project, that the Borough is still finalizing numbers but has spent tens of thousands thus far to make sure Council does the right thing with this project.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Administrator Report

The Committee reviewed the Code Enforcement Administrator's monthly report for the month of March, 2026.

Planning Commission Report

The Committee reviewed the Planning & Zoning report for the month of March.

Zoning Hearing Board Report

The Zoning Hearing Board will not meet this month.

Consider Resolution #2026-28 – Stormwater Agreement for 35 South Main Street

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-28, a resolution of the Borough Council in and for the Borough of Perkasio, Bucks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approving the Stormwater Controls and Best Management Practices Operations and Maintenance Agreement for the 35 South Main Street project.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Parks and Recreation Department Report

The Parks & Recreation Director informed Council that there are 115 participants who have signed up thus far for the 19 different camps being offered this summer. Ms. Moll stated that early bird rate for purchasing memberships are still available until the end of April. Lastly, Ms. Moll reported that the latest newsletter went out and that three additional routes were added to include more of the Borough.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Parks and Recreation Director's report for the month of March, 2026.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Consider Resolution #2026-29 – Records Disposition for 2026

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Green, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-29, which authorizes the staff to dispose of public records in accordance with the Municipal Records Act.

Consider Resolution #2026-30 – St. Luke's Penn Foundation EAP Services Agreement

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Green, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-30, which approves the EAP Services Agreement between the Borough of Perkasio and St. Luke's Penn Foundation.

Consider Hiring a Permanent Part-Time Laborer

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously concurred with the Borough Manager's decision to hire Peter Higby as a permanent part-time Laborer at the hourly rate of \$20.45, conditioned upon his passing a pre-employment physical and drug screening and the necessary background checks.

Consider Hiring a Summer Intern from the Meyner Center

Upon a motion by Benner, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously concurred with the Borough Manager's decision to engage Olivia Slamm as a summer administration intern for 30 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$17.00, from the beginning of June until early August.

Announcement – Floodplain Manager Achievement

Council President acknowledged that Cassandra Grillo passed her floodplain management test and congratulated her.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Taxes Collected Report

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved the Taxes Collected report for March, 2026.

Budget Status

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved the Budget Status report for March, 2026.

Authorization to Pay Bills

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

Consider Resolution #2026-31 – Perry Mill Escrow Release #11

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-31, a resolution of the Perkasio Borough Council authorizing a reduction in the escrow for the Perry Mill Project (aka 8th Street Commons Rowhomes) as approved by Gilmore & Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$108,112.02 to reduce the total escrow to \$154,395.33, and authorizing the signature of the Borough Manager on the escrow reduction.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Community & Economic Development Report

The Committee reviewed the Community & Economic Development Report dated April 14, 2026.

Special Events Report

The Committee reviewed the Special Events Report dated April 20, 2026.

Consider Request for Fee Waiver – Pennridge Little League Opening Day Parade

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously waived the application fee for the 2026 Pennridge Little League Opening Day Parade.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Police Report

The Police Chief remarked on the annual Police Department Report for 2025 that was distributed tonight and encouraged Council to feel free to reach out with any questions. Chief Schurr stated that Patti Richardson worked very hard on the report, which takes her several months to put together, and she does a fantastic job on it. Council President Schilling asked if the report was available online, and Chief Schurr stated that it is not available online yet, but will be. Ms. Schilling added that it is great to see the community engagement, and Chief Schurr stated that there is a full page detailing what Chris Doheny, the Civilian Community Relations Specialist, does.

Chief Schurr informed Council that there were 609 police incidents in March, and that the Department will host 2 interns this summer, who will not be paid.

The Police Chief also reported on a speed data analysis that was prepared in response to a resident's concerns at the March 2nd Council meeting regarding speeding on Parkridge Drive and North Lane. The analysis showed a total of 3 violations out of 1,788 vehicles analyzed on Parkridge Drive, and 2 violations out of 3,153 vehicles analyzed on North Lane, both of which yielded an extremely low enforcement rating of 0%. Council President Schilling asked if the information was given to the resident, and Chief Schurr stated that he mailed the resident a letter and a copy of the analysis, and the resident has not contacted him for follow-up.

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously accepted the Police Department report for the month of March, 2026.

Fire Department Report

The Fire Chief reported that the Fire Company is partnering with the American Red Cross and the King Memorial Foundation for a smoke detector program where free smoke detectors will be handed out to residents who are in need. They're just getting the program kicked off and will start it in early fall. Chief Schoeller gave a brief history of how the program got started. Chief Schoeller then commented that the April 1st remembrance event was a success, with approximately 150 fire fighters and 30 fire trucks having participated in the event. He thanked Chief Schurr for the police assistance provided at the event.

Chief Schoeller also informed Council that several members of the Fire Company attended the funeral in Berks County for the two recent line of duty deaths. Council President remarked on the recent Fire Company breakfast and thanked the Fire Company for all that they do.

Council reviewed the Fire Department reports for the month of March, 2026.

Consider Resolution #2026-32 – Authorization to Sign PCCD Grant Contract – Community Relations Civilian Specialist Program

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-32, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasio approving the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Grant award, and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Borough of Perkasio.

Consider Resolution #2026-33 – Memorandum of Understanding – Perkasio Borough Police Department and Bucks County Intermediate Unit

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-33, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasio approving the Memorandum of Understanding between the Perkasio Borough Police Department and the Bucks County Intermediate Unit for the purpose of fostering a relationship of cooperation and mutual support and to maintain a safe school environment and authorizing Chief Robert Schurr to execute the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Borough of Perkasio Police Department.

Review Draft Ordinance and Consider Authorization to Advertise Public Hearing – No Parking Zone Request – Davis Feed Mill & Perkasio Borough Electric Department

Upon a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously authorized the Solicitor to advertise a public hearing for discussion and consideration of an ordinance to amend Chapter 180 of the Perkasio Borough Code of Ordinances pertaining to parking regulations on Seventh Street.

Consider Request for Fire Police Assistance – Township of New Britain

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously approved the request from the Township of New Britain for their fire police assistance at the Tri-Municipal parade on July 4th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Consideration of Police Services and Expanded Road Closure for May 9, 2026

Council President Schilling reminded Council of the road closures that were approved at the last meeting for the two commercial block parties on May 9th. The Police Chief then spoke to Council about a suggestion that was made to amend the road closure on West Walnut Street from 5th Street to 6th Street, adding that he thinks it would make it a safer walkway between the events. Council Members Green and Laustsen commented that it's a great idea, and great for economic development.

The Borough Manager asked the Police Chief who will handle the road closures in this expanded area, and Chief Schurr stated that the Police Department will reach out to the event organizers and talk to them about putting the hard road closures out there and will make sure that they get handled by Mystic Ways and the salon. Council Member Green asked if that will be their responsibility, and Chief Schurr confirmed that the road closures will be the responsibility of Mystic Ways and the salon.

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Green, Council unanimously approved the closure of West Walnut Street from Penn Street to South Sixth Street on Saturday, May 9, 2026 from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Council President Schilling stated there was discussion at the end of the last meeting about the

cost of the Police Chief adding two police officers for the day on May 9th because of the two commercial block parties, plus other businesses who are potentially having music. The Chief's assessment was to ensure that we're ready for any other incidents that we should have two additional police officers. Ms. Schilling added that's two people at overtime, so there is a cost associated with that. The question had come up at the last meeting if there would be any additional cost to the taxpayer, and she stated that she wasn't very clear and had indicated with her wording that there would not be, so we wanted to bring it back that there *would* be additional cost. Because the Borough has a Special Events ordinance which sets aside when you can and cannot waive fees, as Council looked into it, the ordinance clearly excludes block parties in the definition section. So with all of the fees for special events, it excludes block parties, and that was done intentionally, because we want the businesses in this area to survive and have events that profit them. Ms. Schilling added that it does mean in this case, the Borough will be picking up those charges, which is \$200/hour for overtime, so there is a cost associated with that. We just wanted to make sure that everyone in the audience knew that, that there *is* a cost, and the reasoning behind it, and to make sure that there are no concerns on Council with that.

Council Member Laustsen stated that her #1 priority in the Borough is safety, and her second is supporting our local businesses, and she thinks that this event could draw a lot of attention to our businesses on Chestnut Street and on Walnut Street, and even leading up to Seventh Street possibly. Ms. Laustsen thinks that Council should waive the charges this time around, because we didn't already discuss this with those business owners when we approved their block party applications, and that this is a way to say that we are supporting them that day, and that we're going to have a safe event and that going forward, this will be something that we definitely will discuss when applying for any commercial block party.

Furthermore, upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Green, Council unanimously waived the charges for police services related to the May 9th music event.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Council Member Hawkins provided updates on the last Historical Committee meeting and on the Covered Bridge project. Ms. Hawkins also reported that the Committee is reviewing plans for America250 this summer, including a reading of the Declaration of Independence in town, and stated that the Borough is turning 150 in 2029 and that there are funds from the last anniversary celebration, around \$10,000, from the Historical Society that will be donated for that event.

There was no business to bring before the Historical Committee.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Council President Schilling encouraged Council to attend the First Friday event on May 1st, and added that there will be a business owner meeting on Wednesday.

REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCILOR

Youth Councilor Shiv Gandevia reported on some end of the year events taking place at the school, and informed Council that he is going to begin the process to find next year's Youth Councilor, since he will be graduating this year.

PUBLIC FORUM

Dale Haring presented the Borough with a \$1,000 check from the Lions Club to sponsor the Kulp

Wading Pool for the 2026 season.

Mr. Haring informed Council that the Civil Service Commission met today and had a re-organization; he was appointed Chair, and Randy Faulkner was appointed Secretary. Mr. Haring also provided an overview of the upcoming hiring process for new Borough police officers, and asked Council to consider removing the 15-mile requirement that requires officers to live within 15 miles of the Borough, adding that it doesn't make sense today. He further asked if perhaps the Solicitor could take a look at the rules and regulations, since they were last changed in 2017.

Rosalie Adler from 220 Spring Lane approached Council with a letter she and her husband received via Certified Mail from Perkasio Regional Authority at the end of February, stating that PRA applied to the Borough for a conditional use to expand its existing water treatment facility located at 228 Spring Lane right next to them. The letter stated that PRA was going to appear before Council tonight and that residents should come, and Ms. Adler stated that unless she missed it, she hasn't heard anything about it. The Borough Manager explained that PRA is not ready to go before Borough Council yet, and that the Borough can definitely ask PRA why they put a meeting date in their letter. Council President Schilling thanked Ms. Adler for coming to the meeting to express her concerns and stated that the Borough will look into it.

Chad Davis from 140 North 7th Street asked Council where the Borough is with the costs for the Behind-the-Meter solar project. Council President Schilling stated that the Borough has spent \$56,000 on analysis so far, and the Borough Manager clarified that that's the total of the invoices that the Borough has received to date.

Mr. Davis added that he doesn't really agree with putting solar panels in a landfill, and the Borough Manager explained that the Engineer isn't making a recommendation on that, and the Borough isn't finished with the feasibility study yet to determine whether it's actually going to be possible.

Mr. Davis then complimented the Youth Councilor for being at every Council meeting, and asked where Council Member Garr has been, adding that he has been at one meeting since January. Council President Schilling commented that Mr. Garr has some health issues that he's been dealing with and that's why he isn't here. Council is aware and there are discussions ongoing.

PRESS FORUM

Nothing at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.



Andrea L. Coaxum
Borough Manager/Secretary