

Lafin Borough Council Mtg.
August 13, 2024
6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG RECITED.

Roll Call:

Present: Marc Malvizzi, President – Joseph Boos, Vice President – Drew Malvizzi – Melissa Werner –
Carl Yastremski – Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: Solicitor Leonard Sanguedolce, Esq. (vacation)

Also Present: Charles Boyd, Borough Manager (no solicitor was present)

Mr. Boyd read to meeting attendees the Sunshine Act notification as stated on the council meeting agenda.

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: July 9, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked if everyone reviewed the meeting minutes and if anyone had any questions or comments. Councilmember Melissa Werner asked that the minutes be revised to change the name of an upcoming visiting author, indicated under the library report section, to be noted as Barbara Taylor and remove Barbara Taylor Bradford mistakenly mentioned during the report. Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for the correct to be made and then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes with correction.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the report.

Motion to Approve: Joseph Boos

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

List of Bills for Approval:

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked if anyone had any questions or comments then asked for a motion to approve the bills. Mr. Boyd noted the \$50,000 Tax Anticipation Loan (TAN) partial payment that was included in the bill list for approval. Mr. Malvizzi indicated approximate \$25,000 will remain after the payment is made with this balance being paid off next month or the month thereafter.

\$ 75,218.31 plus payroll \$ 19,899.57

Motion to Approve List of Bills: Melissa Werner
Second: Joseph Boos
Roll Call:
Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Correspondences (e-mailed to Council during the month): No discussions.

Reports:

Fire Department Report – Drew Malvizzi

The Laflin Fire Department responded to 13 alarms for the month of July with 4 medicals; 2 fire alarms; 2 motor vehicle accidents; 1 gas leak; 2 structure fires; 1 public assist; and 1 carbon monoxide alarm. 110 total calls for the year.

Manager's Report – Charles Boyd

Mr. Boyd spoke on upcoming changes with Casella Waste Systems with the company switching which company location will service our area. There will be a new learning curve with new drivers and dispatchers for Laflin Borough.

A resident, who was supposed to attend the council meeting but was absent, requested that a handicapped library book return be placed in the borough parking lot. Mrs. Werner indicated that the request and situation was reviewed but found to not be needed. Some discussions continued on the book return.

Mr. Boyd reported on minor flooding on Inkerman Road that took place during the recent tropical storm event. Some discussions continued with councilmembers and meeting attendees.

Mr. Boyd spoke on the railroad licensing fee for the sewer main line that passes under the railroad tracks off Passan Drive near the warehouses. He noted the current fee required by Railroad Management Company IV, LLC for Norfolk Southern was at \$1,627.33. It increases every year and was originally at \$800 per year fixed. The fee must be paid since the railroad will terminate the agreement requiring the removal of the sewer line and/or renegotiating the old licensing agreement to the new market rate terms. The borough would be in the same position and at the same rate as it is now. Further discussions continued.

The borough is still waiting on PennDOT to approve the traffic light signal plans and lower stormwater project plans before bidding can take place on either grant project.

Mayor's Report – no report presented.

Library Association Report – Melissa Werner

The library reading club is coming to a close for the Laflin Library. It was noted that the association will have a meeting on September 17th at 6:30pm. Lastly, the author Barbara Tayler (not to be confused with Barbara Taylor Bradford) will be visiting the library on October 1st to discuss her new book.

Council President's Report – Marc Malvizzi

Mr. Marc Malvizzi spoke on an unsolicited email from Jenkins Township on a proposal for township police services for Laflin Borough. This wasn't requested by Laflin Borough and Mr. Marc Malvizzi never met with any of the commissioners over at Jenkins Township. This is not currently under consideration and won't be included in the next budget.

However, Mr. Marc Malvizzi does find it an interesting proposal. Repeating it is not under consideration and for information only, he noted it would be \$75,000 for the 1st year, \$76,500 in the second year and \$78,000 the third year. Each subsequent year would be at a \$1,500 per year increase. This would be approximately \$9.00 per month per residence if using 700 homes. He believes the silent majority might support a proposal like this for local police services. This could be put on the ballot in the future, especially if the Pennsylvania state police start to charge municipalities for state police coverage. A public safety fee of \$10 per month per residence could be considered to cover the cost of alternative local police coverage similar to what Yatesville Borough does with Jenkins Township. Some discussions continued on local and regional police coverage and whether Jenkins Township would be the best provider.

Further discussions continued with various topics from audience members. Also discussed was the potential of Jenkins Township providing a garbage proposal, in the near future, to provide services to the borough. The proposal is still pending from the township.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to accept the reports.

Motion to Accept Reports: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Public Comments Relating to the Agenda:

Joseph McCabe, 4 Pinewood – asked why the borough is wasting an opportunity cost by applying for a new plow truck under the LSA Grant program when one of the other trucks is only a few years old. Mr. Boyd responded to say the 2016 plow truck was inspected and found to have a rusting oil pan and, possibly, the transmission pan. Mr. McCabe opined on the fact that the borough employee only drives ten miles a day looking for permit violations. Mr. Boyd responded to say that the damage is done by winter plowing and salt spreading.

Mr. McCabe asked if the lower Laflin property, listed on the agenda, could be taken by eminent domain and used as a park with benches. He believes the borough is wasting a lot of money on the solicitor and the property should be taken by eminent domain. The property owner isn't paying his taxes and the property isn't worth much according to Mr. McCabe. Further discussions continued.

Mr. McCabe asked if other companies will bid on the fertilization services for next year and he only sees one local company on the list of bidders. He also believes the borough will need to do a preemergent application later this year. Some discussions continued on the lawn treatment program.

Unfinished Business:

A) LSA Grant DPW Equipment for a Utility Trailer –

Kutz Farm Equipment, Inc.	\$2,870.	Powell’s Sales & Rentals	\$3,000.
Wide-World R.V. Center, Inc.	\$3,200.	Five Star Equipment, Inc.	\$3,973.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a utility trailer from Kutz Farm Equipment, Inc. at \$2,870.

Motion to Approve: Joseph Boos

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

B) Finalize 2024-2025 Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) Grant Project Submissions –

Ashwood Drive Stormwater Project
New DPW Plow / Dump Truck (1 ½ ton)

After explaining this would be for the second set of LSA grants later in the year under the statewide program, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve submitting for both a new plow truck and the stormwater project for Ashwood Drive.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) Approve Bidding for Lower Laflin Stormwater Project on E. Saylor Ave. & Union Street –

After noting there are two grants at approximately \$450,000 and the engineering work is finalized for work at the intersection of E. Saylor Ave & Union Street, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve bidding the Lower Laflin Stormwater Project with funding from both the LSA and ARPA grants.

Mr. Boyd explained the additional catch basin inlets that were added to the project to help alleviate water issues on both sides of the intersection and noted the increased scope of the paving work needed to complete the project that were not part of the original planning. He also noted the work that will be done at the end of town on Union Street to correct a catch basin inlet, culvert pipe across the road, and concrete headwall on the other side on the road.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

D) Approve Bidding for Rear Structure Demolition at 877 Union Street (Simerson) –

Mr. Boyd explained the grant funding received under a three-year federal block grant from the Luzerne Co. Community Development Office to remove a structure on the rear of the property at 877 Union Street. The borough engineering work was completed last year for asbestos and other airborne contaminants. Luzerne Co. finalized their studies this year and approval was given to put it out to bid for demolition.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve putting the project out to bid.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

New Business:

A) Approve Bidding to Acquire Jerome Patelunas Property at September Tax Sale –

After explaining the ongoing problems with the property and the failed efforts to acquire the property after many attempts, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve up to \$25,000 to acquire the Jerome Patelunas property at the September tax sale.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

B) Williams Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Road Bond Release –

After explaining the required \$200,000 bond put in place by the Williams Gas Company for damages to borough roadways, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the bond release with the completion of the project. Mr. Boyd added that East Saylor Ave. was milled and repaved in its entirety and a section of Dogwood hill area was resurfaced by Williams Gas Company.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) Creekside Park Ballfield Fertilization and Weed Control Program –

Lawn Doctor of Luzerne Co.	\$435.00 per application
Emerald Green	\$561.35 per application
Turf Pro Fertilization	pending
Lombardo Lawn Care	pending

Council discussed the required number of applications per year along with the need to have a suggested schedule from the contractor.

After much discussion, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked a motion to approve Lawn Doctor of Luzerne Co. at \$435.00 per application for lawn treatments on the ballfields.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Council Comments / For the Good of the Order:

Mr. Marc Malvizzi announced the next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. He then asked for any public comments.

General Public Comments:

Joseph McCabe, 4 Pinewood Drive – gave comments on the proposed tar and chipping of Laflin Road that is scheduled to take place in 2025 per a conversation that he had with Mr. Boyd a few weeks ago. He believes it is a horrible idea to have this type of paving done by PennDOT and gave an example of Rt.307 near Lake Scranton that was done in this manner. He also believes that Laflin Road needs to be restored at the intersection of Rt.315 where truck traffic has caused waves in the road. Council continued to discuss the issue with Mr. Boyd indicating the South Cross Valley Expressway (Rt.29) was recently done as tar and chip by PennDOT and could be looked at by councilmembers. It was also noted that Westminster Road will be repaired in spots and then tarred and chipped in the next few months.

Mr. McCabe complained about the attempted repairs on the curbing for Pinewood Drive by Don E. Bower, Inc. He believes it looks like they slopped some 'slop' on the curbs in their attempt to make repairs. Mr. Boyd responded to say that Don E. Bower, Inc. stopped on the same day the repairs were started since the repair process wasn't working correctly. They will be back to try a different procedure to fix the curbing.

Mr. McCabe asked Councilman Marc Malvizzi to go on the record to say that he (Mr. Malvizzi) believes the additional \$5,000 that was in the original budget for additional work on the Inkerman Road retention basin for stormwater work and then budgeted for the paid fire driver in the revised budget; would not have helped during the recent roadway flooding from Tropical Storm Debby. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that it would not have helped. Mr. Marc Malvizzi said the borough spent \$300,000 last year and the additional \$5,000 wouldn't have helped any further.

Mr. McCabe continued on other subjects. He wants to make sure the borough shops around on police services and garbage services in the future and doesn't want any dirty midnight deals like what was done in 2017 (no reference was made to what he meant).

Mr. McCabe asked about a rumor he heard (no reference was made to what he meant about the rumor) and asked if anyone on council works for Jenkins Township. Councilmember Drew Malvizzi responded to say he is a part-time firefighter for Jenkins Township. When asked by Mr. McCabe if he would recuse himself on any votes for Jenkins Township services, Mr. Drew Malvizzi responded in the affirmative to say he would recuse himself. Mr. McCabe said that answer would remedy 'rumor control'.

Scott Seeherman, 16 Peachwood Drive – (who wasn't present earlier in the meeting during discussions on the proposal for police services by Jenkins Township) asked to clarify if the proposal was unsolicited. Mr. Marc Malvizzi explained the information given earlier in the meeting again. It was unsolicited from Jenkins Township.

Cynthia Lucarelli, 157 Maplewood Drive – asked about the rain water issues from her neighbor's property. She has attended many council meetings and brought up the continued problems she is having with rain water from the shed downspouts at 155 Maplewood. After much discussion, Mr. Marc Malvizzi reiterated from past council meetings, that the issue is a civil matter between neighbors that the borough cannot address the issue and then asked Mr. Boyd to contact the Luzerne Co. Bar Association to see if a pro bono lawyer could be referred to Mrs. Lucarelli at no cost to her if she qualifies. Mr. Boyd responded in the affirmative.

Executive Session: No executive session was held.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:54pm.

Motion: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager

Laflin Borough

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