

Laflin Borough Council Mtg.
January 14, 2025
6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
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: None

Also Present: Solicitor Leonard A. Sanguedolce, Esq. and Charles Boyd, Borough Manager

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

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: December 10, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked if everyone reviewed the meeting minutes and if anyone had any questions or comments. He then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Motion to Accept: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Bood

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

List of Bills for Approval:

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked if anyone had any questions or comments and then asked for a motion to approve the bills. \$56,274.12 plus payroll \$11,090.03

Motion to Approve: Joseph Boos

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

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

Reports:

Fire Department Report – Drew Malvizzi

In December 2024 the fire department responded to 32 alarms that consisted of 8 medicals, 10 vehicle crashes, 1 motor vehicle accident with entrapment, 4 working structure fires, 4 reported structure fires, 2 gas leaks, and 3 investigations for a yearly total of 241 calls.

Manager's Report – Charles Boyd

Mr. Boyd spoke on the upcoming municipal elections and noted two council and the tax collector positions are up for reelection in 2025. The state Statement of Financial Interest forms are due to be filed at the municipal building by May 1st but candidates must file at the municipal building before their nomination paperwork is filed at the courthouse.

Mr. Boyd noted that the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund audit was completed by the state auditor general's office. Copies of the audit were emailed to all elected officials.

Demolition of the rear house structure at 877 Union Street was completed by Brdaric Excavation under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Demolition cost will be paid by Luzerne Co. Community Development.

Mayor's Report – William Kennedy – No report presented.

Library Association Report – Melissa Werner (presented her report later in the meeting)

Council President Report – Marc Malvizzi

Mr. Marc Malvizzi spoke briefly on the prior year activities and noted it was a successful year without a tax or fee increase to residents nor need for a new tax anticipation note loan. He thanked everyone involved in running the municipality. He continued discussing the municipal fees that will likely need to be raised in two years after the garbage contract is bid out for a new contract agreement. It was a great year and he thanked audience members for keeping involved.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi also gave a brief statement at the beginning of public comments period on the status of the proposed Quality of Life ordinance. He noted that the draft ordinance discussed is nowhere near a vote at a public meeting. He reiterated the draft form is very preliminary. He continued discussing the Quality of Life ordinance and how it came about to be considered for Laflin Borough.

Mr. Boyd added the need for the proposed ordinance to tieback to another existing borough ordinance. Noting the existing Laflin Borough ordinance adopting the International Property Maintenance Codes and/or the existing Laflin Borough Burning ordinance as examples. Solicitor Sanguedolce added remarks and noted it was an enforcement ordinance. These are common-sense things that already exist (high grass, weeds, junked vehicles, etc.) and part of it is to make citation service easier. This ordinance would allow a door hanger to service as notice. Discussions continued on the Quality of Life ordinance.

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

Motion to Accept Reports: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Public Comments Relating to the Agenda:

Joseph McCabe, Pinewood Drive – asked questions about specific details of the Quality of Life ordinance. Discussions continued with councilmembers and the solicitor responding.

Mr. McCabe also had questions on the salary resolution; hiring an additional plow driver; and questioned if all current plow drivers are hired as employees by Laflin Borough.

Unfinished Business:

A) New Laflin Borough Quality of Life Ordinance Discussion –

No vote was taken. No additional discussions, points or comments were made during this agenda item since it was fully discussed earlier in the meeting during public comments related to the agenda.

New Business:

A) Laflin Borough Salary Resolution –
Resolution #1 of 2025

Mr. Marc Malvizzi clarified that the resolution codifies the compensation included in the approved operating budget. He then asked for a motion to approve.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

B) Approve 2025 Pennoni Engineering Agreement –

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the engineering agreement as presented.

Motion to Approve: Joseph Boos

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

C) Approve / Hire Carson Crossley as Plow Driver –

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the hiring Carson Crossley as a plow driver.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

D) Laflin Borough Commercial Liability Insurance Package Renewal for 2025 –

with Worker’s Compensation and Cyber Liability Insurance

Assured Partners of Northeast PA \$36,869

Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewed the proposed commercial liability package that included: property liability, crime policy, inland marine equipment, general liability, public officials, automotive coverage, umbrella, worker’s compensation and cyber liability coverages. He noted the 2025 Operating Budget included \$37,700 for this coverage. He asked for a motion to approve the package at \$36,869 for renewal with Assured Partners.

Councilmember Yastremski interjected to ask why the worker’s compensation rate increased by 39%. Without any claims made by Laflin Borough. Much discussion continued and Mr. Boyd was tasked to investigate the workers compensation rate increase.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

Council Comments / For the Good of the Order:

Next council meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2025 at 6pm.

Melissa Werner, Councilmember – Library Report

Mrs. Werner gave a brief library report and noted the next Library Association meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 6:30pm in the library. She noted that 32 programs were held in 2024 with almost 1,000 participants and indicated that the library is very busy. The library added almost 200 new books to the collection in 2024 and circulated 5,000 items.

General Public Comments:

Joseph McCabe, Pinewood Drive – asked councilmembers if anything was heard about the resident in lower Laflin being a danger to the community since he has heard a rumor that this adult resident was chasing kids at the Creekside Community Park. He also heard that this particular resident had started fires in the trailers and PODs on his property. If a fire is witnessed, then the Pennsylvania State Police should be called to document the incident. Some discussions continued regarding the incident, code enforcement issues on the property, public officials not entering the property, and whether or not he is maintaining his residence at the property location without proper housing.

Mr. McCabe also asked what the status was on the municipal building backup generator installation. He saw in the newspaper that Laflin Borough was awarded an extension on the completion of the work until September 30, 2025. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say the concrete pad was poured and the generator transfer switch was installed. The contractor is waiting on the delivery of the generator to complete the project. Mr. Boyd added that he asked for an extension until September 2025 so that another extension wouldn't be needed if something delayed the project again. Mr. Malvizzi indicated the generator work should be completed in the next 30 days.

Mr. McCabe asked why Council thinks it is a good idea to keep trash collection fees artificially low by using general fund revenues to fund the current year garbage contract increase. He believes this will give residents 'sticker shock' in two years when a new garbage contract is secured with a potential large increase in costs. He doesn't believe it is wise to off-charge from the general fund to support the refuse fund. Some discussions followed.

Diane Sively, Cedarwood Drive – asked if anything was discussed about the many ATV Quads and Side-by Sides using Cedarwood Drive. She also asked if it was caught on the security cameras. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that it is a motor vehicle issue and that the state police would need to be called to enforce the issue. Some discussions continued.

Robert Novak, Haverford Drive - President, Hillside Townhouse Association – questioned if Haverford Drive is scheduled to be repaved with curbing in the near future. He has been approached by townhouse resident who would like to see it resurfaced in the near future due to its poor condition. Mr. Boyd responded to say that a state grant was applied for to resurface Haverford Drive and Broadway Street.

Executive Session: No Executive Session.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:37pm.

Motion: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Laflin Borough

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