

Laflin Borough Council Mtg.
April 8, 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 –
Mayor William Kennedy

Absent: Carl Yastremski

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

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

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: March 11, 2025 Meeting

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes.

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 accept the report.

Motion to Accept: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

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.
\$105,838.96 plus payroll \$11,824.64.

Motion to Approve: 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 Volunteer Fire Department responded to 28 alarms in March with the breakdown as follows: 3 medicals, 6 fire alarms, 2 motor vehicle crashes, 3 structure fires, 1 gas leak, 2 brush fires, 1 wires down, 1 tree down, 1 public assist and 1 fire drill with the total alarms in 2025 at 56.

Manager's Report – Charles Boyd

Plains Rotary Club has offered grant funding to Laflin Borough. Laflin is in the district of the Rotary Club of Plains which provided grant funding in the past for various items including the front display sign, park trash and recycling cans, and recreation items. Some discussions continued with Mr. Boyd asking for input from councilmembers for grant ideas for this opportunity.

Mr. Boyd announced that Marc Malvizzi was officially appointed by Governor Josh Shapiro's office as Laflin Borough Emergency Management Agency Coordinator after receiving the official letter from PEMA.

Mr. Boyd spoke about a recent problem with the Jenkins Township sewer main line on Westminster Road leading into Laflin Borough. There was a blockage in the township caused by an unidentified substance that was difficult to remove. Mr. Boyd had Wind River/ Koberlein Environmental inspection sections of the Laflin Borough interceptor and sewer lines but found no apparent problems. The only issue found was located next to the Renal Associates parking lot area off Rt.315 that is the responsibility of Jenkins Township Sewer Authority even though it is in Laflin Borough. Some tar buildup and a partial blockage was identified to Jenkin Township. Mr. Boyd would like to have the entire interceptor line and sewer line in lower Laflin inspected with a camera. If the culprit is identified by DEP the cost should be paid by them.

The Luzerne Co. Tax Sale does not have the Jerome Patelunas property listed for sale since he has established a payment agreement with the Tax Claim Bureau. However, since he failed in the past to make payments on the property taxes during former payment plans set by the county, he should not have been allowed to enter into another payment plan. He is currently not paying under the recent plan and should go on the September tax sale.

The Lower Laflin Stormwater project was delayed due to the scheduled PennDOT bridge restoration project starting this spring. After several meetings with PennDOT and Fabcor Co. representatives the borough was unable to persuade the state to push their project timing some so both could be completed together. During the bridge restoration project, the bridge will be down to a single lane with a temporary traffic light for about four months.

Mr. Boyd noted the continued progress on updating the municipal building lighting to LED style ceiling lights. Approximately twenty-nine ceiling lights have been upgraded to date.

MS4 Municipal Stormwater Report –

Mr. Boyd noted that the prior discussion under the manager's report on the Lower Laflin Stormwater project and the upcoming agenda item for the ballfield drainage project would be considered part of the MS4 Municipal Stormwater report. Under the MS4 requirements, reports must be made on stormwater issues a few times a year during public meetings.

Mayor's Report – Mayor William Kennedy

Mayor Kennedy spoke on the recent Laflin Recreation Board Easter Party. He said it was an awesome party with the biggest attendance he has seen. It was a great party and thanked everyone involved including the Laflin

Volunteer Fire Department for driving the Easter Bunny around town on a cold wet day. He also thanked Landen Kennedy for being the Easter Bunny and doing a great job at it. There was a lot of new faces and the Laflin Recreation Board is doing a great job.

Council President Malvizzi added that he thanked the rec board members on Sunday and agrees they are doing a great job. He added that the Memorial Day planning is still on with the function to be held down at the lower park with refreshments. The Community-wide Yard Sale is scheduled for June.

Library Association Report – Melissa Werner

Mrs. Werner noted that the week of April 7th is National Library Week. The library has an upcoming book club meeting with the book being *The Cliffs* by J. Courtney Sullivan. The annual National Library Week dinner meeting will be held at Pazzo Restaurant on April 8th. A spring art contest is currently underway at the library and Easter story time will be held on Saturday, April 12th with an Easter raffle contest for everyone that checks out a book.

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 what is the driving factor behind the new proposed burning ordinance and asked if there is already an ordinance on the books. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that the current ordinance is from 1989 and the wording needs to be updated. The enforcement noted in that ordinance was the Laflin Police Department. So basically, the new ordinance would include current wording to allow chimineas and covered fire pits and things that council wants to make legal. It also includes new enforcement mechanisms. The new proposed ordinance is also a draft ordinance that has a 10pm curfew that could be changed to 11pm.

Council continued to discuss the ordinance along with the other two listed on the agenda for review.

Unfinished Business:

A) Proposed Revised Draft Ordinances Review –

Dumpster/PODs Regulations - False Police & Fire Alarms - Open Burning

Mr. Marc Malvizzi indicated most of the review and discussions on these ordinances were done under public comments on the agenda section with the noted change to 11pm curfew time on open burning for allowable fires. But he added that it's not going to be an issue if someone is sitting in their yard passed 11pm with an allowable covered open fire. Copies will be added to the Laflin Borough website for public review prior to next month's meeting. Mr. Boyd will advertise the final draft ordinances in the newspapers.

Discussion item only. No vote was taken.

B) PennDOT Green Light-Go Rt.315 / Laflin Road Traffic Signal Grant –
Reject Previous Received Bids - Advertise for New Bids

Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewed the previously received bids that were well above the awarded grant amount received from PennDOT under the Green Light-Go grant program. The traffic light control box is the problem at that intersection. The grant scope was increased to include radar detection in place of ground detection and reflective signal light backerboards which added to the project costs by approximately \$50,000. Laflin Borough requested additional funding from PennDOT and was verbally approved but the contract documents still have not been revised for the added project costs.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi would like to reject the previous bids and rebid the project with two parts. Bids will be requested for the control box upgrade and, separately, for the other added components. Everything will be completed if funding is received for the entire project or just the control box will be changed. It will take approximately one year to receive the control box so Mr. Marc Malvizzi would like to see it ordered while waiting for a decision from PennDOT for additional funding.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to reject the previous bids that were overbudget and advertise for new bids that will be separated into a base bid and an add alternate.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

C) LSA Grant 2023 Change of Scope / Revisions –
Lower Laflin Stormwater Project Grant Funding - New Grant Project Ideas

Mr. Boyd spoke on the Lower Laflin Stormwater grant funding that will, more than likely, have remaining grant funds after completion of the project since the borough received two separate grants for the same project and one will be used and only a portion of the other grant award. Mr. Boyd asked councilmembers to consider potential projects for a change of scope request to be submitted to the DCED Commonwealth Financing Authority to utilize the funding on. Some discussions continued.

Some projects put forth to consider were discussed including widening the scope of the existing lower Laflin stormwater project to include either additional catch basin and infrastructure and/or milling and repaving Broadway Street. Other projects discussed: 4 Cherrywood Drive stormwater catch basins and infrastructure; municipal building parking lot stormwater drainage issues; extending the pavement at the Lower Laflin playground parking lot; additional flood abatement work at Inkerman Road; and/or using funding to rehabilitate the walking track embankment area behind the dugouts.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked elected officials and residents to contact Mr. Boyd with any ideas that they might have to move the grant funding from the 2023 LSA Grant program to another project. Mr. Marc Malvizzi already discussed his ideas on what he would like to see prioritized.

Discussion item only. No vote was taken.

New Business:

A) LSA Grant 2024 Creekside Park Ballfield Drainage Project – Approve Advertising for Bids

The project is estimated at \$230,000 and will be done in three or four sections.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi had previously reviewed the project scope under the last agenda item. He explained the four areas of work to be considered under this grant as the outfalls behind Chestnutwood Drive to rehab and better direct the stormwater runoff to the ditches to the creek; the hill and drainage ditch on the Union Street side towards the creek; the embankment area behind the dugouts for fencing and erosion controls.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve advertising for bids on the Creekside Park Ballfield Drainage work.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Mr. Boyd added, prior to moving on with the agenda items, that the proposed fence being considered for the backside walking track area is a thick wooden fence style much like one would see at a state park. It is more of a barricade fence. He wanted to make sure everyone was on the same page with the style of fencing proposed and asked councilmembers and audience members to propose any alternatives if they don't agree with this style. Some discussions took place with a wood-look composite material being considered.

Council Comments / For the Good of the Order:

It was announced that the next scheduled council meeting will be Tuesday, May 13th at 6pm.

General Public Comments:

Walter Wrazien, Redwood Drive – asked councilmembers and the solicitor if there are any kind of alcoholic produces being consumed in the borough building. He is concerned with the liability to the municipality if someone is drinking and leaves the borough building and gets into an accident. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded in the negative by saying no.

He asked Solicitor Leonard Sanguedolce if an accident occurred in that situation would it come back to the citizens of Laflin Borough. Mr. Sanguedolce responded to say it would depend on who the individual was that got into the accident. Some discussions continued and it was noted that there is a rule that no alcohol should be in the borough building.

Joseph McCabe, Pinewood Drive – asked what is being done with the branches on the wires on Rt.315 since this is the third month in a row that he is questioning the issue. Mr. Boyd responded to say that both property owners have been contacted and both agreed to have the trees removed at their own cost. Wyoming Valley Pediatrics will have their landscaper removed the trees and branches. The Oblates of St. Joseph asked for assistance from the municipality in obtaining someone to remove the trees off the cables but would pay for the

costs. Mr. Boyd will have Dr. Imbrogno's landscaper contact Rev. Paul McDonnell at the Oblates to determine if they could also remove the trees on their property. Some discussions continued.

Mr. McCabe wanted to note for the record that the municipal DPW employee, Michael Dudeck, is a resident of Jenkins Township and lives in his parents' house. He recently was in a Times Leader newspaper article on the township. Mr. McCabe doesn't like that he attends council meetings and he ridicules residents of Laflin but he is actually from Jenkins Township. He wanted to point that out since, Mr. McCabe believes, residents of Laflin Borough wouldn't have the same standing if they ridiculed township residents at a Jenkins Township Supervisors' meeting.

Mr. McCabe directed his next comment to Solicitor Sanguedolce by stating he brought up the issue of separation of church and state concerns at the last council meeting. He would like to hear the solicitor's opinion on the issue since he has heard the councilmembers in this room commend the event that took place with the Laflin Recreation Board and St. Maria Goretti Church for the Easter Party. Solicitor Sanguedolce responded to say he researched the issues for hours and it is a very complicated issue. Basically, what he found was that the Easter Bunny is secular and Easter Egg Hunts are also secular. Since no prayers were done, the only issue is that it was held at the church or at the church grounds. He doesn't believe that is enough to be considered an issue.

Mr. McCabe responded by saying the events are praised by councilmembers and the mayor and he (Mr. McCabe) would like the events held at the municipal building. The other issue is that it is a joint event with the parishioners of the church and the residents of Laflin. Solicitor Sanguedolce doesn't believe that advertising the joint event is enough to be considered a violation. If a resident of Laflin filed a first amended claim in court the judge would have to decide but Solicitor Sanguedolce doesn't believe it is a problem. Mr. McCabe expressed his stance on the matter and he doesn't want to see continuous events between Laflin Borough and the church.

Mr. McCabe asked for an update on the scheduled tar and chipping of Laflin Road by PennDOT. Mr. Boyd responded to say that it is still scheduled for this spring and summer. Some discussions continued.

Mr. McCabe asked what the status was on grant funding for the Creekside Park walking bridge replacement. Mr. Boyd responded to say that the grant awards for this previously submitted project should be announced after the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) meets in May. Some discussions continued on the walking bridge.

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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