

Laflin Borough Council Mtg.
May 13, 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 meeting attendees the Sunshine Act notification as stated on the council meeting agenda.

Special Presentations: None

Minutes: April 8, 2025 Meeting

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

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Marc Malvizzi briefly spoke on a year-end budget analysis by percentages that was prepared for 2024 and is posted on the Laflin Borough website for public review. Each quarter, and probably monthly, he will prepare a similar report and have it posted to the website. The April 30, 2025 to date analysis is now posted to the website in the budget section. He reviewed the information and noted the budget has a healthy surplus. He asked the attending public to check it out. His goal is to be as transparent as possible.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi then asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Motion to Accept: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

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.
\$ 29,779.20 plus payroll \$ 13,216.59

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

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 fire department responded to 15 alarms in April 2025 with 5 medicals, 3 fire alarms, 3 reported structure fires, 1 carbon monoxide incident, 1 vehicle fire, and 2 assists on fire drills. The total calls for the year stand at 71 alarms.

Manager's Report – Charles Boyd

Mr. Boyd reviewed the issues attributed to the recent heavy rain falls and noted the retention basin area next to Peachwood Drive along with Inkerman Road flooding as being problematic. A meeting will be held with GP Sewer & Water who is familiar with the flood abatement situation at Inkerman Road. Mr. Boyd also asked Solicitor Sanguedolce to send a letter to Valley Distribution and Storage putting them on notice to fix their stormwater runoff that dumps next to the road. Some discussions continued with Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewing a WVSA report from 2022 on their suggestions to alleviate the problem. It was also noted that the current 2025 Laflin Boro Operating Budget includes \$10,000 for the Inkerman Road flood abatement situation.

The removal of problematic tree branches and limbs leaning on the cable wires on Rt.315 has been delayed by the inclement weather. They should be removed next week if the weather holds.

Mr. Boyd advised elected officials that a Junior Council Person (JCP) letter of interest was received just prior to the council meeting. He will forward to elected officials and contact the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, who handles the program, to review qualifications and advise councilmembers accordingly.

Property code issues with high grass and weeds were briefly mentioned. It was noted the Code Enforcement Officer and Mr. Boyd have been contacting residents as needed.

PennDOT is still on schedule to repair problematic sections of Laflin Road by milling and repaving 4' areas. The chipping of the entire surface and then fog sealing (Tar & Chip) will start in the month of July after repairs are made. The humped areas on Laflin Road at the intersection with Rt.315 will be repaired with the project.

Bridge restoration work is still on schedule despite the recent continued rainfall. PennDOT and the contractor, Fabcor, plan on increasing their work schedule to keep up with the anticipated time frame of an August completion. The contractor has advised that the actual bridge work is not running into any repair problems. The tar and chip work that will be done by PennDOT will not interfere with the bridge restoration work on repaving the approaches to both sides of the bridge. The work for the Laflin Borough project, that will start immediately after the restoration work is completed, will also not be a problem with the tar and chip work.

Mayor's Report – No report presented.

Library Association Report – Melissa Werner

The Laflin Library Association meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, May 20th at 6pm. The library will be hosting an AARP Driver Education Refreshers course on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. The summer reading program will begin on June 14th. Some of the upcoming programs that will be scheduled in the library are Ryan

the Bugman on insects and Penn State Master Gardeners on container gardens along with additional summer reading club programs in July & August.

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, Pinewood Drive – asked if the Open Burning Ordinance time curfew was changed to 11pm as discussed in a prior meeting. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded in the affirmative to indicate 11pm.

Unfinished Business:

- A) Revised Laflin Borough Open Burning Regulations Ordinance –
Ordinance #1 of 2025

Mr. Marc Malvizzi noted that all three ordinances listed on the agenda have been duly advertised in the newspapers and posted to the borough’s website for public review. The proposed ordinances have been discussed at prior council meetings and some changes have been made accordingly. Although the borough had these ordinances on the books before, they needed some updating. Code enforcement can now enforce the three ordinances presented tonight.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve Ordinance #1 of 2025 Revised Open Burning Regulations with the revised curfew of 11pm.

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.

- B) Revised Dumpster / PODs Regulations Ordinance –
Ordinance #2 of 2025

Mr. Marc Malvizzi spoke on the need to included PODS (portable on demand storage) in the older current dumpster ordinance. This will basically put some time limits on these storage devices so that they are not sitting on properties for many years. This is to have a baseline to control situations that get out of hand.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the Revised Dumpster / PODs Regulation Ordinance #2 of 2025.

Motion to Approve: Joseph Boos

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Yes</u>

Motion passed.

C) Revised False Fire Alarms Regulations Ordinance –
Ordinance #3 of 2025

Mr. Marc Malvizzi explained the reason behind revising the old ordinance on false alarms. Recently, the warehouses had five false alarms in the month of February or March of this year. The old ordinance was from the 1990s and needed to be updated to current standards. The old ordinance didn't match the alarm standards of today and enforcement will now be handled by the code enforcement officer or borough representative.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the Revised False Fire Alarms Regulations Ordinance #3 of 2025.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Yes</u>

Motion passed.

D) PennDOT Green Light-Go Grant Rt.315 / Laflin Road Traffic Signal Grant Rebid –
No bids received for the second rebid

Mr. Marc Malvizzi indicated Laflin Borough received an extra \$40,000 for the traffic signal grant from PennDOT (however Mr. Boyd is still waiting for the signed contract from the state). Unfortunately, nobody bid on the latest request for bid proposals as advertised. After some discussions, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion rebid the project again.

Motion to Rebid: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Yes</u>

Motion passed.

- E) LSA Grant 2023 Lower Laflin Stormwater Project Broadway Street Change Order –
Barker & Barker Paving Inc. \$15,022.00 Broadway Street Milling and Repaving

Mr. Marc Malvizzi spoke on the possibly of having remaining grant funds after the Lower Laflin Stormwater project is completed later this year. A request was made from the contractor scheduled to complete the stormwater project for a proposal to mill and repaving Broadway Street which hasn't been done in the recent cycle of road paving work by the borough. A favorable price was obtained at \$15,022 for the complete road.

Mr. Boyd added that the state has not yet approved using the remaining grant funds on Broadway Street but, if necessary, the cost would be paid out of the general account. The state (DCED / CFA) has indicated that it is too early to make that consideration. However, the favorable pricing provided by the contractor requires that the work be done at the same time as the stormwater project.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the change order from Barker & Barker for \$15,022 for paving of Broadway Street.

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.

New Business:

- A) Hire Laflin Rec. Board Summer Camp Counselor –
Two Applicants: Caitlyn Maslar Jake Aftewicz

Mr. Marc Malvizzi noted that one position is still open for the summer camp program. Councilmember Werner made a motion to hire Caitlyn Maslar because she is currently studying at Wilkes University in early childhood development and is in the honors program. She also has been volunteering at the Laflin Library with the children's programs. She currently has all her required background clearances and is a resident of Laflin Borough.

Motion to Hire: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

B) Approve Laflin Borough Building Termite Treatment Proposal –

Valley Pest Control	\$2,500 Spray Treatment Barrier	\$0 Cost Warranty 3 years
Ehrlich Pest Control	\$3,024 Bait Stakes	\$453.60 Yearly Warranty
The Pest Rangers	\$2,816 / \$4,576 Spray Treatment	\$256 / \$416 Yearly Warranty

Mr. Marc Malvizzi explained the problem that was found at the library front windows with finding termite swarm wings. The building was inspected with termites being found outside the front of the borough building.

Mr. Boyd explained the differences in the three received treatment proposals noting that Ehrlich Pest Controls is currently being used for seasonal insect and pest control. Ehrlich has been annually checking for termites under a warranty program from 2001 for only a small section of the borough building. The termites were found in a different section and the warranty did not apply to the rest of the building. Laflin Borough does have a history and a working relationship with Ehrlich Pest Controls. All estimates were read and reviewed.

Extensive discussions and questions continued on the differences with the warranties and different application processes. Solicitor Sanguedolce interjected to say that once the non-required bidding process was initiated the lowest responsible bidder should be chosen unless notable differences can be proven between the treatments.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion.

Motion to Approve Valley Pest Control Inc.: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Yes</u>

Motion passed.

C) WVSA MS4 Stormwater Catch Basin Inlet Repairs –

3 Inlets per year at No Charge

\$1,000 to \$1,500 from WVSA Savings Account each additional unit

Mr. Boyd explained the current situation with Wyoming Valley Sanitary allowing six (6) units this year in Laflin Borough due to the fact the current repairs usually amount to just changing basin tops and repaving around each unit and not the full depth basin replacements done in other towns.

After some discussions, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve additional catch basin repairs, over and above the three (3) units allowed by the WVSA each year, at up to \$1,500 using the WVSA account.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	<u>Yes</u>
Carl Yastremski	<u>Yes</u>

Motion passed.

D) Lafin Road Sanitary Sewer Manhole Repairs –
3 Units Raised and Repaired on Lafin Road

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve up to \$3,000 for each sewer manhole restoration up to a total of \$9,000.00.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

E) Peachwood Drive Road Culvert Pipe & Catch Basin Inlet Piping Repairs –
Koberlein Environmental Services / Wind River Environmental Services

Mr. Boyd explained the history of the Peachwood Drive culvert pipe issues. He noted the presence of concrete debris and metal rebar washed into the pipe from an old broken catch basin that was discovered in 2019 with camera work. The debris partially blocks the pipe and causes backups with mud and debris clogging the culvert pipe. The backups cause the basin area next to Peachwood Drive in fill with water in the wooded area. Seepage causes front yard problems on the other side of the roadway.

The first problem is the noted blockage of the pipe and a second problem, that was just found, is a broken stormwater pipe leading into the concrete basin at the headwall of the Peachwood Drive culvert pipe. This broken pipe, along with the blockage, allows the retention basin to fill with water. There are other reasons the retention basin fills with water but this contributes to it.

Mr. Boyd reviewed the two proposals received from Koberlein Environmental Services, who maintains the sewer lines for the borough. For the pipe repair and bank stabilization: \$9,375 and for the culvert pipe debris removal: \$8,150. Mr. Boyd also noted a proposal from E&N Excavating, LLC that was received just prior to the start of the council meeting. This proposal was for \$7,924.32 for both issues. Some discussions continued.

Solicitor Sanguedolce suggested a motion for the Borough Manager to hire someone for the Peachwood Drive catch basin and concrete basin repairs up to an \$x (a certain unspecified amount to be determined by councilmembers) amount of money. He also noted this could be considered an emergency situation. Some discussions followed.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi added that money from the Peachwood Drive paving project was leftover in the current budget since paving cost were less than expected. This could be used to pay for the culvert pipe repairs.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve E&N Excavating LLC at \$7,924.32 for the Peachwood Drive culvert repairs per the language suggested by Solicitor Sanguedolce.

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.

Council Comments / For the Good of the Order:

Next scheduled council meeting is June 10, 2025 starting at 6pm.

The Memorial Day Ceremony is coming up fast and will be Monday, May 26th starting at 11am. A program will be held and refreshments served. Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked that it be posted on the borough website and Nextdoor Laflin.

The Community-wide Yard Sale is scheduled for June 14th from 8am to 1pm. Responding to an audience question, Mayor W. Kennedy said a map will be prepared this year. Mr. Boyd indicated that resident, Donna Mantione (not present at the meeting), will put up signs as done in past years. After some discussions on the map usage, Councilmember Werner suggested preparing a list to post to social media in place of a map.

General Public Comments

Joseph McCabe, Pinewood Drive – spoke on the Easter Party held by the Laflin Recreation Board at St. Maria Goretti Church with the church youth group. He still believes it is a violation of separation of church and state. He gave an example of a party held by the City of Pittston, about a week after, and he believes there wasn't a partnership between the church and state at that event. He also noted that the City of Pittston didn't deny any children from the party nor seeing the Easter Bunny.

Mr. McCabe noted that funds, that were allocated to finishing the Inkerman Road project for flood controls in last year's budget, were reallocated in 2024 by councilmembers to hire a paid fire driver in town. Mr. Marc Malvizzi interjected to respond by saying \$3,000 was reallocated for establishing a paid part-time fire driver in town but \$10,000 was earmarked in 2025 for Inkerman Road flood abatement issues in the current year budget. Mr. McCabe responded by indicating he wanted that noted for the record.

Walter Wrazien, Redwood Drive – asked about ownership of the property where the new gas line is located on in Laflin Borough and if the property can be used by residents in the wooded areas. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that only right-of-way easements were established by Williams Gas Company for most of the pipeline but that they did obtain ownership of a few parcels.

Some discussions continued on how the borough attempted to have Williams Gas Co. add a walking path on top of the gas pipeline clearing; the ATV usage of the area; and the potential usage of the former railroad track bed owned by Casey Kassa Coal (Vincent Kasa).

Councilmember Yastremski asked about the status on the potential donation of the railroad track bed as offered by Chris Kasa to Laflin Borough many years ago. Some discussions continued on the completed environmental study by Laflin Borough on the old railroad bed; the two missing bridge abutments; and a title defect where a section of the railroad bed changed ownership from Vincent Kasa. This section of land would present a problem in establishing a rail to trails pathway, if attempted.

Executive Session: No Executive Session.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:55pm.

Motion: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Boyd', written in a cursive style.

Charles Boyd, Borough Manager
Laflin Borough

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