

Laflin Borough Council Mtg.
October 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 –
Mayor William Kennedy – Junior Councilmember Anna Marie Gubitose

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: September 9, 2025 Council Meeting

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

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Marc Malvizzi noted that the budget progress report covering up to the 3rd quarter 2025 (separate document than the Treasurer's Report) was posted online on the Laflin Borough website.

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

Motion to Accept: 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.
\$ 176,745.42 plus payroll \$ 11,933.82.

Mrs. Werner asked about the SPCA invoice and whether that will change going forward since the SPCA is changing locations to the Hanover Township area. Mr. Boyd responded in the negative. Some discussions followed.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

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 September 2025 the fire department responded to 22 alarms of which 3 were medicals, 5 motor vehicle accidents, 2 structure fires, 1 miscellaneous incident, 6 reported fires, 1 gas leak and 1 car fire for a total of 169 alarms for the year.

Manager's Report – Charles Boyd

Mr. Boyd reported on the Borough receiving its first PODs (storage unit) registration for 97 Laflin Road after recently adopting the new dumpster and storage unit ordinance. Another PODs storage unit was removed in lower Laflin unbeknownst to the property owner after a call from the Borough to the storage company.

It was noted that Mr. Patelunas paid one year of back taxes and was removed from the recent Luzerne Co. tax sale on September 18, 2025.

Mayor's Report – William Kennedy

Mr. Kennedy reported on the upcoming Laflin Recreation Board Halloween Party and Trunk or Treat on October 26th. The Laflin Volunteer Fire Department will be participating in the event and going around town on Halloween night. He noted that turnout, in the last couple of years, is getting better with Halloween participation. It is good for the community with everyone involved and a lot of things going on.

Library Association Report – Melissa Werner

Mrs. Werner, said in jest, that she brought displays to help meeting attendees pay more attention to her reports. She noted that story times are held on Saturdays at 10:30am in the library. The Laflin Library will hold a succulent gardens program on Wednesday, October 15th with Penn State Master Gardeners. The program is very popular and registrations are filled and the library is no longer taking registration.

The library is holding a Halloween coloring contest for kids and a basket raffle for anyone checking out a book. A Spice of the Month program is being started with this month's spice: Punkin Pie. The history, along with a few recipes, of each spice will be presented each month.

The library will be participating in the Rec Board Trunk or Treat event with the theme of Wicked. Mrs. Werner displayed a handout that each person will receive at the library trunk station.

The Laflin Book Club held a meeting on October 14th at the J&L Coffeehouse. The next book for discussion in November will be *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. The date is tentatively scheduled for November 11th but that may change due to Veterans's Day.

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 why the grant application for the z-turn lawn mower is being eliminated since it was discussed as a necessary replacement at the last council meeting. Mr. Boyd responded to say that the statewide grant program has a minimum amount of \$25,000 and the mower does not qualify at the approximate cost of \$18,000.

He asked what was the justification for the salary increases included in the proposed budget. Some discussions continued on the percentage increases as compared to the actual dollar amounts that were included. Mr. McCabe said that the fireman position was supposed to be a part-time position. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that the fireman's position is still the lowest paid fireman in the area.

Mr. McCabe questioned the borough practice of having the librarian help with municipal administration tasks as needed. He noted the librarian / administrative assistance and firefighter / DPW employees as examples of the hybrid positions that were created. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded to say that this was always in place. Some discussions continued with Mr. Marc Malvizzi indicating they were reasonable increases.

Unfinished Business

A) New Creekside Park Ballfield Pavilion Installation Proposals –

Hadley Construction, Inc.	\$12,500
TCR Solutions	\$15,970
Kruger Construction, Inc.	\$25,000

It was noted that the Williams Gas Company donated \$20,000 to Laflin Borough for the pavilion erection.

After some explanation on the proposals and issues with the previous selected contractor, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve Hadley Construction, Inc. at \$12,500 for the installation labor.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos	<u>Yes</u>
Drew Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Marc Malvizzi	<u>Yes</u>
Melissa Werner	Abstained (related to Hadley Construction, Inc. personnel)
Carl Yastremski	<u>Absent</u>

Motion passed.

B) Laflin Borough Municipal Investment Policy Statement –

Resolution #10 of 2025

It was noted that Laflin Borough receives one percent (1%) interest on bank balances held in our financial institutions. Since the borough has been able to build fund surpluses, the funds should be invested in higher yield, short-term certificate of deposits (CDs).

Solicitor Leonard Sanguedolce said the resolution was taken from Act 10 of 2016 that regulates where the funds, and how much, could be allocated. Investment decisions will be approved at monthly council meeting based on financial bid proposals received prior to each meeting.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve and adopt Resolution #10 of 2025.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Absent

Motion passed.

C) Revise LSA Statewide Grant Submission for 2025-2026 –
Eliminate New Z-turn Mower Funding Request

After explaining that the previously approved grant resolution submission for a z-turn lawnmower did not qualify for the minimum amount needed for the statewide program, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to eliminate the resolution and grant submission. It will be applied for next year under a different grant.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

New Business

A) 1st Reading of the 2026 Laflin Borough Operating Budget –

Mr. Marc Malvizzi reviewed the proposed budget highlights and noted that the general revenues, franchise fees, and pension aid funding will remaining constant in 2026 with a slight increase in interest income due to investment strategy changes forthcoming. With the budget containing approximately \$900,000 in state grant funding, the total revenues are at \$1,547,186.00 for general fund revenues.

On the expenditure side of the budget, salaries have been increased except for the Councilmembers and the Mayor. The allocation for the fire department was increased to \$19,000 and the annual garbage collection contract cost increase will, again, be funded by the general fund instead of an increase in the garbage fees. Inkerman Road flooding issues have been relatively solved but \$10,000 is included in the budget for future flood abatement work.

The Laflin Recreation Board will have an increase in funding to \$4,500 annually. The Laflin Library will have increased funding for an additional \$2,500 so that programs can be increased. The budget includes \$175,000 annually for the Oakwood Park sewer project loan amortization along with \$44,340 annually included from the sewer fund for the same loan payments.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi declared that the line item that he is most proud of is the unassigned fund balance (reserve surplus) of \$150,000. This line item is available for any emergencies that may arise in 2026. The general fund expenditures obtain a balanced budget at \$1,547,186.

The Laflin Borough Refuse Fund, Laflin Borough Sewer Fund, and Liquid Fuels State Fund budgets were also briefly reviewed.

After reviewing the proposed total operating budget, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve the first draft that does not include a property tax hike, the need for a tax anticipation loan (TAN) nor fee increases.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Absent

Motion passed.

Council Comments / For the Good of the Order

It was announced that the next scheduled council meeting is set for Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 6pm. This will be a week later than normal due to Veteran’s Day being a federal holiday on Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

General Public Comments

Joseph McCabe, Pinewood Drive – asked if the elected officials are aware of recent bear sightings on Pinewood Drive over the last few days. Mr. McCabe asked if the game commission could be contacted to set a trap to relocate the bear. Mr. Marc Malvizzi added that the bear was sighted on Cherrywood Drive and that Mr. Boyd sent videos to him showing the bear around the municipal building. Mrs. Werner noted a mother bear and bear cub sighting on Fairfield Drive. After some discussions, and noting that the game commission is very reluctant to bring a live trap unless there is a major problem, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked Mr. Boyd to inquire with the game commission on setting up the live trap somewhere on Pinewood Drive. Mr. McCabe mention 1 Pinewood Drive as a good location.

Mr. McCabe complained about a parade in lower Laflin on Saturday, September 28, 2025 (Saturday was actually 9/27/25) just after 5pm. He personally witnessed many ATVs parading on West Saylor Ave. coming from the ice cream truck location on East Saylor Ave. He said it was amazing to see the number of ATVs going down West Saylor Ave. He wanted to know if anyone else complained about the loud vehicles.

Mr. McCabe asked if the two maintenance workers could clean the streets, especially near the cul-de-sac near (inside corner area) 74 Pinewood Drive where he noticed the street filthy with leaves and debris. He wants to see the maintenance workers (DPW) put-to-work. Some discussions took place on Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) and their street sweeping schedule. He would like to see the borough maintenance workers cleaning the street to keep busy. Because if they don’t, residents are going to see it.

Executive Session: No Executive Session.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 6:31pm.

Motion: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

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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