

Laflin Borough Council Mtg.
April 14, 2026
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 – Junior Councilmember Anna Marie Gubitose

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: March 10, 2026 Council Meeting

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked if everyone reviewed the meeting minutes and if anyone had any questions or comments. He 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 as presented.

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.
\$111,134.80 plus payroll \$13,572.88.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Councilmember Carl Yastremski abstained on the Verizon invoice due to his employment status.

Ayes carried 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 23 alarms in March 2026 of which 5 were medicals, 7 fire alarms, 3 motor vehicle accidents, 5 structure fires, 1 reported structure fire, and 2 gas leaks for a total of 81 alarms.

Manager's Report – Charles Boyd

The Laflin Borough Rec Board Summer Camp will commence on July 6, 2026 this year instead of the last week of June due to counselor vacation schedules.

The Community-wide Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 2026 starting at 8am to 1pm.

The property next to the lower Laflin Community Playground was surveyed by the new property owners and they are planning to install a fence along the property line for privacy. The survey maps are available to review.

Some discussions took place regarding the roadway crack sealing work for many Laflin Borough roads.

Mayor's Report – William Kennedy

Mayor Kennedy thanked the Laflin Recreation Board, Laflin Volunteer Fire Department and the volunteer Easter Bunny for a great job on the excellent Easter Party. The Easter Party had the biggest turnout to date and gets better every year.

Library Association Report – Melissa Werner

The library will host an earth day story time on Saturday, April 18th starting at 10:30am. National Library Week begins on Sunday, April 19th with cookies and crafts for patrons and kids. The Laflin Library Annual National Library Week dinner will be held at Pazzo Restaurant on April 22nd at 5:30pm. All are welcome.

Council President's Report – Marc Malvizzi

A report was given on the car thefts on the morning of April 13, 2026, where unlocked cars were searched through and belongings stolen on Cedarwood Drive and roads in the Oakwood Park section of Laflin Borough. Multiple vehicles that were left open overnight were searched by the thieves. The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) had multiple troopers assigned to the incident. A stolen credit card was used on the same day as the thefts and a vehicle was identified where the stolen credit card was used. The vehicle was then identified on the town-wide security cameras. Mr. Marc Malvizzi continued explaining the situation and noted it was impressive work by the state police.

Mr. Marc Malvizzi commented that the Pennsylvania State Police have solved most crimes over the past many years and do a great job along with our existing townwide security camera system. He continued speaking on a recently awarded state grant to upgrade the existing system.

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

Motion to Accept Reports: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Melissa Werner

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Public Comments Related to the Agenda

Joseph McCabe, Pinewood Drive – Questioned the volunteer ballfield maintenance position shown on the agenda and asked if it was solicited to be filled. Mr. Marc Malvizzi responded that it is an unpaid position to allow the Little League coach to use the Laflin Borough equipment to prep the fields before practices. Some discussions continued on the relationship with Plains Little League, insurance requirements, and who can use the ballfields.

Unfinished Business: No Unfinished Business

New Business

- A) ADS 15” Stormwater Pipe Installation for Peachwood Drive Basin –
WVSA Stormwater Savings Account Proposal Pending
Pennonni Associates Inc. Engineering Spec. Sheet

Mr. Marc Malvizzi explained that a stormwater pipe will be installed into the Hillside Townhouse Associate property basin area that is holding water and spilling onto Peachwood Drive. Funding will be provided from the stormwater fees (Rain Tax) that are collected by the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) and put aside for municipalities to use on approved stormwater projects. After receiving a cost estimate from WVSA last month, Pennoni Associates completed a specification sheet for installation. The WVSA is reviewing the specification sheets to confirm pricing on the project.

After some discussions, Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve up to \$10,000 from the WVSA Stormwater Saving Account to complete the pipe installation by the WVSA.

Motion to Approve: Drew Malvizzi

Second: Joseph Boos

Roll Call:

Joseph Boos Yes

Drew Malvizzi Yes

Marc Malvizzi Yes

Melissa Werner Yes

Carl Yastremski Yes

Motion passed.

- B) Approve Kyle Costello for Laflin Borough Ballfield Maintenance –
Volunteer

Mr. Marc Malvizzi asked for a motion to approve Kyle Costello as a volunteer to use Laflin Borough equipment to prep the ballfields for games - practices and to be listed on the Laflin Borough insurances.

Motion to Approve: Melissa Werner

Second: Drew Malvizzi

Roll Call:

Ayes were unanimous and motion passed.

Council Comments / For the Good of the Order

Mr. Marc Malvizzi announced that the next scheduled council meeting will be held on May 12, 2026 at 6pm.

The Memorial Day Ceremony is scheduled for Monday, May 31, 2026 at 11am and the annual Community-wide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026. More information will be provided in subsequent months prior to the events.

Councilmember Yastremski asked that the maintenance worker (DPW) drag the ballfields and cut the grass every week. The fields are being used 5 or 6 days a week by the local little league teams and they haven't been cut or dragged yet. Mr. Yastremski stated that Kyle Costello, who was just approved to be allowed to work on the fields, should be a secondary source. Some discussions continued and it was noted that the fields should be ready by April 1st every year.

General Public Comments

Michael Lombardo, Fordham Road – commented on the most recent car burglaries in Laflin Borough. He indicated that there have been many similar incidents in town over the short period of time that he has been a resident of Laflin Borough. The Pennsylvania State Police do a wonderful job in solving the crimes, and he would never dispute that, but it is from a reactive standpoint once something already happens.

He is concerned about the recidivism and it keeps happening over and over again. He believes it is a function of not having a patrol presence and not being proactive. He believes it leaves the town vulnerable to a criminal element who realize there isn't a proactive patrol.

They (he and his wife) are crime victims here in Laflin twice, including one incident where someone actually broke into their house. He continued providing comments on the current situation of police coverage in Laflin Borough. He noted that he doesn't believe that the system is setup appropriate. He is speaking from a standpoint as a former public official (in another town) and a person very involved in public safety for over 30 years. He is not speaking as a layperson.

Comments continued.

He is advocating for exploring the possibility of contracted services from neighboring police departments who could provide the proactive patrol presence needed. They could also provide traffic enforcement to slow dangerous drives in Laflin Borough. He believes one of the most important functions of government is to provide for public safety. We are going about it wrong and the community is extremely vulnerable.

Brittany Lombardo, Fordham Road – presented her online petition results to bring back a local police presence in Laflin Borough. As of the date of the council meeting, there were 78 signatures and it was just started.

Dorothy Tarasek, Cedarwood Drive – commented that she agrees with what the Lombardos are saying since she lived here for 41 years and never had to lock her front door or car doors until the last many years. Speeding is very bad on Cedarwood Drive creating a dangerous situation. *Comments continued.*

Mrs. Tarasek would like to see the question of alternative police coverage for Laflin Borough put on the next election ballot so that the residents can inform the elected officials of their opinion. *Comments and discussions continued.*

Walter Wrazien, Redwood Drive – commented that other towns that do have local police coverage going up and down the streets don't solve the problem. He believes we are going into an age where criminals are finding ways around the police presence. Look at Wilkes-Barre City Police and the Wyoming Regional Police both of which have high crime rates even with local police coverages.

He believes increasing the municipal street lights townwide is the way to proceed to prevent or slow the increase in criminal activity. *Much discussion continued.*

Joseph McCabe, Pinewood Drive – said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and you are who you hangout with. He said the truck that was stolen in Oakwood Park ended up in one of the five boroughs of New York City since the keys were left in the unlocked truck. The resident received a new truck from his insurance company. Some arguments ensued with heated discussions over this comment.

Mr. McCabe wants to see other towns, besides Jenkins Township, bid on our local police coverage if it comes to putting it out to bid, if a decision is made to do so. *Much discussion continued.*

Daniel Thole, Haverford Drive – agreed with Joseph McCabe and commented that these pigeons (criminals) keep coming here because they have open places. Everyone needs to lock their doors and lock their cars overnight. *Some comments continued.*

Michael Ankenbrand, Fairfield Drive – introduced himself as a new resident of Laflin Borough who is also in public safety for the last 25 years. He worked at the Luzerne Co. 911 Communication Center for 13 years in various positions of management. He is very well versed on how things work and how emergency services work.

There is a reason they (criminals) are coming here to Laflin and it is not because the doors are unlocked but because they know the town isn't patrolled. If we change to local police coverage, with patrols, the probability of this happening will probably decrease. This will happen because the town is sporadically patrolled and someone is there to answer the call. *Some discussion continued.*

Mary Thole, Haverford Drive – commented on the potential cost of switching to some type of local police coverage with patrols. She believes the added cost for a working family might not be a problem but, for a lot of people who are retired and on a fixed income in this community, the added cost could mean the difference if they are heating their houses or taking their medications. The entire community needs to be considered when making this decision to potentially switch to local police coverage.

Some discussion continued.

Executive Session: No Executive Session.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:10pm.

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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