

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING
MARCH 2, 2026**

ATTENDANCE:

Council Member:	Lilli Benner Jaclyn Cornelius Collin Garr (Absent) Joe Green Emma Hawkins Kelly Laustsen Robin Schilling Dave Weaver Dave Worthington
Youth Councilors:	Shiv Gandevia
Mayor:	Jeff Hollenbach (Absent)
Borough Manager:	Andrea L. Coaxum
Assistant Borough Manager:	Linda Reid
Finance Director:	Rebecca Deemer
Parks and Recreation Director:	Lauren Moll
Police Chief:	Robert Schurr
Electric Superintendent:	Harold Stone
Public Works Director:	Jeff Tulone
Borough Solicitor:	Brendan Callahan, Esq.
Borough Engineer:	Doug Rossino, P.E.

Council President Schilling convened the meeting at 7:01 pm. A moment of silence was observed, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM

Sofia Gonzalez-Ortiz from 316 Pin Oak Lane presented a proposal to Council to consider a mural project on the bridge underpass along the Pleasant Spring Creek bike and walk path under Main Street. Ms. Gonzalez-Ortiz is a Pennridge and Temple graduate and moved back to the Borough after graduation; she has lived here for 13 years. The mural project is estimated to cost approximately \$10-15,000, and Ms. Ortiz included suggestions for funding in her proposal.

The bridge was built in 1958. The Public Works Director confirmed that this is a County-maintained bridge, and the Borough's Public Works Department paints over any inappropriate graffiti.

The Council thanked Ms. Gonzalez-Ortiz for her presentation, and various Council members shared positive feedback about the proposal, which will next be reviewed by the Park & Recreation Board at a future meeting.

Chris Uncangco from 264 Parkridge Drive expressed his concerns about the increased traffic that cuts off of Ridge Road through the development at high rates of speed to avoid the traffic light at Park Avenue & Ridge Road.

Mr. Uncangco also stated that something needs to be done about the increasing electric bills, adding that he has baseboard heat and that his bills in the summertime aren't as high with the central air on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. He asked Council what the plan is to address this situation.

Council Member Green stated that electric baseboard heat is probably the most expensive way to heat a house, because of resistive heat, and suggested that Mr. Uncangco may want to think about a mini-split or ductless mini-split. Mr. Green announced that PJM and Governor Shapiro have come to an agreement to cap the capacity auctions until 2030, which means the capacity market will be set at \$329 a megawatt day, which is good news. He recommended that Mr. Uncangco consider a different heating source, while adding that may not be the best answer.

Council President Schilling stated that we just had one of the three coldest winters in 23 years, which is why January's costs were through the roof. She added that PJM raised their charges because they got rid of renewable energy and only allowed oil and gas, which skyrocketed prices, so you saw about a 16-20% increase throughout the region. Ms. Schilling assured Mr. Uncangco that Council is looking at other ways to reduce the cost of energy to make it more affordable, but it just won't be an overnight process.

Ms. Schilling also told Mr. Uncangco that we can have the staff work with the Public Safety Committee look into the issue with Parkridge Drive to see what Council can do. She thanked Mr. Uncanco for coming and bringing this to Council's attention so we can make the town better.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

In light of the situation in Quakertown, Council President Schilling expressed her appreciation to the Police Department and how they've been very supportive of the protests and First Amendment events and doing a great job keeping all of the participants safe.

Ms. Schilling also thanked the Borough Manager and Assistant Borough Manager for getting things set up for Council and the Council Committees in SharePoint, and reminded Council about Lee Rush's event at the High School on March 4th to discuss the issue of mental health and cell phones/ social media/adolescents.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Presentation – Bucks County Health Department – 2026 West Nile Virus Program

Ray Buckley from the Bucks County Health Department made a presentation on the West Nile Virus Program that the Department is running for this year. Council Member Weaver thanked Mr. Buckley for coming and informed Council that the Borough gets credit for the MS4 program by participating in the West Nile Virus Program.

Update on Bucks County Consortium of Municipal Managers – Salt Contract

Council reviewed the latest correspondence between the Bucks County Consortium and Morton Salt regarding the 2025-2026 salt contract and the status of salt deliveries.

Review 2025 Condition Report

The Borough Engineer gave an overview of the process and the report, which helps the Borough to identify what roads to put in the Road Program for the following year. The report contains Borough-owned and Borough-maintained roads only; only PennDOT can maintain their roads.

Consider Road Plan for 2026

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously authorized the staff and Engineer to move forward with releasing the bid documents for the 2026 Road Plan as presented to Council, which includes the following roads: Dorchester Lane, Waltham Lane, Amherst Circle and Chelsea Court.

Council also authorized the addition of the two alternates to the 2026 Road Plan: Branford Terrace and Hampton Circle.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE

Perkasie Wholesale Power Cost Monthly Report

The Committee reviewed Perkasie's January 2026 Wholesale Power Cost Summary Report provided by GDS Associates. Council Member Green provided some comments on the report.

Installed Capacity Update

Council reviewed the most recent Live Wire publication from PA Municipal Electric Association.

NYPA Hydropower – Notice of Rate Increase for COS Preference Power Recipients

Council reviewed correspondence from Allegheny Electric Cooperative regarding a rate increase for COS preference power recipients. The Borough Manager explained that the Borough has waterfall projects with St. Lawrence and Niagara that generate electric for many municipalities in Pennsylvania, including Perkasie Borough. It is very competitive pricing, even with the rate increase. NYPA makes up 6% of Perkasie's yearly energy resource.

Update: Behind-the-Meter (BTM) Solar Project

Council Member Green reported that the Borough's consultant, GDS Associates, reviewed 22 possible locations for a behind-the-meter solar installation. Mr. Green emphasized that nothing is definite at this point, and the Borough will not be doing anything until we look further into pricing.

The Borough Manager reported that the feasibility study is ongoing, and we hope to have it within the next two weeks.

Preliminary Review of AMP Bright Mountain & Potomac Energy Combined Cycle Project Information

Justin Hey and Sydney Sprague from GDS Associates gave a preliminary review of the Bright Mountain Solar Project with Council via Teams.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Review MS4 Inspection Spreadsheet

The Borough Manager and Code Enforcement Administrator provided a detailed overview on the steps the Borough is taking to implement the Borough's Stormwater Best Management Practice Inspection Program, which is required by PA DEP as part of the Borough's MS4 Program.

Discuss Update to Local Hazard Mitigation

The Assistant Borough Manager outlined the current status of the Bucks County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update project, and informed Council that the draft plan is now available for review. Ms. Reid stated that there is still opportunity to get input in, and the County will release the final draft in the fall. As soon as the first municipality adopts it, FEMA will approve it.

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Consider Authorization to Apply an AARP Community Challenge Grant – Accessibility Upgrades at the Amphitheatre

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously authorized the staff to submit an application for an AARP Community Challenge Grant and to allocate \$18,684.00 from Park & Recreation impact fees to the project. The motion also authorized the staff to prepare a letter of support from the Borough for the project.

Consider Authorization to Apply for PA DCED Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program Grant – Planning for Freight Station

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously authorized Gilmore & Associates to prepare a cost estimate for the planning project at the SEPTA Freight Station, and authorized the staff to submit an application to the DCED's Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program for an amount not to exceed \$250,000. The Borough Manager stated that Council will see the Scope of Work and cost estimate before the staff submits the application.

Discuss Ordinance Amendment to Allow E-Bikes on Park Trails

Council Member Worthington informed Council that the Parks & Recreation Board has had a lot of discussion over the last several meetings on regulating e-bikes.

The Parks & Recreation Director stated that the Borough's Code of Ordinances does not currently allow for motorized bikes on any part of the bike paths. The Park & Rec Board has been discussing this at length, collecting information from other municipalities & state parks and community feedback, and also working with the Police Department. It is the Board's recommendation that Council consider amending the current park ordinance to permit the use of Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes on Borough paved bike paths, specifically, allowing pedalcycles weighing less than 100 pounds, powered by a motor rated at less than 750 watts and capable of reaching up to 20 mph, provided they comply with all posted park and trail rules.

Council Member Laustsen asked how the Borough would enforce these rules. The Police Chief stated that it will be difficult to enforce, but we do need rules in place, and there will be consequences if there are violations.

Mr. Worthington commented that there was a lot of discussion by the Board on etiquette, and getting off of the trails and cutting new paths through the woods or down the hill and causing erosion or sedimentation problems. He added that there were a lot of things discussed during the last couple months, and Officer Mantz was terrific in helping out with some guidance as to what the Police Department can and cannot enforce.

Chief Schurr added that education will be huge, through signage and social media, and the Police Department recently made up pamphlets that they will be handing out at events, so they're doing everything they can to educate everybody.

Mr. Worthington stated that a lot of information was pulled from DCNR, and state park trail systems, in addition to the local communities they pulled data from.

Ms. Laustsen asked if Sellersville Borough has anything similar in place with e-bikes, and Chief Schurr stated that they are waiting to see what we will do.

Council President Schilling asked about the dawn to dusk rule and stated that she was trying to understand that logic, because she feels that evening time is a time when it's great for people to be able to walk when they want to get home. Ms. Moll explained that the Borough's current park rules & ordinance state that the parks and trails are only open dawn to dusk. Ms. Schilling clarified that rule is simply based on our ordinance, there wasn't actually discussion about it, so that could be another discussion to potentially remove that rule. Mr. Worthington stated that we can talk about that later, but right now, the Park & Rec Board would like to advance this, since it's been many months of discussion and research.

Council Member Green asked if the Borough currently does not allow e-bikes, and Mr. Worthington confirmed that by rule, we do not allow them, but the e-bikes are there.

Upon a motion by Schilling, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously authorized the Solicitor to prepare a draft ordinance for Council's review that incorporates the use of e-bikes in the Borough's park trail system.

Discuss Trail Regulations/Etiquette for E-Bikes

Council Member asked Council if there were any comments on the memo that they received in their packet pertaining to recommended park rules. The Borough Manager stated that it sounded like the only feedback was from Council President Schilling about considering park hours when it's dark out. Ms. Coaxum asked Ms. Schilling if she had other details as to what she was thinking, adding that if there's more feedback, it could be taken back to the Park & Rec Board for discussion. Ms. Schilling provided an example that if someone lives in Sellersville and wants to come over to a restaurant and be able to walk home at night, that technically it's not even open for walking. Council Members Laustsen and Worthington expressed different concerns about keeping the park open after dusk, and Council Member Cornelius stated that she thinks it makes sense to keep people out of the park at that time.

Mr. Worthington thanked the Parks & Recreation Director and Police Chief for helping the Park & Rec Board through this process. Ms. Schilling thanked the Park & Recreation Board for all of their work.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Consider Termination of Employee

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously concurred with the Borough Manager's decision to terminate the employment of employee #433098.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Payment of the Bills

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved the payment of the bills.

Consider Resolution #2026-19 – DCNR Land Acquisition Grant Agreement – Community Garden

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-19, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasio approving the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant agreement, and authorized the Borough Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the Borough of Perkasio.

Consider Resolution #2026-20 – Renewal of Power DMS for Police Department

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-20, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasio approving the contract between the Borough of Perkasio and Power DMS by Neogov for the April 2026 Co-Term Time Powerpolicy Professional Subscription for the policy manual and scheduling software for the Perkasio Borough Police Department, and authorizing the Borough Manager and/or the Perkasio Borough Chief of Police to execute the contract on behalf of the Borough of Perkasio.

Consider Resolution #2026-21 – Harris Hosting Services Agreement

Upon a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-21, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasio approving the N. Harris Computer Corporation Agreement between N. Harris Computer Corporation ("Harris") and Perkasio Borough for software hosting services and professional services at Perkasio Borough and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Borough.

Consider Approval of Expenditure at Perkasio Carousel

Council reviewed a memo from the Public Works Director regarding a dry pipe valve in the fire sprinkler system at the Perkasio Carousel building that sustained freeze-related damage during a power outage in early February. The cost to replace the valve is \$11,316.19, but the Borough's insurance will be covering all but the deductible of \$1,000.00, so no action was needed by Council.

Consider Increase in Rental Rate at Menlo House

After some detailed discussion, upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Green, Council unanimously authorized the staff get a rental appraisal for the Menlo House.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Consider Special Event Application – Eagles Autism Fundraiser at the Ram

Upon a motion by Hawkins, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously approved the Eagles Autism Foundation Dine & Donate Event hosted by Annette Schuster and Joe Wade in and adjacent to the Ram on Sunday, April 19, 2026 from 11:30 am to 9:00 pm, contingent upon the submission of an updated Certificate of Insurance and compliance with the Police Department’s recommendations.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Consider Resolution #2026-22 – LSA Civilian Community Relations Program Vehicle Grant Contract

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-22, a resolution of the Council of the Borough of Perkasio approving the Local Share Account grant contract between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Perkasio Borough for the purpose of purchasing equipment associated with the Civilian Community Relations Specialist vehicle project and authorizing the Borough Manager to execute the contract on behalf of the Borough of Perkasio.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Council Member Hawkins reported that she will be attending the Perkasio Historical Society Board meeting tomorrow night, and reminded Council that the first new Historical Committee meeting is on Monday, March 9th at 4:00 pm.

The Borough Manager was asked to provide an update on the Covered Bridge project, and Ms. Coaxum reported that FEMA is currently shut down, so there is no update at this time.

There was no business to bring before the Historical Committee.

REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCILOR

Youth Councilor Shiv Gandevia reported that spring sports started today.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council President Schilling informed Council that there are Municipality Meetings on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Pennridge Senior Center, where representatives of different municipalities meet and discuss business; Ms. Schilling added that she thinks it would be good idea for Council to consider, and that if anyone on Council is interested in attending, to please let her know so we can coordinate a schedule and build those relationships.

Ms. Schilling also informed Council that there will be a Planning & Zoning Committee meeting on Wednesday at 7:00 am, and a Public Meeting on Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00 pm to discuss the Borough's Economic Development Plan Update.

Council Member Green added one more comment in response to the public comment earlier about the electric bills, stating that the Borough does tiered billing for their electric bills, which was set up for customers with high usage, and added that not a lot of utilities do that.

Council reviewed the thank you card that was made by Girl Scout Troop 2549 to thank Council for their support of the project that they presented at the last Council meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.



Andrea L. Coaxum
Borough Manager/Secretary