

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 26, 2026**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

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

Council President Robin Schilling convened the meeting at 7:00 PM. An invocation was given by Pastor Barbara Pence from St. Andrew's UCC, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Mayor Hollenbach presented a plaque to Andrea Coaxum, stating that she has been a wonderful addition to the Borough for 18 years, that her professional guidance has been amazing and that we will miss her.

INTERVIEW COUNCIL APPLICANTS

Borough Council interviewed the five candidates who applied for the Council vacancy created by the recent resignation of Collin Garr. The applicants were Randy Faulkner, Joanne Mathiasen, Evan Resnikoff, Timothy Schaeffer and Dale Schlegel. Each applicant was asked the same questions by Council Member Laustsen, Council President Schilling and Council Vice-President Cornelius.

Council President Schilling stated that she is thankful that we had five great candidates, and she thinks that it's a tough decision, but that it's wonderful we have so many wonderful people who can serve and are willing to serve.

PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDER ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 180 – PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON NORTH 7TH STREET

A Public Hearing was held to consider the adoption of an ordinance that would amend the provisions of Chapter 180 of the Perkasio Borough Code related to parking restrictions on North 7th Street. The Solicitor provided an overview of the ordinance, which was advertised appropriately.

Council President Schilling summarized concerns expressed in 3 e-mails from residents that were sent to the Council's attention.

Council Member Green stated that he knows some of the comments that were made were that people could just park around the corner, but there are some residents on that block who have serious health concerns who may have serious issues walking around the block when they park.

The Borough Manager informed members of the audience that, for those who were following along on a device, the information is available on the Borough website, in the April 6th Council meeting packet. Ms. Coaxum added that the packet contains the illustrations of exactly where the areas are that are being discussed.

Chad Davis from 140 North 7th Street explained that trucks are having difficulty getting in and out of the parking lot, since people park all the way up to the apron at the Feed Mill, and it's hard to see. He added that residents are really only losing one parking spot.

The Borough Manager further clarified the details and hours of the proposed restrictions.

Resident Rena Neiman from 141 North 7th Street asked to see a picture of what is being considered and expressed concerns that there won't be any parking available for residents who live right there.

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Hawkins, the public hearing closed at 7:54 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDER ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 40 – RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

A Public Hearing was held to consider the adoption of an ordinance that would amend the provisions of Chapter 40 of the Perkasio Borough Code related to the Police Department, by eliminating the residency requirements for police officers employed by Perkasio Borough. The Solicitor provided an overview of the ordinance, which was advertised appropriately. There were no comments from the public, and upon a motion by Weaver, which was seconded by Worthington, the public hearing closed at 7:56 pm.

AUDIT PRESENTATION

Jeff Kowalczyk from Barbacane, Thornton & Company presented highlights from the 2025 Audit, which was a clean report. He stated that the Borough Manager, Finance Director and the team were fantastic to work with. Mr. Kowalczyk added that the first year of an audit is always tricky, that they have to ask a lot of questions in year 1, and they really appreciated all of the staff's help. Council Member Worthington commented that the report was really well put together. Council Member Green thanked the staff and congratulated them on a clean report. Council President Schilling thanked Mr. Kowalczyk and said it was a pleasure working with him, and congratulated the staff, adding that it's been great to hear it's been great, and thanking them for all of their hard work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Solicitor announced that Council had an Executive Session before the Council meeting to discuss a litigation matter, and matters of personnel, adding that the personnel matters are on the agenda tonight.

PUBLIC FORUM

Matt Lynch from 503 Race Street referenced the rules for Public Forum on the Borough's public meeting policy, which says that statements must be limited to 3 minutes and remarks must be addressed to Borough Council as a whole; dialogue will not be entered between Council and staff or speakers, and remarks addressed to specific individuals will be considered out of order. Mr. Lynch has observed that these public forums go on much too long; the 3-minute rule is being tossed out the door, and he would like to see it go back, because the meetings go on entirely too long.

Mr. Lynch also stated that he listened to what Council Member Worthington said at the last meeting about the behind-the-meter solar project, and how much money is going to be spent, and how much is going to be saved, and he agrees with Mr. Worthington 100%, that the amount of money that's going to be spent on this project, for what we're going to save, he doesn't agree with at all.

Council President Schilling thanked Mr. Lynch for his opinion and noted that she follows in the footsteps of how the previous Council President handled it.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Council President Schilling thanked Andrea Coaxum for all of her service, adding that we will miss her and thanking her for being willing to continue to help. Ms. Schilling also stated that there was a spoof Facebook post about a data center being located next to Landis Supermarket, and that it is not true.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Worthington stated that there were two errors in the May 4th meeting minutes on Page 8: he was listed as the person who made a motion and a second on an item, and, he was the person who asked about the e-bikes ordinance, not Council Member Weaver. Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved the minutes from the April 20th Council meeting, and the revised minutes from the May 4th Council Committees meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Mayor Hollenbach reminded everyone that the carnival runs from June 23rd through June 27th, and that Community Day is on the last day of the carnival. The Mayor invited Council and all departments to participate in the Mayor's Cup cornhole tournament at Community Day, and stated that he and a few Council members will be attending the PSAB conference in Hershey this weekend. Mayor Hollenbach also gave a shout out to Pennridge baseball, for making it to states.

Assistant Borough Manager's Report

Council reviewed the Assistant Borough Manager's report dated May 20, 2026.

Engineer's Report

The Engineer informed Council that the developer has some punch list items to address for the Constitution Square project; review letters were issued for 505 Constitution Avenue and the Perkasio Regional Authority Well #10 treatment center project, and the bid openings for the 2026 Road & Concrete Programs are scheduled for this Thursday.

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved the Borough Engineer's monthly report.

New Business

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Public Works Superintendent's report for the month of April, 2026.

Perkasie Regional Authority Report

Council reviewed the minutes from the Perkasie Regional Authority meeting on April 13, 2026.

Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Report

Council reviewed the minutes from the Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Board meeting on March 23, 2026 and April 27, 2026.

Consider Authorization to Place Public Works Vehicle on Muncibid

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously authorized the Public Works Department to place the 2003 GMC pick-up on Muncibid.

Review Final Application – PA DEP 902 Recycling Grant – Horizontal Grinder

Council reviewed the application that was submitted by staff to PA DEP for a 902 Recycling Grant that would be used to purchase a horizontal grinder for the Public Works Department. Council approved submission of this application at the May 4th Council meeting.

Update on Park Avenue Improvements Project Funding

Council Member Worthington stated that he thinks the Borough Manager and Assistant Borough Manager should have their due, with getting the Borough all of these grants for this project. Ms. Coaxum and Ms. Reid provided an update with detailed information on the funding, timeline, phases and components of the Park Avenue Improvements Project. Ms. Coaxum stated that when the project is finished, this will complete the Borough's section of the Liberty Bell Trail and will be the only pedestrian crossing over Ridge Road.

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE

Review of Superintendent's Report

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Electric Superintendent's report for the month of

April, 2026.

Perkasie Power Supply Portfolio – Upcoming Needs & Next Purchases

The Electric Department Superintendent provided Council with an update on today's phone call with GDS Associates, and discussed the upcoming procurement plan. Mr. Stone added that GDS recommended looking at indicative pricing in the fall or spring of 2027.

Update on Behind-the-Meter Solar Project

The Borough Manager reported that GDS is still collecting information for the feasibility study and remarked on the proposal from Utility Engineers, who will provide cost information as to how the Behind-the-Meter Solar Project will connect to the Borough's grid. Ms. Coaxum stated that responses were due today for the RFI, and once those bids are reviewed, Utility Engineers can use the sizing off of the bids received in order to provide more information on the interconnection, including how the solar system would connect to the Borough's grid, and the cost estimate for that work. A public meeting has been scheduled for June 10th at 5:00 pm to discuss all of the information available related to the solar project so the Public Utility Committee, anyone from the public, and hopefully all of Borough Council, can attend that meeting to discuss the project, and the Committee could choose to make a recommendation for Council to vote on for the behind-the-meter solar project at the June 15th Council meeting.

Council President Schilling thanked the Public Utility Committee for all they've done, and to everyone who's been participating, and the staff, and asked if there are any concerns, to please raise them to a member of the Public Utility Committee before the public meeting on June 10th, because we want to take this to a vote. Ms. Schilling added that we've gotten a lot of public input, so the meetings have been longer because we wanted transparency so that the public knows what is happening and that it's part of public record, and I appreciate everybody being willing to do that so that we can have open discussion and ensure that we're doing what's best for the community.

Installed Capacity Update

Nothing at this time.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Code Enforcement Administrator Report

The Committee reviewed the Code Enforcement Administrator's monthly report for the month of April, 2026.

Planning Commission Report

The Borough Manager stated that the Planning Commission is meeting this week and is supposed to be discussing data centers. Council previously discussed having a base model ordinance, so if anyone would like to provide input, the meeting is tomorrow night at 7:00 pm at Borough Hall.

The Committee reviewed the Planning & Zoning report for the month of April and the meeting summary from the Planning Commission meeting on April 22nd.

Zoning Hearing Board Report

The Zoning Hearing Board will not meet in May, but the Borough received 2 applications that could be on the June or July ZHB agenda.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Parks and Recreation Department Report

Council Member Worthington reported the Parks & Recreation Director could not be here today, but she did share that Menlo was closed on Saturday and Sunday of last weekend, but the Penguin Plunge took place at Menlo on Monday, and that went well. Mr. Worthington thanked the Parks & Recreation Director and the Aquatics Facilities Manager, stating that the Park & Recreation Board had their monthly meeting at Menlo, so they got a tour of the facility and all of the things that are going on there. Mr. Worthington also informed Council that the Park & Recreation Board is working hard towards several events that will be planned pop-ups for Parks & Recreation month in July, which will be finalized at the next meeting.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Parks and Recreation Director's report for the month of April, 2026.

Consider Approval of Change Order #1 – Kulp Park Improvements Project

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$1,385.68 for the Kulp Park Improvements Project.

PERSONNEL AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Appoint New Council Member

Nominations were opened for the vacant Council seat. Council Member Laustsen nominated Dale Schlegel. Council Member Cornelius nominated Joanne Mathiasen. Council President Schilling nominated Evan Resnikoff. Council Member Green nominated Randy Faulkner. Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Green, the nominations were closed.

Council Member Laustsen and Mayor Hollenbach thanked the candidates for their applications and interviews. Council Vice-President Cornelius also thanked the applicants and asked that they please continue to be involved, if not appointed.

After a few rounds of voting, 4 votes were received for Dale Schlegel, and 4 votes were received for Joanne Mathiasen. Mayor Hollenbach needed to break the tie, and voted for Dale Schlegel, so Mr. Schlegel was appointed as the new Council member, then sworn in.

The Solicitor noted that a resolution was not needed to appoint the new Council member.

Consider Resolution #2026-35 – Appoint Acting Borough Manager & Interim Secretary

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-35, which appoints Linda Reid as Acting Borough Manager and Interim Secretary effective June 1, 2026, and removes Andrea L. Coaxum as the Borough's official Secretary. Council President Schilling stated that Ms. Reid will stay on as Acting Borough Manager for up to two months after a new Borough Manager starts, so the person has a two-month training period and can get up to speed, and Ms. Reid will receive an increase in her salary for that time to compensate for the additional work.

Consider Resolution #2026-36 – Consultant Agreement

Upon a motion by Cornelius, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-36, which approves a consulting agreement between the Borough of Perkasio and Andrea Coaxum until such time as the Borough has successfully transitioned to a new Borough Manager.

Consider Promotion of Events Assistant

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously concurred with the Borough Manager’s decision to promote Lauren Bahry from Events Assistant to Events Coordinator with an hourly rate of \$27.00 per hour, effective June 1, 2026.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Taxes Collected Report

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously approved the Taxes Collected report for April, 2026.

Budget Status

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously approved the Budget Status report for April, 2026.

Authorization to Pay Bills

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously authorized payment of the bills as presented.

Consider Approval of Final Payment Request No. 4 – 2025 Concrete Program

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Worthington, Council unanimously approved final payment No. 4 in the amount of \$11,859.80 for the 2025 Concrete Program.

Consider Approval of Final Change Order No. 1 – 2025 Concrete Program

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously approved final change order No. 1 for the 2025 Concrete Program, in the amount of \$10,476.00, which adjusts the final contract amount to \$118,598.00.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Community & Economic Development Report

The Assistant Borough Manager reported that the Farmers Market opens June 6th, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, and it will be the Grand Opening event.

The Committee reviewed the Community & Economic Development Report dated May 20, 2026.

Special Events Report

The Committee reviewed the Special Events Report dated May 20, 2026.

Consider Resolution #2026-37 – Authorization to Submit Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program Grant Application – SEPTA Freight Station

Council Member Worthington remarked that the Economic Development Committee and Park & Recreation Board have been working together with Ms. Reid on this grant program and sharing ideas back and forth.

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Weaver, Council unanimously approved Resolution #2026-37, a resolution that authorizes the Borough to submit an application for a Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program Grant in the amount of \$38,250 to engage a consultant to prepare a planning study for the reuse of the SEPTA Freight Station and parcel. The resolution further authorized the Secretary and Council President to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough and Commonwealth Financing Authority. The Borough Manager commented that the match of \$6,750 should be budgeted for the 2027 Budget.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Police Report

Upon a motion by Weaver, seconded by Cornelius, Council unanimously accepted the Police Department report for the month of April, 2026.

Fire Department Report

Council reviewed the Fire Department reports for the month of April, 2026.

Consider Ordinance #1071 – Parking Restrictions on North 7th Street

Council Member Green stated that we had a lot of e-mails come in, and some people who talked here tonight, and he didn't hear anyone from the public in favor of it.

Council President Schilling stated that she walked around in the area at 6:15 in the morning, two days this week, to look at the parking there, and said that it looked to her that what would be affected is that three cars would have to park closer together, and that they would still fit, and that there was enough space opposite. Ms. Schilling added that some of the e-mails seemed to indicate that they weren't very clear on what the actual restrictions were, and two of the restrictions already exist, even though they're unofficial. Ms. Schilling stated that it seemed to her that it wouldn't be an undue burden on the residents, and that the fears were legit because it's unclear as to what exactly would be blocked.

Council Member Worthington agreed with Ms. Schilling and stated that there appeared to be some confusion amongst the rowhome residents about what was affected, echoing that 2 of the areas are already marked out, but haven't been enforceable by the Police Department, and that once everyone understands what North, South, East and West are in Perkasio, you can understand the ordinance clearer.

Upon a motion by Laustsen, seconded by Worthington, Council adopted Ordinance #1071, an ordinance that amends the provisions of Chapter 180 of the Perkasio Borough Code related to parking restrictions on North 7th Street. Council Member Green opposed.

Consider Ordinance #1072 – Residency Requirements for Police Officers

Upon a motion by Benner, seconded by Laustsen, Council unanimously adopted Ordinance #1072, an ordinance that amends the provisions of Chapter 40 of the Perkasio Borough Code related to the Police Department, by eliminating the residency requirements for Police Officers employed by Perkasio Borough.

Consider Request for Fire Police Assistance – Quakertown Borough Annual Carnival

Upon a motion by Worthington, seconded by Hawkins, Council unanimously approved the request from Quakertown Borough for Fire Police assistance at their annual carnival from June 2, 2026 to June 6, 2026.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Council Member Hawkins provided an update from the May 11th Historical Committee meeting.

There was no business to bring before the Historical Committee.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

REPORT FROM YOUTH COUNCILOR

Youth Councilor Shiv Gandevia reported that the last day for seniors is tomorrow, and senior prom is on Saturday. Cap and gown pick-up is Monday, and graduation is on June 3rd.

PUBLIC FORUM

Nothing at this time.

PRESS FORUM

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.



Linda J. Reid

Acting Borough Manager/Interim Secretary