

**MINUTES OF PERKASIE BOROUGH
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 10, 2026**

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Chair:	Joe Green
Committee Members:	Jaclyn Cornelius (via telephone)
	Dave Weaver
Council Members:	Lilli Benner
	Robin Schilling
	Dale Schlegel
	Dave Worthington
Mayor:	Jeff Hollenbach
Acting Borough Manager:	Linda Reid
Finance Director:	Rebecca Deemer
Electric Superintendent:	Harold Stone
Borough Solicitor:	Jeff Garton, Esq.
Borough Engineer:	Doug Rossino, P.E.
Consultants:	Andrea Coaxum
	Garrett Cole (GDS Associates)
	Sydney Sprague (GDS Associates)
	Rick Gerrity (Utility Engineers, PC)

Public Utility Committee Chair Joe Green welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the staff, Borough Council, consultants and engineers for all of their hard work on the research for a behind-the-meter solar project, and any others who contributed. Mr. Green added that we learned a lot with this research, and that regardless of the outcome of the recommendations, a lot of crucial data has been compiled for a behind-the-meter solar project and any projects with behind-the-meter generation that the Borough may want to look into in the future.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Green provided an update on the Borough's participation in the Bright Mountain Solar project, which was approved by Council on April 20th through a Power Purchase Agreement with AMP.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Behind-the-Meter Solar Project and the Responses to the RFI

GDS Associates reviewed the components involved in the feasibility study, which included the preparation of a Request for Information, the project diligence that went into evaluating the cost of the project, a summary of the proposals received, and key takeaways and recommendations. From an economic perspective, GDS does not recommend pursuing solar installations given the availability of lower-cost supply initiatives. Given the economics, if the Borough elects to pursue a local demonstration project, GDS recommends limiting overall expenditures through a smaller-scale distributed site.

PUBLIC FORUM

Resident Scott Jensen from 660 Milliken Court raised concerns about the impact of solar on people's personal health.

Resident Scott Bomboy from 412 East Market Street asked if anyone had consulted with SHPO regarding historic preservation in Lenape Park and the potential need for an environmental review.

Resident Lisa Jones from 609 Shadywood Drive had the following questions: How long has Council known about this, how long has it been a possible option, and if they had to vote today, what would they vote? Ms. Jones remarked that it's going to be cloudy for the next 10 days and that it doesn't sound you're going to generate a lot of energy. Ms. Jones then added that she is just curious as to where Council stands because it sounds like it doesn't matter what people want, that they are going to do what they want.

Resident Kim Bedillion from 123 South 3rd Street commented that there just wasn't enough time for the community to absorb the information from the feasibility study, that the 5:00 start time for the meeting was a hard time to get here, and that at the end of April, expenses just to the taxpayers, just to figure out if this is feasible, were over \$76,000; Ms. Bedillion asked what that number is currently, and what portion of the budget that came out of, since it wasn't budgeted. She also asked about the status of the meetings being live streamed.

Resident Archie Lang from 634 Highland Drive commented that he has seen the solar project information posted in the minutes from Borough Council meetings and the budget items in the monthly statement that is provided, and remarked that, with the sites the Borough has looked at, it seems to him that they just need more space. Mr. Lang asked if that would help, and suggested that the Borough speak to the airport property owner about putting panels on his buildings.

Resident Dave Porigow from 1103 Old Post Road commented that just because it is cloudy out, doesn't mean you don't gain any solar energy, and read a statement with his reasons for supporting the behind-the-meter solar project.

Resident Joe Seif from 22 North 9th Street asked how much the Borough pays right now for a megawatt, the traditional way, and what the cost would be per megawatt with solar, and if it would save the residents money.

Resident Jill Worthington from 1103 Old Post Road gave Council kudos for looking at a solar project and added that she is in favor of solar energy. Ms. Worthington remarked about data centers and asked if any of the projections included direction on them, since energy costs may go up super high because of data centers.

Resident Doug Price from 319 South Third Street asked what site Council was really considering strongly and raised concerns about the lack of aesthetics with putting solar panels up in town and in the parks, the liability of those structures, vandalism in the parks and increased insurance costs. Mr. Price added that overall, when you look at the recommendation, this doesn't look like a good return for the Borough's money.

Resident Bob Tate from 119 Strassburger Road stated that he supports moving in the direction of solar and complimented GDS Associates on their in-depth presentation. Mr. Tate then asked what the total cost of the project and investment would be if the Borough were to move forward with the project, and what percentage of electricity would have to be generated to make a solar project viable.

Resident Greg Martin from 320 West Market Street read a statement and congratulated the staff, Council and consultants for recommending and approving the Bright Mountain solar project purchase at the April 20th meeting, adding that it should help keep our bills stable for a long time, and that it is well suited for Perkasio because it allows the Borough to purchase renewable energy while avoiding many of the construction, operational and long-term financial risks associated with owning a large solar installation. Together with the NYPA project, it increased part of the Borough's renewable energy portfolio to about 13%. He urged Council to recognize what has been positively accomplished this year, to decline to proceed with this project at this time, and to preserve the analysis for consideration if conditions change.

Resident Linn Lisher from 412 East Market Street thanked Council for helping to make Perkasio a great place to live, adding that she appreciates all that they do. Ms. Lisher stated that she's interested in renewable energy and solar panels, but after seeing these numbers today, she thinks they still need to talk about this, adding that she thinks this project has moved too quickly, and because of the speed, it has not been as transparent to the public as it could be. Ms. Lisher stated that she has been at a lot of the meetings and still felt that it moved so fast she couldn't comprehend everything fast enough.

David Hammes from Exact Solar commented on the proposal submitted by Exact Solar and how the installation of solar could benefit the Borough.

Various Committee and Council members, representatives of GDS Associates and Ms. Coaxum addressed the residents' comments and concerns.

Mr. Green stated that the Borough now has a lot of data recorded for behind-the-meter generation, and with the recommendations from our consultants and engineers with this project, it seems that it is not economically feasible, unfortunately. Mr. Green added that, as good stewards of the community, we cannot spend that money.

Council Member Worthington agreed and stated that he thinks the recommendation from the Public Utility Committee to Council should be that we decline to go further with this at this time.

Council Member Weaver commented that, based on the economics of it, while he appreciates all of the studies and data that we have, it's just not economically feasible.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.



Linda J. Reid

Acting Borough Manager/Interim Secretary