

Langhorne Borough Council Meeting
April 8, 2026

A Langhorne Borough Council Meeting was held at Council Chambers on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. President Horwatt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and invited those in attendance to pledge allegiance to the Flag.

IN ATTENDANCE: President Kathleen Horwatt; Vice President Scott Haldeman; Councilpersons Kate Transue, Paul Schneider (via Zoom), Sean Mundy, Tim Harris, and Bob Cumming; Mayor Barry Truchil; Junior Council Person Azura Cohen; Chief Kevin Burns; Solicitor Barbara Kirk; Manager Mary Zimmerman; Treasurer Ellyn Schoen; Clerk Gabe Tenaglia

ABSENT: Junior Council Person Lylah Newell

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Planning Commission member Beth Delaney, 119 West Marshall Avenue, announced that a second Visioning Session for the Borough's updated Comprehensive Plan will be held at Borough Hall on April 30th. Some of the topics that will be discussed include attainable housing, the Borough's history and community, economic and commercial vitality, and redeveloping concerns. Luke Rosanova of the Bucks County Planning Commission will assist in leading the meeting and will organize interactive activities. Mrs. Delaney and President Horwatt encouraged residents to attend and provide input.

Councilperson Transue announced that the Shade Tree Commission will hold an Arbor Day tree planting at the Revolutionary War Cemetery on April 25th. Shade Tree Commission Chair Barry Hitchen will give a small speech, and there will be a wildflower seed ball activity for children organized by Shade Tree member Freya Lund and Artful Treasures. They will be planting an oak tree.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tim Damiani, 313 North Bellevue Avenue, thanked Mayor Truchil and the street department for assisting during the snowstorms. He came before Council in December 2025 to report on the issue of speeding vehicles on Bellevue Avenue and was told that the Borough was working with PennDOT to install a stop sign at Bellevue and Winchester Avenues. This has not yet happened, but Mr. Damiani felt that even if it did there would be no meaningful reduction in speeding. He noted that there is a four-way stop at Richardson and Bellevue Avenues and proposed that four-way stops be established where Winchester, Marshall, and East Watson Avenues intersect with Bellevue to decrease the speeds of vehicles driving up Bellevue. He also suggested installing speed humps at various locations on Bellevue Avenue. Solicitor Kirk said that Bellevue Avenue is a state highway and suggested that he mail a copy of his request to Senator Frank Farry to bring up to PennDOT. President Horwatt said that there had been a stop sign at Bellevue and Winchester but PennDOT took it down, as they do not approve of three-way stops and only approve four-way stops where there is high traffic. She said that Watson and Marshall would not qualify as high-traffic roads by PennDOT standards. Mr. Damiani said that his neighbor at 309 North Bellevue Avenue reported K. E. Seifert trucks speeding and President Horwatt suggested that Mayor Truchil reach out to the owner Eric Creighton about their speeding trucks. Councilperson Transue said that traffic heading to the Middletown Country Club is a factor in speeding, and Mayor Truchil suggested making contact with the manager of the golf course about speed limit signage. There was more discussion of worsening speeding along Bellevue and potential safety issues.

Councilperson Transue announced that the Bucks County Coroner's Office has asked if anyone would be

willing to attend the burial of two veterans who have no family. It is at the Washington Crossing National Ceremony at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 30th.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Truchil announced that the Police Department's new computers are now operational. There are still some upgrades to be made and they will proceed as the budget will allow. He also spoke about a new policy on officers' use of body cameras that is going into effect this week and thanked Chief Burns for developing an in-depth policy and taking his comments into account. The police also escorted members of the Borough churches through town on April 3rd for the annual Cross Walk. Mayor Truchil then announced that the speed cushions will be reinstalled now that winter has ended.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Burns announced that April 25th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is the police department's drug takeback. They will not be taking sharps. The police staffed the March 27th 150th anniversary tree lighting celebration without incident. President Horwatt noted that the volume of 911 calls increased and asked if it was related to the Pine Street water main break. Chief Burns said the increased volume could have been due to the water main break and recent snowstorms. President Horwatt also thanked Chief Burns for assisting with the Cross Walk and tree lighting.

CONSENT AGENDA: The items on the consent agenda are as follows: the minutes for the March 11th Council Meeting; payment of the bills; an event permit application for the Langhorne Borough Business Association Olde Harvest Day event on October 24th.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Mundy, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Transue, Council voted unanimously to approve the March Treasurer's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: President Horwatt submitted a request to the budget committee that bills for street repair not be listed under Repairs and Maintenance budget item for government buildings. She said that the inlet repair at National Avenue was listed under this item. She suggested that street repairs not under liquid fuels should go under the General Fund. Treasurer Schoen said that there is no other repair and maintenance category in the budget. President Horwatt said that the budget committee should discuss with Treasurer Schoen. Vice President Haldeman said that he and Councilperson Cumming will look into the matter.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Maple Avenue & Green Street Crosswalk Project: Engineer George DiPersio, in attendance via Zoom, shared a graphic with Council showing that the existing crosswalk striping will be removed on the westerly side of Maple Avenue closest to the Borough border. The crossings will be limited to Green Street and the easterly side of Maple where the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) will be installed. He explained to Council that nearly all the frontages at the corners of the intersection have existing paver sidewalks, and they are targeting three areas to maintain as pavers to preserve the historic aesthetic given that the intersection is in the Borough's historic district. When his office applies for a Highway Occupancy Permit and Signals Permit through PennDOT, they will require that the pavers be set in concrete, but they can be preserved. However, the ramp where the sidewalk meets the road has to be concrete. Mr. DiPersio's office will submit to PennDOT as if the pavers will remain but it can be bid at a later date as only concrete. Councilperson Cumming said that the brick pavers should remain.

Mr. DiPersio said that the area beyond that will have truncated dome pavers surrounded by concrete.

Mr. DiPersio informed Council that one of the trees in front of the Blaydon residence at 245 West Maple Avenue will be directly blocking one of the RRFBs. Given the late Chris Blaydon's dedication to preserving shade trees throughout the Borough, Mr. DiPersio offered to submit to PennDOT with the tree intact, but said they would likely require that it be removed. Councilperson Schneider asked which tree it was, and Mr. DiPersio said it was the smaller tree, not the larger one up the block. Council had no objection to removing the tree, and Mr. DiPersio said that his office will propose to remove the smaller tree and preserve the larger one.

Mr. DiPersio then informed Council that the porch at 300 West Maple Avenue, at the southwest corner of the intersection, has a wooden step within the sidewalk area. He said that the step will have to be replaced, and ARRO believes that it would be best to replace with concrete. This would require that the step be connected to a small cheek or curb wall to prevent pedestrians walking south on that side of Green Street from tripping over the step. Vice President Haldeman noted that it would also be a tripping hazard for people walking in the other direction and Mr. DiPersio said that they will have to look at tying it into the foundation wall. Councilperson Harris asked if the step is legal, noting that it is intruding into the sidewalk, and said that the Borough should not spend money on something that is not permitted. Mr. DiPersio said that the section of sidewalk will be part of the crosswalk ramp, so the drop, which is currently too high for the building code, will become even more significant, potentially up to a foot. He said that this will need to be addressed to some extent. Solicitor Kirk said that the issue of legality depends on when the step was installed and if it predates the Borough's current code. Mr. DiPersio said that the replacement of the wooden step will be a separate line item from the remainder of the concrete work. Vice President Haldeman said that the property owner has to be notified.

Mr. DiPersio then suggested that Council might consider decorative bases for the poles that will support the RRFBs to better match the bases of the Borough's street lights. ARRO Consulting is considering two options for bases, one that comes as part of the post or a shroud that goes on the pole and caps it. The latter would be less expensive. Mr. DiPersio asked if this would be a necessary element of the project or an alternate. Council decided to have it priced out as an alternate item and Mr. DiPersio said that alternates will be prepared for Council's consideration when the project goes to bid.

ARRO Consulting is requesting approval from Council ahead of time to advertise the project once complete. President Horwatt said that the goal is to have the project completed before school starts in the fall.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Transue, Council voted unanimously to advertise the Maple Avenue & Green Street Crosswalk Project.

PA DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) Grant Application: Last year, the Borough was awarded a \$315,000 Local Share Account Statewide grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for the construction of the proposed Mayors' Playground community building. However, this funding will not cover the construction of the building. The Borough is pursuing a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources C2P2 grant for additional funding and the deadline to apply is April 30th. The DCNR has indicated that the \$315,000 LSA grant award is a permissible match to the C2P2 program, and it is a dollar-to-dollar match so the Borough can request up to \$315,000 from the DCNR, but they have requested that the project be broken down into phases. President Horwatt said that the Recreation Board met last week and decided on the phases for the

project. Mr. DiPersio said that the project now includes a rain garden to be located north of the building, and the proposed location of the building has been moved north and it will be built at an angle to shorten the water and sewer lines that will have to be run to Maple Avenue for its restroom facilities. ARRO Consulting is also recommending a paved trail connection to separate the soccer field from the rain garden. Earlier today they had a virtual meeting with ROMTEC, the company that will design and supply the building, and were informed that there are opportunities for cost-cutting on the original design choices. ARRO asked ROMTEC to advise of these measures no later than April 22nd. Mr. DiPersio requested Council's approval to submit the C2P2 grant application on the Borough's behalf. Vice President Haldeman asked if they can complete the project with \$630,000 given that the original cost was over \$1,000,000, and Councilperson Mundy said that amount would only cover the building, hence the project being broken down into phases. Mr. DiPersio said that the community building is phase 1, the basketball courts and soccer fields are phase 2, and the playground is phase 3. The DCNR has suggested pursuing additional funding every cycle of the C2P2 program, which is annual. Vice President Horwatt asked if Council would consent to the Rec Board make decisions about the building's design. There was further discussion and Solicitor Kirk advised that the Rec Board cannot decide on a disposition of funds from the Borough but can make recommendations to Council.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Mundy, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to authorize ARRO Consulting to support and prepare the submission for the DCNR C2P2 grant for \$315,000.

President Horwatt said that the Rec Board will be compiling support letters from various groups. Councilperson Mundy said that he and Rec Board member Adam Zielinski will work on a draft support letter and Manager Zimmerman wrote a draft letter of support for Middletown Township. There was further discussion of organizations that will submit support letters as project partners.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Mundy, seconded by Councilperson Transue, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 2026-05 authorizing the signing of the DCNR C2P2 grant application for phase 1 of the Revitalization of the Mayors' Playground project.

Station 21 Stormwater Conveyance Project: ARRO Consulting's original proposal had a projected 60-day timeline to deliver a plan, but this deadline has passed. Mr. DiPersio said that the recent poor weather pushed the timeline back, but his office was able to survey the surrounding parcels with drones and intend to have the draft plan ready by this month's Work Session.

ORDINANCE 2026-04: Solicitor Kirk explained that this ordinance sets forth certain revisions to the Borough's Code of Ordinances as prepared by General Code during their consolidation of the Borough's ordinances for online publication. This ordinance separates certain revisions for review by the Borough's Planning Commission and the Bucks County Planning Commission, as they affect the Borough's Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development (SALDO) Ordinances. BCPC sent the Borough a review letter encouraging and supporting the revisions and the codification project. Notice of the ordinance was published in the Bucks County Courier Times on March 24th, 2026 as required. No recommendations have been made to substantially change these revisions and they are ready for Council's approval. Councilperson Schneider said that Planning Commission is in support of Ordinance 2026-04.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2026-04: AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT AN ORDINANCE FOR CERTAIN SUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS TO THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF LANGHORNE,

COUNTY OF BUCKS, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA; TO PROVIDE FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN LEGISLATION NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; TO SAVE FROM REPEAL CERTAIN OTHER LEGISLATION NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR TAMPERING WITH THE CODE.

ORDINANCE 2026-05: Solicitor Kirk explained that this ordinance accompanies Ordinance 2026-04 and sets forth the codification of the Borough's Code of Ordinances. Notices were issued as required, with notice posted in the Bucks County Courier Times on March 24th, 2026.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 2026-05: AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE, ADOPT AND ENACT A CODIFICATION AND RENUMBERING OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF LANGHORNE, COUNTY OF BUCKS, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF EXISTING LEGISLATION, AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN NONSUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS.

BOARD, COMMITTEE & COMMISSION REPORTS:

Planning Commission: Councilperson Schneider said that Planning Commission met last month and discussed the April 30th Comprehensive Plan Visioning Session and the codification ordinances.

Communications Team: Manager Zimmerman said that the Communications Team discussed the Borough's monthly newsletter and the Savvy Citizen texting service. The office has moved forward with getting Savvy Citizen. Councilperson Schneider said that an index has been added to the monthly newsletter for readability and the Savvy Citizen service has been purchased for well below the not-to-exceed amount in the motion passed by Council last month to execute a contract with the preferred emergency notifications service provider. Manager Zimmerman also noted that a flyer for the Borough's residential rental registration program went out with the trash bills. There was more discussion of the trash bills.

Environmental Advisory Committee: President Horwatt said that the EAC is looking to set a date for their Rain Barrel Workshop at Heritage Farm. Councilperson Transue noted that the sign outside of EAC member Bonnie Miles' house says that the workshop will be on June 6th. President Horwatt then announced that the EAC is participating in a joint EAC meeting with all Lower Bucks County EACs in Lower Makefield Township on Saturday, April 25th.

Historic Architectural Review Board: HARB met on April 1st and reviewed the following applications:

- 148 East Marshall Avenue – rebuild of the front covered entry porch with new deck structure and roof, existing feature is rotted and beyond repair. Approval recommended subject to receipt and approval of a sample image of the railing.
- 215 East Richardson Avenue/First Baptist Church of Langhorne – replacement of missing and former sign and information panel. Approval recommended.
- 144 West Richardson Avenue – colors of new front, side and rear doors. Front to be golden wheat and side and rear doors to be royal marine. Approval recommended.
- 146 West Richardson Avenue – colors of new doors, all royal marine. Approval recommended.

Clerk Tenaglia noted that HARB recommended approval of 148 East Marshall Avenue subject to review and approval of the railing sample, which they have received, but he has not received confirmation if

HARB has approved the sample yet. Solicitor Kirk said that Council could approve HARB's recommendation tonight subject to their approval of the railing sample.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Transue, Council voted unanimously to approve the 148 East Marshall Avenue HARB application for the replacement deck subject to HARB's approval of the railing sample.

Councilperson Cumming said that a representative of City Sign Service attended the meeting and their application for the replacement sign at the First Baptist Church was approved, as were the applications for 144 and 146 West Richardson Avenue.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Transue, seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve the rest of the HARB report.

Heritage Farm/Langhorne Open Space: LOSI President Pat Carr announced that the Catawissa Nature Preserve cleanup is on April 18th, the Heritage Farm cleanup is on May 2nd, and May 9th is the Jazz-at-the-Farm concert. The Rain Barrel Workshop will also be held at the farm. Mr. Carr then informed Council that it was discovered a week or so ago that an outlet in the farmhouse living room was aged and in poor condition after Carol Zetterberg noticed a smoky smell. Mr. Carr had an electrician replace the outlet on the Saturday before Easter. He suspected that the other outlets were in similar condition and had the electrician come back the following Monday. He replaced the other outlets he could see on the first and second floor. The total charge was under \$500 and will be paid from the farm rental account. Mr. Carr then told Council that a man who runs a gravestone cleaning and restoration business in Bensalem called Tidy Tombstones, a Mr. Jim Davis, restored the stone with the plaque at the Revolutionary War Cemetery at no charge. He also offered to replace the flag next to the stone with a Betsy Ross-style flag. Mr. Carr asked if Council would approve of this and President Horwatt suggested that he check with Larry Zetterberg, who installed the current flag. Mr. Carr already he spoke with Mrs. Zetterberg, who approved of the change. Mr. Davis also offered to mulch at no charge the tree area near the cemetery where the rhododendrons are planted, as well as cut back or replace a rhododendron that did not grow in correctly. Mr. Carr said that LOSI would be happy to pay for new ones to plant in that spot. Then there was discussion of the replacement tree at the cemetery. Shade Tree Commission Chair Barry Hitchen will confer with Ethan Transue of Transue Tree Service. President Horwatt said that LOSI may want to weigh in about whether an oak tree would be appropriate. Mr. Carr said that Mr. Hitchen can contact him to discuss. Then Vice President Haldeman asked how LOSI is faring with their lawn equipment, and Mr. Carr said that they recently purchased a used commercial zero-turn mower that should serve them well, but some of the other riding mowers need to be fixed. Manager Zimmerman then suggested that the Borough prepare some sort of acknowledgement of Mr. Davis of Tidy Tombstones for his volunteer work on the cemetery. Mayor Truchil suggested a certificate and Mr. Carr said that the LOSI newsletter can include Tidy Tombstones in their list of contributing businesses.

Human Relations Commission: No report.

Recreation Board: Councilperson Mundy said that the Rec Board met last week to discuss the C2P2 grant application. The Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th was a success, and President Horwatt commended Junior Councilperson Cohen for preparing the advertising materials.

Shade Tree Commission: Kari Thomas of Will Travel attended the April 6th Shade Tree meeting to ask about removing trees on the property that were damaged in the last snowstorm. President Horwatt

asked if the office is replacing the trees that were damaged on Maple Avenue. Manager Zimmerman said that the Langhorne Hotel does not want to replace the tree in front of their building.

Zoning/Building Report: The monthly report was received by Council. No discussion.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Zimmerman submitted her monthly report to Council. She is meeting with the Kaos, the owners of 205 West Watson Avenue, on Friday night to discuss the bamboo situation.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Kirk was contacted by a realtor concerning 209 North Bellevue Avenue, which is subject to a Conservation Easement between the Borough, Bucks County, and the property owner. The property owner is looking to potentially sell the property and the realtor is requesting that Council shorten the 90-day notice requirement set forth in the Easement, which was drafted back in 1999. The realtor requested a 30- or 45-day notice period, and Solicitor Kirk said she would suggest a 60-day period to Council. She noted that they still need approval from the county as well. Vice President Haldeman asked if the Borough could defer to the county's decision, and after further discussion Council directed Solicitor Kirk to defer to the county. There was more discussion of the status of the property. Then Vice President Haldeman asked about revising the date on the manager's contract. President Horwatt said that the contract started in April and asked Solicitor Kirk to advise next month on how Council can alter the contract to be on a calendar year basis.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered into Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal matters.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Mundy, Council voted unanimously to exit Executive Session at 8:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Mundy, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zimmerman, Borough Manager / Secretary

Next Council Meeting: May 13th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.