

**Langhorne Borough Council Meeting**  
**February 11, 2026**

A Langhorne Borough Council Meeting was held at Council Chambers on Wednesday, February 11, 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, Sean Mundy, Tim Harris, and Bob Cumming; Mayor Barry Truchil; Junior Council Persons Azura Cohen and Lylah Newell; Chief Kevin Burns; Solicitor Barbara Kirk; Treasurer Ellyn Schoen; Clerk Gabe Tenaglia

**ABSENT:** Manager Mary Zimmerman

President Horwatt called for a moment of silence for Donna Thomas, who recently passed away. Mrs. Thomas was an important member of the community who served in many ways, including as a member of the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Historic Langhorne Association. President Horwatt said that Mrs. Thomas was a wonderful asset to the Borough over the 43 years they worked together.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** President Horwatt said that event permits were submitted earlier today for the Classic Car Show and Langhorne Summer Concert Series. She asked if Council could reserve the dates, June 20<sup>th</sup> and every other Wednesday from May 27<sup>th</sup> to August 19<sup>th</sup>, until the permits can be approved. Solicitor Kirk said yes.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS:** President Horwatt recommended that Councilmembers attend the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Annual Conference. She said that Manager Zimmerman will pay for early registration but Councilmembers who would like to attend should reserve hotel rooms and submit to the Borough for reimbursement. She then announced that the St. James Church is holding a pancake breakfast fundraiser on March 8<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Emergency Relief Association (ERA) of Bucks County. Clerk Tenaglia announced that the celebratory tree lighting for the Borough's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been postponed indefinitely and more information will be shared when a new date is finalized, likely sometime in March, and that there is also an ornament painting workshop at Artful Treasurers at 105 East Maple Avenue on Valentine's Day. Attendees can come in from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to paint heart ornaments that will be hung on the tree at the Richardson House throughout the month of February. President Horwatt said that it is free to attend.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Carol Zetterberg, 129 West Marshall Avenue, announced that the Artists-at-the-farm and Writers-at-the-farm will be creating collective works of art. The themes for the artwork will be announced at a later date. She said that everyone is invited to submit a work of art, not just artists and writers. Mrs. Zetterberg read one of her poems as an example.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Truchil said that he visited the 911 Dispatch Center with Chief Burns to see how calls are processed. He also spoke about the recent snowstorm, for which he declared a snow emergency from midnight on January 25<sup>th</sup> through 9:00 p.m. on January 26<sup>th</sup>. He commended Borough residents for removing their vehicles from the street so the snow plows could come through, and thanked those who offered their properties to residents with no off-street parking. He said that houses for rent typically have more cars than they do parking spaces, which may create problems in the future.

He spoke with Pat Carr, President of LOSI, and they decided on some spots at Heritage Farm that residents could use. He also plans to approach the Jesse W. Soby Post, Pine Watson Shopping Center, the Middletown Country Club, and others in the community. Mayor Truchil then said he had been approached by the organizer of the annual Langhorne Cross Walk with local churches about whether a permit is required to use the gazebo at the Mayor's Playground for the final prayer service at the end of the walk. President Horwatt said that a permit application has not been required in past years as they use the gazebo for less than half an hour and it is open to the public.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Burns said that he intends to repaint speed lines around the Borough after the snow melts. He announced that there have now been 24 stop arm violations in the Borough, and there will be a drug takeback event outside of Borough Hall on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for those looking to dispose of excess or expired medication. President Horwatt said that there is also a medication drop box on the second floor and they accept sharps. Chief Burns then informed Council that the 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. shift was worked twice last month and there were no major crimes. President Horwatt noted that during the snow emergency, the Borough plowed Orchard Lane and asked if the Borough will continue to plow Orchard Lane after future storms. Vice President Haldeman said that it was an emergency situation as emergency vehicles could not access the alley, but if it is only a light snowfall the Borough does not have to plow. Chief Burns said that the Borough should plow the alley if a snow emergency is declared.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The items on the consent agenda are as follows: the minutes for the January 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting; payment of the bills; the following permit and sign applications:

- Event permit applications: Annual Easter Egg Hunt 3/28/26 with a rain date of 4/4/26; Memorial Day Parade 5/25/26; Langhorne Rotary Pet Fair 8/29/26 with a rain date of 9/12/26; African American Museum Juneteenth celebration 6/6/2026 with a rain date of 6/7/26
- Sign permit applications: Banners at Mayors' Playground for Memorial Day Parade, Memorial Day Parade Clothes Collection, and Langhorne Rotary Pet Fair; sign at Jesse W. Soby Post, 115 West Richardson Avenue for Memorial Day Parade

President Horwatt said that Council was unsure whether the check to G&B Construction for the East Richardson Avenue inlet repair should be paid from the general fund or liquid fuels. She asked Engineer George DiPersio to comment, and he said that the Borough could use liquid fuels money if Treasurer Schoen set up a project with PennDOT beforehand, though depending on the scope of the work not all parts of the inlet repair project may qualify for liquid fuels funding. He advised that the Borough may be scrutinized for using liquid fuels funding in this case. Council decided to pay the check from the general fund to be safe. President Horwatt then said that the Classic Car Show and Langhorne Summer Concert Series applications will be approved next month and their dates and locations are reserved.

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

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve the January Treasurer's report.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

**Station 21 Stormwater Conveyance & West Maple Avenue RRFB Crosswalk:** Mr. DiPersio said that due

to the weather, ARRO Consulting has been unable to conduct surveys of the area west of Borough Hall and Station 21 and the West Maple Avenue and Green Street crosswalk. They had intended to survey both areas on the same day. The current plan is to complete the surveys by the end of the month, but if there is still a significant amount of snow on the ground they may be delayed until early March. While this would not put the Maple and Green crosswalk project behind schedule, ARRO would have to move quickly once the survey is completed in order to secure the necessary approval from PennDOT.

**MS4 Sediment Reduction Project:** Mr. DiPersio attended the January 20<sup>th</sup> Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) meeting, where they discussed the partial retrofit of the basin at the United Methodist Church. The Borough had applied for and was not awarded funding from the PA DCED Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP) grant last year, and there was discussion of applying for a PA DEP Growing Greener grant this year. Mr. DiPersio said that both grant programs are suitable for the project, but while the WRPP requires a 15% match, the Growing Greener grant required only a 5% match in 2025 and this may still be the case in 2026. ARRO has applied for the Growing Greener grant on behalf of other municipalities and found that applications including a match slightly above the minimum were more competitive. EAC recommended pursuing the Growing Greener grant, and Mr. DiPersio said that the Borough could also pursue a WRPP grant. Solicitor Kirk asked if Council could put funding from one grant toward the match requirement for the other if the Borough is awarded both. Mr. DiPersio said that this is commonly how these projects are funded but ARRO will confirm with the agencies issuing the funds. There was discussion of the cost of applying for both grants and Mr. DiPersio suggested that the office could handle submission of the WRPP grant application and ARRO could submit the Growing Greener grant, as it is more complicated. Clerk Tenaglia said that he, Manager Zimmerman, and EAC Chair Gina Pardovich met with Ashley Conaway of Senator Farry's office on January 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the project and alternative funding sources, and he believes that Senator Farry's office would be willing to provide a letter of support. Mr. DiPersio said that the WRPP grant is open through the end of May, and the Growing Greener grant application period is usually from April to June. President Horwatt reminded Council that the \$53,000 in recycling money received last year could be put toward a match. Vice President Haldeman asked about the costs; Mr. DiPersio said that the project total last year was around \$160,000 and this amount will likely increase this year to around \$200,000. A lot of the engineering work has already been performed, so the only remaining engineering costs are the cost of finalizing the design and construction observation services.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Schneider, seconded by Councilperson Mundy, Council voted unanimously to authorize ARRO Consulting to submit a grant application for both the PA DCED Watershed Restoration and Protection Program grant and the PA DEP Growing Greener grant for the MS4 sediment reduction project.

**ELECTRIC PRICING:** Manager Zimmerman shared pricing options for two different electrical contractors—Environ and IGS—with Council in advance of the meeting. Councilperson Cumming expressed confusion about the estimates and President Horwatt asked Mayor Truchil to explain. Mayor Truchil said that the Borough is currently paying \$0.09897 per kWh for electric from PECO, which is higher than both alternate options. President Horwatt said that the Borough had 100% renewable energy at one time and she and Mayor Truchil are in support of returning to renewable energy sources. There was also discussion of terminology, specifically the terms “brown” and “green” energy, with the latter referring to energy from renewable sources and the former referring to regular, non-renewable energy sources. President Horwatt said that more information is needed to make a final decision but Council can at least decide whether to go with brown or green energy and have Manager Zimmerman research which energy sources are considered renewable. Councilpersons Mundy and Schneider

recommended disregarding the proposal from Environ because it is more expensive. There was discussion of how many years the Borough's contract should be and Mayor Truchil recommended a four-year contract with IGS. Councilperson Mundy suggested that Manager Zimmerman ask IGS if the Borough could get a green energy contract for the brown energy rate. Councilperson Harris said that Council should have more information before making a decision. Solicitor Kirk said that the matter had been brought before Council tonight because one of the providers said that they would pick up the Borough's energy load for the month of March and invoice them in April, so a decision would have to be made by March. Mayor Truchil pointed out that the Borough's current variable rate with PECO is much higher than either proposal from Environ and IGS, so delaying a month will cost the Borough more money. Councilperson Harris said that Council will still be able to make a decision before March if they wait until the Work Session.

**RESIDENTIAL RENTAL REGISTRATION:** Solicitor Kirk said that Manager Zimmerman is preparing a packet with proposed rates for a residential rental registration fee for Council's review and drafted a final residential rental registration form. Solicitor Kirk advised that Council defer to the Work Session if additional time is needed to review the materials. Clerk Tenaglia explained that Manager Zimmerman is recommending a registration fee of \$75 - \$100 to cover administrative costs of processing applications and issuing certificates. He said that some municipalities have annual registration but the Borough's is every three years. Council decided to defer further discussion.

**NEW APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:** President Horwatt asked Betsy Carr, Chair of the Zoning Hearing Board, to present their appointment recommendations. Mrs. Carr said that the ZHB is asking Council to appoint Polly Lodge and Nancy Culleton as alternates and reappoint David Marrington as a member. Mrs. Lodge and Mr. Marrington should be appointed to three-year terms while Mrs. Culleton should be appointed for a one-year term. Clerk Tenaglia asked for clarification on the term ending dates and Solicitor Kirk said that terms start from the beginning of this year.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Transue, seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to appoint the following board & commission members:

- Adam Zielinski, Rebecca New, and Shirl Bartlett each to the Recreation Board for a five-year term ending in 2030
- Florence Wharton, Carol Deaver, and Michael Berling each to the Planning Commission for a four-year term ending in 2029
- Kirt Niedrist and Anthony Marfia each to the Historic Architectural Review Board for a three-year term ending in 2028
- Carol Deaver as an alternate to the Human Relations Commission for a three-year term ending in 2028
- Dan Kopp to the Shade Tree Commission for a five-year term ending in 2030
- David Marrington to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three-year term ending in 2028
- Nancy Culleton as second alternate and Polly Lodge as third alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board, Mrs. Culleton for a one-year term ending in 2026 and Mrs. Lodge for a three-year term ending in 2028

**APPOINT NEW COUNCIL LIAISONS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:** President Horwatt appointed Councilperson Harris the liaison to the Human Relations Commission and Councilperson Transue to Langhorne Open Space and the Artists at the Farm. Manager Zimmerman will be liaison to Borough Hall.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve advertisement of the following ordinances:

**ORDINANCES 2026-03 & 2026-04:** Solicitor Kirk explained that Ordinances 2026-03 and 2026-04 are necessary to publish the Borough's new digital code. There are two ordinances because some of the proposed revisions to the Borough's code, specifically revisions to the SALDO and Zoning chapters, must be reviewed separately by the Borough's Planning Commission and the Bucks County Planning Commission prior to adoption. She explained that by law, they must be given thirty days to review the changes so the ordinances, if advertised, would be voted on at the April Council meeting. Clerk Tenaglia said that the changes to Zoning and SALDO were submitted to Planning Commission yesterday and to Bucks County Planning Commission earlier today.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted unanimously to approve the following ordinances for advertisement:

Ordinance 2026-03: 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 2026-04: 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.

**BUCKS COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY GRANT RESOLUTIONS:** President Horwatt said that the Borough was awarded three Redevelopment Authority (RDA) grants: one for a new police vehicle, one for upgrading the crosswalk at West Maple Avenue and Green Street, and one for refurbishment of a Penn-del-Middletown Emergency Squad ambulance vehicle. The resolutions before Council are to accept the grant contracts.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Schneider, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolutions 2026-01, 2026-02, and 2026-03 accepting the RDA grant contracts.

**VERIZON CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT:** President Horwatt said that the Borough is supposed to receive free cable service for all municipal properties and libraries, but the Verizon cable franchise agreement states that the Borough has to ask for this service. She also pointed out that the agreement lists the incorrect address for the tax collector and does not include the Langhorne Library. Solicitor Kirk suggested that Council table the agreement subject to the necessary revisions. President Horwatt said that the Borough also has to submit a written request for a public, educational, or governmental (PEG) channel within 120 days of the agreement being approved. Council further discussed the content of the agreement and Pat Carr, President of LOSI, asked if the Borough could use the agreement to have Verizon remove their wires from old telephone poles so PECO can remove them. Solicitor Kirk said that the Borough is beyond the negotiation phase and President Horwatt said that the Borough should keep asking Verizon to remove the wires. Then Council decided to table the agreement pending revisions.

**BOARD, COMMITTEE & COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**Planning Commission:** Councilperson Schneider said that Clerk Tenaglia requested that Planning Commission review the revisions to the Borough's code at their meeting next week. They are also working on the updated Comprehensive Plan, and a Visioning Session is being planned for March. Florence Wharton, who is in charge of the Comprehensive Plan Update, will update Planning Commission next week. They are planning a survey of businesses as part of the economic component of the Comprehensive Plan. Planning Commission is also considering migrating the design components of the TND-1 overlay to the SALDO Ordinance to align with what is being done with the TND-2 overlay. The TND-1 overlay design components are currently in the Zoning Ordinance, which means that design concerns would come before the Zoning Hearing Board, which Planning Commission wants to avoid. Solicitor Kirk said that those sections would have to be eliminated from the Zoning Ordinance and added to SALDO. There was further discussion of this process and the reasons for making this change. Solicitor Kirk advised that Planning Commission prepare a memo with their recommendations for Council's consideration at their next meeting. Clerk Tenaglia clarified that Planning Commission is only required to review the changes to the SALDO and Zoning Ordinances in the Borough's new code.

**Communications Team:** Clerk Tenaglia said that the Communications Team met last month to discuss their responsibilities with new member Councilperson Schneider.

**Historic Architectural Review Board:** Councilperson Cumming said that HARB met to consult with the St. James Church about renovations to one of their buildings. No applications came before HARB for approval.

**Heritage Farm/Langhorne Open Space:** Pat Carr asked if LOSI needs to submit a banner permit application every year for their events, and President Horwatt said that they do. Then Mr. Carr announced that LOSI will start signup for the community gardens at the farm in the next two or three weeks. He also informed Council that Manager Zimmerman received an updated quote from New Jersey Bamboo Landscaping for remediation of the bamboo at Catawissa. They recommended that the bamboo be completely removed from both the Catawissa property and the neighboring property at 205 West Watson Avenue, and advised that putting a barrier between the two properties will not work long-term as the bamboo may grow over it. LOSI recommends that Council accept this quote and that the Borough not be required to pay the cost of remediation. Solicitor Kirk said that the matter is currently in litigation and will take some time. Mr. Carr then presented President Horwatt with a check for \$880 in lieu of taxes on the Catawissa property. She explained that the Borough requires by ordinance payment in lieu of tax from tax-exempt properties.

**Human Relations Commission:** President Horwatt said that the Human Relations Commission has not yet decided on recommendations for new members.

**Recreation Board:** Councilperson Mundy said that the Recreation Board met last week and discussed the Easter Egg Hunt on March 28<sup>th</sup>. He requested donations from Council to help support the event. Solicitor Kirk asked the Recreation Board to provide the same form as last year to submit to Hill Wallack. Councilperson Mundy said that the board also discussed grant funding for the Mayors' Playground community building. President Horwatt said that she may know of an applicable grant.

**Shade Tree Commission:** Councilperson Transue said that the Shade Tree Commission met at the end of January and discussed planting a tree at the Revolutionary War Cemetery on Arbor Day as part of the Borough's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. She reached out to Treasurer Schoen to confirm how much money is in the Shade Tree millage and was told that there is \$1,700 - \$1,800. Shade Tree will work on

deciding on a tree and look into pricing, and will reach out to the Langhorne Borough Business Association and possibly Artful Treasures about having a craft event for children on the same day. The event will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Zoning/Building Inspection:** President Horwatt said that the building and zoning report this month is very hard to follow. Clerk Tenaglia said that the incorrect format was used and this will be corrected next month. Solicitor Kirk noted that the Code Enforcement Officer and Clerk Tenaglia spent a good amount of time on snow enforcement. Councilperson Mundy asked if any citations were issued to businesses and if the Borough's snow removal ordinance is being enforced. Solicitor Kirk said that the Borough first issues courtesy notices for code violations and everyone complied when snow removal notices were issued. Councilperson Mundy said that the Borough's businesses know they are responsible for clearing snow at their properties and should be held accountable. Clerk Tenaglia asked that anyone who sees a problem area notify the Borough. Vice President Haldeman commended LS Land Construction for thoroughly clearing East and West Maple Avenue.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION:** President Horwatt asked Junior Council Persons Cohen and Newell if there is anything happening at Neshaminy High School that Council should be aware of. They said that there is a walkout scheduled for tomorrow in protest of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. There was further discussion and Chief Burns confirmed that the Langhorne Borough Police are not involved.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Schneider, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zimmerman, Borough Manager / Secretary

**Next Council Meeting: March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.**