Langhorne Borough Council Meeting

July 8, 2026

A Langhorne Borough Council Meeting was held at Council Chambers on Wednesday, July 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 Paul Schneider, Kate Transue, Tim Harris, Sean Mundy, and Bob Cumming; Mayor Barry Truchil; Police Chief Kevin Burns; Solicitor Barbara Kirk; Manager Mary Zimmerman; Clerk Gabe Tenaglia

ABSENT: Treasurer Ellyn Schoen

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Horwatt presented Councilperson Cumming with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service on Council. Councilperson Cumming is selling his home and moving out of the Borough, with a settlement date of July 28th, and will be ineligible to continue to serve on Borough Council. Council will accept his resignation at the August Council Meeting and the open Council seat will be advertised to the public. Council will have 30 days from the date they accept Councilperson Cumming's resignation to appoint a new Councilperson.

President Horwatt received an email about The World Cup Great Walk on July 14th, in which a large group will be walking through Langhorne from Philadelphia to MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, for the last game of the World Cup. Mayor Truchil, who also received the email, said that the purpose of the walk is to raise awareness of homelessness worldwide. The event organizer, the Homeless Entrepreneur Foundation, is encouraging people to join and take a few steps with them. Mayor Truchil will give the organizer Chief Burns' contact information in case they will be coming through the Borough, but the organizer did not specify where in Langhorne they will be walking.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Truchil shared more information about the Homeless Entrepreneur Foundation and The World Cup Great Walk. The walk goes 92 miles, and each walker represents 1 million people experiencing homelessness worldwide with the goal of raising awareness and inspiring others to take action.

Mayor Truchil has received complaints from residents about utilities, including cable, installing new wiring into peoples' homes without removing existing cables that are no longer in use. The excess of wires is an eyesore and homeowners who want to remove defunct wires cannot tell which wires are live and which are no longer in use. Mayor Truchil suggested that these concerns be considered in subsequent contracts with utility companies.

Mayor Truchil has received reports of possible vandalism of the Bottle Cap Mural recently installed at the Mayors' Playground, with bottle caps having fallen off and the mural having been marked with black marker. However, the pieces that fell off were glued to other pieces, and it is likely that the excessive heat could have weakened the adhesion. The pieces were returned to the artists to be reattached to the mural.

Chief Burns and the Borough's officers are undertaking training to further their professional development. Chief Burns will participate in a tactical training at the Bucks County Police Training Center

that focuses on single officer engagements with armed adversaries. Officer Walter Hansell attended a Crisis Intervention Training at the same training center.

Mayor Truchil will be teaching a proposed course on civics, local government, and civic engagement, which has been sent to Bucks County Community College. It will be a non-credit course open to the community and will also be taught by the Honorable Gary Gilman of the Court of Common Pleas and Mark Lomax, head of Public Safety at George School. The course will be free to the public and meet on evening a month, and has been favorably reviewed by a Dean at the community college. It will be cosponsored by the community college and The Peace Center.

Mayor Truchil thanked Manager Zimmerman for preparing a detailed summary of the Borough's savings since switching to green energy.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Burns informed Council that Officer Hansell is a full-time employee of the Bucks County Technical High School, and effective July 11th is being promoted to Assistant Principal. He also informed Council that the Southeastern Council did a smoking compliance check in the Borough. This check involves sending a minor into businesses that sell tobacco or nicotine products to see if they can purchase such products. Of the five such businesses in the Borough, three sold to minors. Chief Burns gave the owners or operators a verbal warning and will provide them with literature from the Neshaminy Youth Coalition. Councilperson Schneider asked when they will do another compliance check and Chief Burns said that checks are once or twice a year. If the same businesses fail the next check, Chief Burns will issue citations to the owner or operator.

Chief Burns said that the pedestrian pole at the intersection of Pine Street and Maple Avenue was hit twice in June by tractor trailers. Using the intersection cameras, the police were able to identify the vehicles involved and are working with Manager Zimmerman to bill them for damages. Armour & Sons may have moved the pole back slightly when they reinstalled it, but Chief Burns recommended looking into either installing bollards on the corner to prevent trucks from getting on the sidewalk or moving the pole back further. President Horwatt said that the Borough has applied to PennDOT before for bollards and were turned down, and the priority should be disallowing trucks from using the intersection. Chief Burns then informed Council that the firewall for the police department's computers is nearing the end of its life and he received a quote from HPT Systems, who handles the Borough's cybersecurity. Vice President Haldeman asked where trucks drive onto the sidewalk, and Chief Burns said that they turn right from westbound Maple Avenue onto northbound Pine Street. Vice President Haldeman expressed concern that installing bollards would lead to trucks being unable to make the turn and getting stuck in the intersection. Chief Burns said it would likely only happen once or twice as trucks will stop attempting to make the turn, and said that the alternative is to allow trucks to drive over the sidewalk and replace the pedestrian pole ad nauseam. Manager Zimmerman said that Armour & Sons is looking into pricing for moving the pedestrian pole into a more strategic location farther from the sidewalk but where it is still accessible to those with physical disabilities. There was further discussion of issued posed by trucks turning at the intersection.

Chief Burns reported that he received a call from President Horwatt today about a juvenile male discharging fireworks at the Mayors' Playground. When approached by a community service representative from Juvenile Probation, he responded with disparaging language. Sergeant Michael Phelan and Chief Burns were able to locate the juvenile, who was on an e-bike, and they issued him a warning. They confiscated the e-bike and Chief Burns warned his parents that the next time the e-bike will be towed and traffic citations will be issued for all applicable violations. Vice President Haldeman

asked if the bike was returned and Chief Burns said that an adult came to pick it up. Chief Burns drove the juvenile home. President Horwatt said that the lights at the gazebo at the Mayors' Playground were also damaged again.

Vice President Haldeman returned to the subject of excess unused utility wires in the Borough. He said that the wires sometimes fall, and Mayor Truchil said that people don't know which wires are live and which are not. Manager Zimmerman said that the wires may belong to Verizon or Comcast, and that the procedure for removal is to first call PECO to assess if the wire is live and then contact the utility providers to determine which one the wire belongs to. Councilperson Harris said that he has had experience as a local contractor, and when a contractor goes onto a property to install a new cable, they are not allowed to remove anything that was not installed by them. The homeowner would have to call the company that installed the wire to have it removed. Councilperson Schneider said that the areas of concern are not on private property, and Councilperson Harris said that whoever installed the wire is still the one who has to remove it. There was further discussion of what property owners can do to remove wires and Manager Zimmerman said that people have been cutting wires. President Horwatt asked Solicitor Kirk to research what can be done and suggested consulting the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

CONSENT AGENDA: The items on the consent agenda are as follows: the minutes for the June 10th Council Meeting and the June 25th Work Session; payment of the bills.

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

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT: ARRO Consulting's July Engineer's Report was included in Council's meeting packet. The report reflects the current status of all projects with the exception of the West Maple Avenue and Green Street crosswalk project. Engineer George DiPersio informed Council that as of Monday, ARRO Consulting was waiting for an owner authorization letter from one of the four corner properties at the intersection to resubmit to PennDOT for the required permitting. The signed letter has since been received and they will be resubmitting to PennDOT shortly. President Horwatt said that the Borough was contacted by the analyst for their DCED Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP) grant application for the MS4 Sediment Reduction Project at the United Methodist Church basin. The analyst said to contact him if any work has to be done prior to the grant award. President Horwatt suggested contacting him given the time sensitivity of the project and the present condition of the basin. Manager Zimmerman said that the estimated award announcements for the WRPP funding is this fall, and that the analyst said not to incur costs prior to receiving the grant unless there is an issue. Mr. DiPersio said that it would be helpful if two preparation tasks were completed sooner: clearing the sediment at the outfall pipes and hydro jetting and televising. These tasks could be done ahead of the other work, but Mr. DiPersio advised against having it done too far ahead of the award announcements as the Borough may have to cover the cost. He said that the two pipes coming into the basin are almost completely buried, and advised that the Borough should consider having a contractor ensure there is free flow out of the pipes regardless of the outcome of their WRPP grant application. Mr. DiPersio said that he will coordinate with Manager Zimmerman.

MAYORS' PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT BENCHES: President Horwatt announced that the Langhorne

Rotary Club will give the Borough $2,000 to replace two benches at the Mayors' Playground. She said that it saves money for the Borough to order the benches as the Borough is tax-exempt, and the Rotary Club will reimburse them afterwards. She said that the order form has been filled out and asked Manager Zimmerman to forward it to Treasurer Schoen when she is back in the office next week. Solicitor Kirk asked how much the benches are; President Horwatt said that the actual cost is $1,996 and the Rotary Club will reimburse the Borough for $2,000. She said that the benches will be delivered to Allegiance Trucks at Oxford Valley Road and the Borough will coordinate delivery to the playground.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Schneider, seconded by Councilperson Mundy, Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of two replacement benches at the Mayors' Playground for $1,996 to be reimbursed by the Langhorne Rotary Club.

ADOPTION OF UTILITIES ORDINANCE: President Horwatt said that Council will consider whether to adopt an ordinance requiring utilities to restore roads after roadway openings similar to the ordinance adopted by Northampton Township. She said that all the road openings on Richardson Avenue have marred the appearance of the roadway. Manager Zimmerman said that Chalfont Borough has a similar ordinance. Councilperson Schneider expressed support for such an ordinance. Vice President Haldeman said that the Borough should require milling to a finished grade and President Horwatt said that Northampton Township's ordinance requires milling from curb to curb. Solicitor Kirk asked if the Borough could require that old wires be removed when there is utility line replacement of existing wires to the utility pole in the right-of-way. Manager Zimmerman asked Councilperson Harris if he has come across any ordinances requiring removal of old wires. He said that he has not, and explained that the company that installed the wires originally has to give permission to remove them, but if the same company is replacing their own wires they can be required to remove them.

CODE APPEALS BOARD: President Horwatt asked if the draft resolution for the Borough's Code Appeals Board is ready to advertise. Manager Zimmerman said that a resolution has been drafted but it needs discussion first. Solicitor Kirk has also drafted an advertisement to recruit members to the Code Appeals Board. She suggested establishing a three-member board with two alternates, with staggered terms. She said that Council can consider the application while the Borough considers applicants, and the first step is to move forward with the advertisement.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Harris, Council voted unanimously to advertise the creation of the Langhorne Borough Code Appeals Board.

IGS SAVINGS UPDATE: Manager Zimmerman announced that the Borough has saved $681 dollars since switching to IGS as the Borough's energy supplier. She noted that this number does not include fees from taxes, and the Borough pays an all-in rate to IGS. Vice President Haldeman asked how long the Borough's agreement with IGS is and Manager Zimmerman said it is a four-year agreement.

BOARD, COMMITTEE & COMMISSION REPORTS:

Planning Commission: Councilperson Schneider said that Planning Commission did not meet last month. At their next meeting they will discuss the Comprehensive Plan Update, the Zoning Ordinance amendments, and the Light Industrial District. He asked if anyone on Council would like to be involved in the committee overseeing the rewrite of the Zoning Ordinance. He said that he will be involved. President Horwatt said that she will pass her suggestions along to Planning Commission member Florence Wharton.

Communications Team: Manager Zimmerman said that the Communications Team met last month and discussed trash bill inserts for Savvy Citizen and the Borough's residential rental registration program, which went out with the July trash bills. They also discussed updates to the July newsletter and publicizing the Red, White & Blue Dinner on Sunday, July 19th. Clerk Tenaglia said that he contacted the Borough's community organizations to see if any members of those organizations wished to be represented at the dinner before seats were opened to the public. He gave them a deadline of end-of-day this Wednesday to respond. He said that coordination is needed with the planning committee for the dinner about what will be shared with the public. President Horwatt said that she didn't receive any notice despite being a member of several community organizations. Mayor Truchil asked if guests who are already registered have to confirm their reservations, and Manager Zimmerman said that all registered guests were already contacted to confirm their seats.

Environmental Advisory Council: No report.

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

- 303 West Maple Avenue, replace rotting tongue & groove wood flooring with ironstone PVC. Application tabled in favor of owner reviewing acceptable alternatives.
- 100 West Maple Avenue/Langhorne Hotel, replace existing windows with Anderson 400 aluminum clad wood windows. Approval recommended contingent upon sale of property, grille design to be 2 over 2 for all windows, existing wood trim to be retained and repaired, and aluminum capping of trim to be avoided.
- 102 West Maple Avenue/Richardson House, install 8' handicap. HARB previously recommended and Council approved application with white finish; HARB amended their recommendation to accept aluminum finish as the manufacturer does not recommend white finish.

President Horwatt expressed concern that the condition of approval for the Langhorne Hotel to avoid aluminum capping was vague. Councilperson Cumming said that the windows at the hotel are set into the masonry so the existing materials cannot be identified until they are taken out, hence HARB's condition that wood be used to replace if possible. Vice President Haldeman asked about the material for the Richardson House ramp, and Councilperson Cumming explained that it is aluminum. He said that the ramp was initially approved with white finish, but the contractor would not provide the ramp in white so HARB permitted the aluminum finish.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Schneider, Council voted unanimously to approve the July HARB report.

Heritage Farm/Langhorne Open Space: Carol Zetterberg of Langhorne Open Space announced that there are 100 garden spots at Heritage Farm and there are a dozen Artists-at-the-farm creating new art projects. There will be a show displaying their work. Langhorne Open Space is planning to work with the Jesse W. Soby Post and a group of reenactors called the Marbleheaders to hold a reenactment on the last Saturday of September. The reenactment educates children about what it was like to be a soldier in colonial times. The location of the reenactment is to be determined. Mrs. Zetterberg also said that she attended the Middletown Township Planning Commission Meeting last week, where they heard a proposal by a developer to log the twenty-acre forest along North Flowers Mill Road and Maple Avenue and replace it with multi-use residential apartments, a parking garage, and various stores. She said this would have a huge impact on the Borough. The proposal was not voted on as it was just an introductory

meeting. Mrs. Zetterberg spoke against the detrimental environmental impact of such a development and said that this issue affects everyone in the Borough. President Horwatt thanked her for keeping Council informed.

Recreation Board: Councilperson Mundy said that the Recreation Board is preparing for the Pet Fair at the Mayors' Playground on August 29th, and the Bottle Cap Mural dedication on July 1st was a success.

Shade Tree Commission: Councilperson Transue said that the Shade Tree Commission did not meet this week, but Shade Tree President Barry Hitchen will reach out to Manager Zimmerman and Clerk Tenaglia about amending the Shade Tree Ordinance. She also said that the Borough website has to be amended as the Shade Tree Commission page offers the services of an arborist, which they no longer have.

Zoning/Building Inspection: President Horwatt questioned the denial of the sign permit application for the First Baptist Church of Langhorne at 215 East Richardson Avenue. She spoke of the difficulties faced by the Borough's churches due to having to comply with the Borough's ordinances, which would allow a new sign to be no more than 2'x4'. Councilperson Harris said that the proposed sign is smaller than what was existing and will go between the posts where the old sign had been located. He said it is a replacement of the old sign. Manager Zimmerman said this was expressed to the office earlier this afternoon and it will have to be discussed with the zoning officer if it is replacement of an existing sign rather than a new installation. There was discussion of how to provide zoning relief to the Borough's churches, and Solicitor Kirk suggested that if the church has to come before the Zoning Hearing Board, they submit a letter to Council to waive the applicable fees. President Horwatt said that this has been done in the past and has cost the Borough thousands of dollars. Councilperson Schneider said that he reviewed what the Borough's Zoning Code says about nonconforming signs and suggested that the church's sign could be approved as a nonconforming sign. There was further discussion and President Horwatt said the Borough will continue to seek a resolution.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Zimmerman submitted her written report to Council. She spoke with Amazon and Truck Solutions about reimbursement for damages to the pedestrian pole at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Pine Street and it will be moving forward. She will also submit through the Borough's insurance for the street light that was knocked over on West Maple Avenue. She has reached out to Crown Castle, LLC about their proposed small cell wireless facility in the Borough and has not heard back. She also spoke with the Sottungs, the owners of 110 East Maple Avenue, regarding repair of the hole that had opened up on their property. They have not yet signed the Professional Services Agreement for the services of the Borough engineer, but she is working with them to address their questions. One possibility to address the issues at 110 East Maple Avenue would be to include it in a Bucks County Redevelopment Authority grant application to repair the apron of the Langhorne-Middletown Fire Company next door. Other grant funding could be sought as well for drainage issues. Vice President Haldeman asked about communications with Crown Castle, LLC. Manager Zimmerman has been reaching out to them monthly.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Kirk asked Councilperson Harris about the status of the Parking Agreement between the Borough and the First Baptist Church of Langhorne. She said that a letter of agreement was signed for the Borough's DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grant application, but a formal agreement should be signed and sent to the DCNR as soon as possible. Manager Zimmerman said that the formal Parking Agreement was sent to the church. Councilperson Harris said that he will find out if trustees had a chance to review the agreement. He said that there may have been a misunderstanding about the purpose of the Parking Agreement. There was further

discussion about the letter of agreement and the formal agreement and President Horwatt said the church should be sent both the letter and the Parking Agreement so it is clear what the difference is between them.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sarah Kearns-Sivulich, 409 North Pine Street, spoke about her ongoing issues with trash collection. She and her husband just moved to the Borough this April and were told that their trash was collected by Waste Management, but after finding out that their home was located in Langhorne Borough, they switched to Leck Waste Services, which has since been acquired by Republic Services. She contacted Republic several times and has been in contact with Clerk Tenaglia, and spoke with a Republic driver today who informed her that their address is not on their list. Republic has informed her that the service address they have on file is not the same as her home address. Manager Zimmerman said that the Borough office has been in contact with multiple Republic representatives, and one of the managers was going to look at their driveway and speak with the drivers. Mrs. Kearns-Sivulich said that 232 North Pine Street is the service address Republic has associated with 409 North Pine Street and they report being unable to change it in their system. Manager Zimmerman said that she can speak to Republic about the incorrect service address. There was further discussion about trash pickup at 409 North Pine Street and trash pickup issues throughout the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Mundy, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zimmerman, Borough Manager / Secretary

Next Council Meeting: August 12th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.