Langhorne Borough Council Meeting

June 10, 2026

A Langhorne Borough Council Meeting was held at Council Chambers on Wednesday, June 10, 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, Sean Mundy, and Bob Cumming; Mayor Barry Truchil; Police Chief Kevin Burns; Solicitor Barbara Kirk; Manager Mary Zimmerman; Clerk Gabe Tenaglia; Junior Council Person Azura Cohen

ABSENT: Councilpersons Kate Transue and Tim Harris; Treasurer Ellyn Schoen; Junior Council Person Lylah Newell

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Horwatt announced that Recreation Board member Jaidyn New, a senior at Lower Bucks Technical High School, was awarded two scholarships from the Langhorne Rotary Club for her volunteerism at the Mayors' Playground: the Eugene W. Hieber Scholarship Award and the Walter T. Styer, Jr. Scholarship Award. She invited Ms. New to speak about her work with the Recreation Board. Ms. New said that she and a friend started the face painting at the Langhorne Rotary Pet Fair & Family Fun Day and she assists with cleaning the Playground. President Horwatt said that Ms. New also assists with the Easter Egg Hunt and plans activities for children at the playground.

Councilperson Mundy attended the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs' Annual Conference in Hershey, PA. He met several good vendors, municipal officials throughout the state, and made contacts for assisting with maintenance and equipment for the Mayors' Playground. President Horwatt recommended that other Borough officials attend.

President Horwatt asked for an update on the Red, White & Blue Dinner. Manager Zimmerman said that they are monitoring the weather. Chief Burns said that he will close off the street; Manager Zimmerman said that the street closure is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. President Horwatt said that volunteers will help set up the tables and chairs at 3:30 p.m. and move them into the street once it is closed.

Councilperson Schneider reported that Senator Frank Farry and Representative Joe Hogan announced that PennDOT is open to retaining the service roads pending discussions with Middletown Township and Langhorne Manor Borough as part of the Section RC3 U.S. 1 Improvements Project. However, PennDOT referred to service roads without direct connections to U.S. 1, which leaves it unclear if they are referring to service roads with no start or end or if the roads will be accessible but not have a connection to U.S. 1. President Horwatt said that she and Councilperson Schneider attended the Middletown Township Board of Supervisors Meeting on Monday. They spoke with the Board of Supervisors after the meeting and the Chairperson expressed willingness to have Middletown maintain the service roads. Vice President Horwatt said that the letter from PennDOT to Senator Farry and Representative Hogan made no commitment that the service roads will be retained, and implies that the municipalities will have to maintain the existing service roads within their municipal limits. Councilperson Schneider urged people to ask Senator Farry and Representative Hogan to lobby against the RC3 Project, citing a project in South Philadelphia in which a state representative and city councilperson successfully lobbied PennDOT to save baseball fields slated to be bulldozed for the ramp to the Walt Whitman Bridge. President Horwatt said that Senator Farry has expressed willingness to mediate with PennDOT and local municipalities.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Penndel-Middletown Emergency Squad (PMES) Director Andrew Schifferli said that the PMES is hosting a food drive for the Penndel Food Pantry on Durham Road. This Sunday they are collecting food at the Redner's Warehouse Market in Levittown and on Sunday the 27th they are collecting at the Giant supermarket on New Falls Road.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Truchil met with Mayor Bob Byrne of Langhorne Manor Borough last week. They covered many topics, including establishing a series of meetings of local mayors to discuss areas of common concern. Mayor Byrne expressed concern about public safety risks for residents in the Manor created by the RC3 Project's proposed elimination of service roads and the interchange. Mayor Truchil said that retaining the service roads while eliminating their entrances and exits does not alleviate public safety risks.

Mayor Truchil spoke with Kari Thomas, President of the Langhorne Borough Business Association (LBBA), who will assist in providing a list of phone numbers of the LBBA's organizations.

Mayor Truchil attended the funeral of Linda Salley, President and Executive Director of the African American Museum of Bucks County (AAMBC) at the First Baptist Church of Langhorne. Many attendees complimented the police officers who assisted with managing the traffic. Due to the large turnout, many people had to park away from the church and cross busy streets, and the officers on duty stopped traffic so they could cross safely.

Mayor Truchil received a few calls from residents about trash from events at the Mayors' Playground, as many bags of garbage were left by the trash receptacles and there were concerns that pests could get into the refuse. He suggested considering ways to make sure garbage can be removed from the vicinity after events.

El Limon will soon have outdoor seating for patrons. Mayor Truchil said that if there are no objections or regulations against it, he will suggest a table-sharing arrangement in which El Limon can use the Langhorne Coffee House's tables at night and the Coffee House can use El Limon's during the day. There may be a brief time when their hours of operation overlap, but Mayor Truchil expressed confidence that any issues that may arise from this can be resolved.

Mayor Truchil will continue working with Chief Burns to modernizing the police department to handle new technologies associated with law enforcement.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: The Langhorne Borough Police Department assisted the Penndel Police Department with their physical agility test for a full-time officer. The test was at the Mayors' Playground. They had ten applicants scheduled and three showed up, and two passed the written test. On June 19th Chief Burns will participate in an oral interview panel for Penndel's next full-time officer. He informed Council that there were some incidents over at The Woods School property where young men entered some buildings and caused property damage. He was able to identify some of the perpetrators and will likely refer them to the Youth Aid Panel in Middletown as they are first-time offenders. The panel will determine restitution for the damages with their offenders' parents. Chief Burns also expects the police records reporting system upgrades to be completed tomorrow. President Horwatt thanked Chief Burns and his officers for covering the Juneteenth Festival at the Mayors' Playground on June 6th.

CONSENT AGENDA: The items on the consent agenda are as follows: the minutes for the May 13th Council Meeting and the May 28th Work Session; payment of the bills.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Mundy, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted 5-0 to approve the consent agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT: On motion of Councilperson Schneider, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted 5-0 to approve the May Treasurer's Report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Grant Updates: Engineer George DiPersio informed Council that ARRO Consulting submitted the Borough's PA DCED Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP) for the MS4 basin retrofit project at the Langhorne United Methodist Church at the end of May. The Borough is seeking a second grant for the project, the PADEP Growing Greener Plus grant, and his office is working on compiling the materials necessary to submit the grant application. The Growing Greener Plus grant requires a match for work taking place outside areas defined by the Department of Environmental Protection as environmental justice areas. The portion of the basin retrofit in Middletown is considered an environmental justice area, but the portion in the Borough is not. The project has also expanded to include remediation of the bamboo that has taken over the western side of the basin, which has increased the cost. Mr. DiPersio said that the Growing Greener Plus program will allow for an up to three-year lookback for expenditures to be considered as matching funds. The cost expended to prepare grant applications would not qualify, but funds the Borough has spent on preparing the design would. Mr. DiPersio also informed Council that any match provided over the 5% minimum makes the application more competitive. A 5% match for the current estimated total for the Growing Greener Plus application would not exceed $13,000. ARRO Consulting recommends that the Borough use their expenditures to date toward their match, which he estimates at around $11,000. He said that the Borough could provide an almost 10% match if they include previously-expended funds which would make their application very competitive.

Discussion of Match Commitment for PADEP Growing Greener Plus Grant: Mr. DiPersio asked for guidance from Council in establishing limitations for the matching funds so a match commitment letter can be prepared for submission with the grant application. He said that if the Borough is awarded WRPP funding it can potentially serve as a match for the Growing Greener Plus grant. President Horwatt said that the Borough has sizeable amounts in endowments and in Capital Projects to pay for matches. She said that the Borough also budgeted for a grant match for the Mayors' Playground community building project in the General Fund and the Borough expects to receive money for recycling this year. She asked for Mr. DiPersio's recommendation for a dollar amount for the Growing Greener Plus match. Mr. DiPersio advised that offering a match when the entire project may be exempt increases the competitiveness of the Borough's application, as does providing a match above the minimum. He said that the matching funds commitment letter does not need to have a specific dollar figure. His office's recommendation is a cash amount not to exceed $13,000 plus the amount already expended on the project. He explained that the match has to be split into two totals: one for the cash match and one for the previous expenditures. His office will cross-reference all their invoicing to date for an exact dollar amount for the previous expenditures. The grant application is due on June 22nd and his office hopes to have the application submitted by June 19th. Manager Zimmerman is procuring commitment letters from the owners of the affected properties and his office is taking care of all other materials. He said that support letters would also be helpful. President Horwatt said that support letters should be provided by the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), Senator Frank Farry, and Representative Joe Hogan.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Schneider, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted 5-0 to commit to providing matching funds for the Borough's PADEP Growing Greener Plus grant application of $13,000 in cash and previous expenditures to be verified and not to exceed $12,000.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMIT: The Borough's event permit application has been updated to reflect what was discussed at last month's Council Work Session. It includes Addendum A for wine and beer and requires a notarized statement of permission by the property owner, their agent, or another party in lawful possession of the property. Solicitor Kirk said that an indemnity agreement with the Borough is required, which she drafted and included in the event permit application as Addendum B. She also prepared the draft resolution authorizing possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages to be revised and approved on an individual basis for each event involving alcohol. She removed the two beverage per person limit as requested by Council.

RED, WHITE & BLUE DINNER EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION AMENDMENT: President Horwatt asked if a resolution approving possession and consumption of alcohol is needed for the Red, White & Blue Dinner on June 14th. Solicitor Kirk said that a letter requesting permission to have alcoholic beverages at the event was submitted by Clerk Tenaglia as a member of the 150th anniversary planning committee, and she crafted a resolution to reflect the specific event. President Horwatt noted that the dinner does not have a rain date. Manager Zimmerman said that members of the 150th anniversary planning committee are considering how to proceed if the event is rained out. Solicitor Kirk said that the resolution lists the dinner as being on June 14th, 2026, but if the event is rescheduled the 150th anniversary planning committee could submit another letter requesting permission to have alcoholic beverages on the new date and another resolution would be approved.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Mundy, Council voted 5-0 to approve Resolution 2026-07: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF LANGHORNE, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT 150TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE'S RED, WHITE AND BLUE DINNER ON JUNE 14, 2026.

LECK WASTE SERVICES ISSUES WITH SERVICE: Bonnie Miles, 150 North Bellevue Avenue, said that for the last few weeks yard waste has been disposed of with the solid waste instead of being disposed of separately as required, and today it was not picked up at all. Last Wednesday Mrs. Miles contacted Leck Waste Services, which has been acquired by Republic Services, and submitted a complaint about the yard waste and solid waste being combined. She was given a complaint number and was told she would receive a call within three business days to follow up, but has not received a phone call as of yet. She said that the Borough has a contract with Leck to pick up yard waste from April to November. She expressed hope that the issue can be resolved and service can continue as normal. Manager Zimmerman said that she spoke with a Leck representative on Monday about various issues with the Borough's trash pickup and will follow up with the representative again. She said that the office received four new complaints today. Solicitor Kirk suggested withholding payment until the issues with trash pickup are resolved. Manager Zimmerman said that she will have their check pulled from the bills to go out tomorrow. Vice President Haldeman said to tell Leck that the Borough will withhold payment. Manager Zimmerman spoke more about the issues that had been reported by residents. Solicitor Kirk suggested contacting the Leck representative who worked with the Borough on their current contract. President Horwatt mentioned the concerns about trash left at the Mayors' Playground after events. She said it was picked up this morning but has to be picked up the day after the event. Manager Zimmerman said it was not picked up the next day due to a miscommunication.

BOARD, COMMITTEE & COMMISSION REPORTS:

Planning Commission: Councilperson Schneider said that the Borough's DCED Municipal Assistance Program (MAP) grant application was approved. The MAP grant will enable the Borough to modernize the Zoning Ordinance and remove the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) establishing ordinance from the Zoning Ordinance. He said this will likely be an eighteen-month to two-year process, and the Langhorne Borough Planning Commission will be working with the Bucks County Planning Commission. Councilperson Schneider asked if Council would prefer Planning Commission to undertake the project themselves or to establish a committee made up of members of various Borough organizations. He, Planning Commission members, and Manager Zimmerman felt it would be best to have a combination of Planning Commission, Council, HARB, Manager Zimmerman, and the Zoning Officer or Zoning Hearing Board review the Zoning Ordinance. Solicitor Kirk suggested that the Zoning Hearing Board solicitor be involved as well because of his experience with zoning issues. Planning Commission also discussed periodically including the Borough Solicitor and Borough Engineer, and they recommend simplifying the review process by conducting the review during the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings except in special cases. Council did not object to having a cross-section of Council and committee members and Borough employees review the Zoning Ordinance, or to conducting their review as part of Planning Commission's monthly meetings.

President Horwatt then brought up House Bill 2186, which recently passed in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The bill would permit accessory dwelling units (ADUs) as a use by right in every municipality with zoning in which a residential building is a permitted use, with some exceptions. Councilperson Schneider said that House Bill 2186 would take away municipalities' ability to regulate ADUs, which have been discussed by Planning Commission. President Horwatt said that the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC) oppose this bill because of this limit on local governments' power. Vice President Haldeman spoke in support of the bill, stating that it promotes housing. There was discussion of specific aspects of the bill, and Councilperson Schneider asked what action the Borough can take. President Horwatt said that PSAB is asking people to contact their senators and urge them to vote against the bill. Councilperson Schneider said that the bill would effectively permit an ADU on any residential property and reiterated his opposition on the grounds that the bill would limit the Borough's ability to make decisions about what best serves the community.

Communications Team: Manager Zimmerman said that the Communications Team discussed ways to better advertise Savvy Citizen. Some banners and signs have already been put up and there has been outreach at Borough events, which will continue. There was also discussion of the Borough newsletter and notifying local media contacts of upcoming Borough events.

Environmental Advisory Council: EAC member Bonnie Miles said that they held their second annual Rain Barrel workshop on June 6th. Sixteen barrels were provided and supplies were provided to participants for $20 per person. Mrs. Miles' husband Peter demonstrated how to assemble a rain barrel. She said that participants sent her pictures of their rain barrels and President Horwatt asked for those pictures to be sent to the office staff to include in communications. Mrs. Miles said that Clerk Tenaglia prepared an Adopt-a-Storm-Drain volunteer signup sheet and one volunteer signed up to help clean the storm drain at West Marshall at the base of the hill. EAC will continue promoting the signup sheets at Borough events. President Horwatt acknowledged the volunteer efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Miles, who spent their wedding anniversary driving to pick up the rain barrels.

Historic Architectural Review Board: HARB met on June 3rd and approved the following applications:

- 119 East Marshall Avenue – replace fence and gate along the west side of the yard and construct a matching fence that continues the west side fence on the east side of the property. Also includes replacement of existing gate in front of property. Approval recommended with owner to ensure that gate locations perpendicular to the house will match existing height.
- 153 West Marshall Avenue – Repair-Replace-In-Kind (RRIK) fast-track application for complete tear-off and replacement of existing asphalt shingle roofing system with GAF Timberline HDZ architectural shingles. Approval recommended.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Schneider, seconded by Councilperson Mundy, Council voted 5-0 to approve the June HARB report.

Heritage Farm/Langhorne Open Space: No report.

Human Relations Commission: No report.

Shade Tree Commission: President Horwatt announced that Council has received a nomination to appoint Nicole Strickland, who lives at 115 Hill Avenue, to the Shade Tree Commission.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Mundy, seconded by Councilperson Haldeman, Council voted 5-0 to appoint Nicole Strickland to the Shade Tree Commission.

Recreation Board: Councilperson Mundy said that the Recreation Board met yesterday. They discussed the Easter Egg Hunt, which was a success, and as well as future events and activities. They are also looking into possible upgrades to the playground if the DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant application comes through. Councilperson Mundy met a local vendor from Fairless Hills at the PSAB annual conference who does custom designs for parks, and the vendor agreed to put together a design free of charge. President Horwatt said that the Langhorne Rotary Club was awarded a grant to donate two benches to the Mayors' Playground. Councilperson Mundy said that he will follow up with the Rotary Club regarding the design and pricing.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Schneider, seconded by Vice President Haldeman, Council voted 5-0 to accept the Zoning/Building Inspection Report.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Zimmerman submitted her written report. She updated Council on the water service line in the back of the fire station, which suffered a break on May 16th. The Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA) is coordinating with Fire Chief Frank Farry to repair the driveway and sidewalk. BCWSA says that the break was an isolated incident. Manager Zimmerman also informed Council that the office put out a public notice stating that the Borough is working to address trash issues. She said that she has been in contact with Treasurer Schoen, who emailed Leck that the Borough is withholding payment. Vice President Haldeman asked for a monthly update on Crown Castle LLC's proposed small cell wireless facility. Manager Zimmerman said that no one from Crown Castle has returned her emails. She will continue to reach out. President Horwatt then announced that the Borough's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program award is complete. All funds are obligated and all remaining funding has been returned to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Councilperson Schneider asked if the illegal dumping of concrete into the storm drain at 178 North Pine

Street in the Pine Watson Shopping Center is still being investigated. Manager Zimmerman said that a notice of violation was sent to the contractor working at the site and the property manager of the Pine Watson Shopping Center, and a stop work order was issued.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lee Merrick, 238 North Bellevue Avenue, expressed concern about kids riding dirt bikes up and down West Marshall and North Bellevue Avenues. He asked if something can be done, and said that his wife nearly hit someone riding a dirt bike as the bikes do not have lights. Mr. Merrick sent videos of the dirt bike riders to Manager Zimmerman and spoke with Chief Burns. He said that while he understands the dangers of chasing after the riders, he is worried about possible accidents. Chief Burns said that when the police can apprehend them, they will, and he has instructed his officers to have their bikes towed. They will issue any citations applicable to the situation. He explained that he and his offices cannot pursue them as a chase will lead to more reckless driving and the police department could be found liable in event of an accident. He said that anyone who knows the riders can contact the police, who will write them tickets. There was further discussion about enforcement measures and ways to identify the offenders. Manager Zimmerman suggested starting an informational campaign to educate the public on motor vehicle laws and what vehicles are and are not permitted on the streets. There was discussion of what to do with pictures and videos of the kids riding dirt bikes and Solicitor Kirk advised against sharing pictures of minors publicly. Chief Burns said that they should be sent to the police and he can use his contacts to identify the offenders.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Council entered into Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. to discuss legal matters. Council returned to public session at 9:02 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Vice President Horwatt, Council voted 5-0 to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zimmerman, Borough Manager / Secretary

Next Council Meeting: July 8th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.