

Langhorne Borough Work Session
February 26, 2026

A Langhorne Borough Work Session was held at Council Chambers on Thursday, February 26, 2026. President Horwatt called the session 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, Sean Mundy, Tim Harris, and Bob Cumming; Junior Council Person Azura Cohen; Solicitor Barbara Kirk; Manager Mary Zimmerman; Clerk Gabe Tenaglia

ABSENT: Junior Council Person Lylah Newell

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilperson Mundy announced that March 28th is the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The rain date is April 4th. He asked for donations to help support the event.

EVENT PERMIT APPLICATIONS: President Horwatt said that Council will review the event permit applications individually as more discussion is needed for the application submitted by Jon Rothstein for the use of the Mayors' Playground as a location for the filming of a microbudget, independent feature film.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Schneider, seconded by Councilperson Transue, Council voted unanimously to approve the event permit application for the Classic Car Show on June 20th from noon to 7:00 p.m. along Maple Avenue.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Mundy, Council voted unanimously to approve the event permit application for the Summer Concert Series every other Wednesday from May 27th to August 19th from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Richardson House park.

Hulmeville Soccer Club: President Horwatt noted that the dates the Hulmeville Soccer Club has asked to use the Mayors' Playground for soccer games and practices are different from previous years. She asked Councilperson Mundy to contact the new president of the Hulmeville Soccer Club and explain to him that there are certain days that the Borough does not want them to use the soccer fields such as the day of the Easter Egg Hunt and Memorial Day.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Transue, Council voted unanimously to approve the event permit application for the Hulmeville Soccer Club to use the soccer field at the Mayors' Playground for practices and games from March 23rd to May 30th, Monday through Thursday 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Application for Filming at Playground: Jon Rothstein, the filmmaker who submitted an event permit application to use the Mayors' Playground for his feature film, was in attendance via Zoom. After some technical difficulties were resolved he explained to Council that he is making a movie around Newtown, Bucks County and would like to use the Mayors' Playground for two hours one morning to film a scene. In the scene, the main character, who will be named godfather to his nephew, is playing on the playground with his niece before his nephew's baptism. President Horwatt asked what his film is about and Mr. Rothstein explained that it is based on his personal experience living with narcolepsy and

focuses on the main character trying to be a responsible godparent and legal guardian to his niece and nephew while struggling with the symptoms of narcolepsy. President Horwatt then asked how Mr. Rothstein will prevent other children using the playground from being filmed. He said that he can reserve the space for filming or bring consent for appearance forms to ensure people are not filmed without their consent, whichever Council would prefer. There was some confusion about when he would be filming and he said he would only need two hours on one day but was advised to request the period of March 23rd to the 27th. Manager Zimmerman explained that she spoke with Mr. Rothstein and they decided to have a range of dates instead of a rain date in case inclement weather prevented shooting for several days. President Horwatt said that volunteers do work on the playground from 10:00 a.m. and they are forbidden from being filmed. She said that no one else should appear in the film. She then asked where Mr. Rothstein would be filming and he said that he would be filming the swings and slide. Councilperson Schneider asked how the film would be shared with the public and Mr. Rothstein explained that the film will be submitted to film festivals, and if there is no other viable avenue they will self-distribute the film for theatrical and at-home release. President Horwatt said the playground will be busy the week of the 23rd to 27th with preparations for the Easter Egg Hunt, which may conflict with filming. After further discussion it was decided that filming should take place sometime between March 30th and April 1st. Mr. Rothstein answered additional questions from Councilmembers and Mayor Truchil about securing consent to appear in the film, how the Borough will be credited, the number of actors and crew members on site, and the equipment that will be used. There will be four crew members and two actors and the only equipment needed is a camera and two lights. President Horwatt noted that vehicles are not permitted on the playground this time of year. Manager Zimmerman asked Mr. Rothstein to reach out to the office to confirm when he will be filming.

MOTION: On motion of Vice President Haldeman, seconded by Councilperson Mundy, Council voted unanimously to approve Mr. Rothstein's event permit application to film at the Mayors' Playground one morning between 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. with the amended date range of March 30th to April 1st.

VERIZON FRANCHISE AGREEMENT: Manager Zimmerman said that she spoke with Phil Fraga of Cohen Law Group, who explained that getting a public, educational, or governmental (PEG) for the Borough would be quite expensive and while Verizon may contribute, they are not required to do so. He said that the cost of the required labor and equipment could run from \$10,000 to \$100,000, and having broadcasting bulletins would require the same setup. The Borough would also have to go through the process separately with Comcast to get a PEG channel on Comcast channels. Mr. Fraga also said that there is no precedent for Verizon providing free cable service to municipal properties; while other cable providers have done so under other circumstances, Verizon never has. Vice President Haldeman asked what would happen if the Borough did not approve the agreement, and Solicitor Kirk explained that the Borough would not receive franchise fees from Verizon. There was further discussion of the agreement and franchise fees.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Cumming, seconded by Councilperson Schneider, Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2026-04 authorizing execution of the cable franchise agreement between the Borough and Verizon.

ENERGY SERVICE UPDATES & DISCUSSION: Manager Zimmerman presented an updated proposal from IGS Energy that she received this afternoon. IGS does not offer reduced pricing for green energy as they already offer the lowest price, and it costs slightly higher than brown energy as it requires renewable energy certificates. Councilperson Cumming said that the energy the Borough receives through the power lines is not renewable. President Horwatt said that their green energy comes from hydro, solar,

and wind, and Councilperson Cumming objected that the Borough does not receive its energy from those sources. He said they should go with the lowest price. Councilperson Schneider pointed out that the differential between a four-year contract for brown and green energy is \$400. Mayor Truchil said that the IGS representative is recommending a three-year contract, but the rate goes down from year three to year four. He asked why the Borough shouldn't go with a four-year contract and Manager Zimmerman explained that the recommendation was based on there being possible price fluctuations in electrical service due to AI data centers. There was more discussion of which pricing option would be least expensive long-term. Councilperson Harris spoke in favor of green energy and Mayor Truchil and President Horwatt spoke to the success that the Borough had switching to renewable energy in the past. Councilperson Schneider said that a \$100 a year difference for using green energy is manageable. Vice President Haldeman said that the Borough should go with brown energy and save \$400. President Horwatt said that the Borough's April newsletter should emphasize the Borough's shift to renewable energy and the Environmental Advisory Committee is requesting that information be shared on how much money the Borough is getting from recycling.

MOTION: Vice President Haldeman moved to authorize a three-year contract with IGS Energy for brown energy. Councilperson Cumming seconded. The motion failed 2-5. Vice President Haldeman and Councilperson Cumming voted in favor; President Horwatt and Councilpersons Schneider, Transue, Mundy, and Harris voted against.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Schneider, seconded by Councilperson Transue, Council voted 5-2 to authorize a four-year contract with IGS Energy for green energy. President Horwatt and Councilpersons Schneider, Transue, Mundy, and Harris voted in favor. Vice President Haldeman and Councilperson Cumming voted against.

RESIDENTIAL RENTAL REGISTRATION FORM FINALIZATION AND FEE FOR 2027: Manager Zimmerman had put together a comparison of rental registration fees in other municipalities that she shared with Council. She recommended that the Borough's fee be between \$75 to \$100 per unit for a three-year registration. There was discussion of the differences between the registration processes for other municipalities and the Borough and Manager Zimmerman clarified that the Borough does not have rental registration inspections; there are Use and Occupancy inspections for changes in occupancy but they are separate from rental registration and change in occupancy does not require re-registration. Solicitor Kirk explained that the residential rental registration program was established so the Borough could keep track of all the rental units in the Borough. There was more discussion of the process for receiving a certificate of occupancy and identifying rental units. Councilperson Harris asked about the revenue generated from rental registration fees and President Horwatt said that it is meant to cover the administrative costs of processing the applications. Manager Zimmerman said that the purpose of rental registration is to make sure a safety standard is upheld for the Borough's rental properties. Councilperson Transue asked how rental unit owners will be made aware that they need to register and Manager Zimmerman said that there will be a campaign once the fee and registration form are finalized. She said there will be flyers in the trash bills, advertising on the Borough website and Facebook page, and a page on the website. She suggested that the Borough emphasize that those who sign up in 2026 get a free three-year registration. Councilperson Mundy suggested establishing a higher fee to incentivize people to sign up while it is still free, and there was further discussion of the fee.

MOTION: On motion of Councilperson Mundy, seconded by Councilperson Schneider, Council voted unanimously to approve a residential rental registration fee of \$100 per unit, to be waived for 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On motion of Councilperson Schneider, seconded by Councilperson Cumming, Council voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. Council exited Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilperson Harris, seconded by Councilperson Transue, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zimmerman, Borough Manager / Secretary

Next Work Session: March 26th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.