

Workshop Meeting Minutes

September 2nd, 2025

The September 2nd, 2025 Workshop Meeting was called to order at 5:00p.m. by President Bruce Markovich at the Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by President Pro Tempore Michele Bartek, Council Man Joseph Butrie, Council Woman Gwyneth Collevecchio, Council Man George Gilbert, President Bruce Markovich, and Council Woman Jennifer Staines.

Council Man Jack Soberick, Mayor Hugh Vrablic, and Solicitor Robert Yurchak were not in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the length of the agenda and asked the public to keep the length in mind during public courtesy.

Public Courtesy-

Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street spoke about multiple things he sees within the borough that need to be addressed by council.

Denise Leibensperger of 164 West Ridge Street inquired about the roads near her home and that the roads need to be looked at.

Cookie Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street inquired about moving permits.

Rosemary Cannon of 242 West Ridge Street inquired about multiple items listed on the workshop agenda.

Joe Genits of 210 West Front Street spoke about moving permits and the garbage ordinance.

Marianne Rustad the Education Community Relations Coordinator for Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau spoke about a public meeting that happened at the borough hall that was facilitated by Bruce Markovich and Gwyneth Collevecchio on tourism development. A pilot program was created in which a Lansford History Trolley Tour is going to be happening on December 6th, 13th, and 20th in which a total of 32 seats will be available for purchase on the 6th, 13th, and 20th of December. The trolley tour tentative route and stops are the No. 9 Coal Mine Museum & Wheel House Tour, the Old Jail, Welsh Church, the 80s Bar for food

and live regional folk music, Jones Murder Site, and Lansford Train Station, Lansford Historical Society Museum, and the No. 9 Coal Mine Museum.

Public Works

Powell street sewer project-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie inquired about the Powell Street Sewer Project.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the sewer line going through a yard, the cost of the project and that there is additional fees for the project such as oversight fees of \$15,000.00 and a 10% contingency fee.

Bruce Markovich stated that if contingency fees go above 10% then council must give permission.

Joseph Butrie and Bruce Markovich spoke about the location of the sewer line.

Cortright erosion project-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about how something must be done for the Cortright erosion project, that he spoke with Radocha Excavating and they will come out on Saturday for \$800.00 to resolve the issue.

Joseph Butrie spoke about how a trench would be dug on coal company property to stop water from coming onto Cortright Street.

Council discussed the project and if the borough should be using taxpayer funds to resolve the issue as the problem is occurring on private property.

Inlets on east side of pool parking lot-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke with Radocha about how the borough should be able to resolve the issue of dirt and water accumulating in the handicap ramp by putting in inlets on the east side of the pool parking lot by the handicap ramp which would run through the grass and be connected to the other inlets.

Council discussed inlets and how water flows on the streets near the pool parking lot.

Dock Street resurface project-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about the Dock Street resurfacing project that the road can and should be resurfaced, especially with the 150th Anniversary being next year which will have people visiting the No 9 Mine Museum which is located on that road.

Council discussed borough streets and the amount of money that is available for milling and paving.

Insurance company reply and reimbursement of damaged item due to fire-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie inquired about the status of the insurance company.

Bruce Markovich spoke about the borough having just received the sewer vacuum title and that the borough should be receiving a check for \$144,000.00 and that a cost estimate is still needed for the removal of the tools moved from the old garage to the Zimmerman Building. An affidavit is being sent to Bruce from the insurance company that will need to be signed which will state that all the losses are true and correct.

Leaking roof in borough hall-request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about the borough hall roof leaking and that the roof needs to be looked at.

Sale of the zipper- request by Joseph Butrie

Joseph Butrie spoke about the zipper needing to be sold due to it not being used and that it is not made for milling streets.

Council discussed the benefits of the borough considering purchasing an excavator and about saving the zipper for shared services.

Municipal Administration

Marianne Rustadt from the Pocono Mountain Visitors Bureau will address council on the upcoming Tourism Development Plan-request by Bruce Markovich

Marianne Rustadt addressed council during the public portion of the workshop meeting.

Council discussed the sewage transmission fee and how the money in fund could be used for certain equipment purchases.

Discuss the sale of the former Borough Garage and additional lot adjacent to the garage.-request by Bruce Markovich

Bruce Markovich spoke about the borough garage being appraised out at \$110,000.00 and the lot appraised out at \$35,000.00. Once the salt is removed from the borough garage the properties will be given a minimum bid amount by council and advertised for sale.

Letter of Intent for DCED for police services study-request by Bruce Markovich

Bruce Markovich spoke about approving sending a letter of intent to DCED to do a police study with Lansford Borough and Summitt Hill Borough at no cost to the borough to be on the monthly agenda.

Letter of Intent to DCED for Solid Waste Authority Study-request by Bruce Markovich

Bruce Markovich spoke approving sending a letter of intent to DCED to have them do a solid waste study to look at the possibility of having a regional trash municipal authority to be on the monthly agenda.

Pass resolution and waive the \$100 application fee for the LSA Grant in the amount of \$48,694.84 for the American Fire Company for the purchase of a side by side rescue vehicle.-request by Bruce Markovich

Bruce Markovich spoke about the American Fire Company wanting to get a side-by-side, that is upfitted, and a trailer. On the next agenda a motion will be to pass the resolution for the grant and waive the \$100.00 application fee with the borough paying the fee for the Fire Company.

Bruce Markovich stated that No. 9 Mine is also filing a grant and a resolution for the grant will be on the monthly agenda.

Approve subdivision plans submitted by Edrich Reality, subdividing 700/748 East Patterson Street consists of movement of boundary lot lines and creation of new parcel on existing lots, approved by the Carbon County Planning Commission on 19-Aug.-request by Bruce Markovich

Bruce Markovich spoke about the subdivision plan being about three lots by the dollar store and that Edrich Reality did a subdivision plan for the one lot. The approval of the subdivision plan will be on the next agenda.

Public Safety

Trees behind the five and 600 block that are on borough property that must come down because they're creating a hazard-request by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about trees that are behind the 500 and 600 blocks of East Ridge on borough property that are a hazard as they are 40 to 50 feet high and could fall on someone's home. Michele would like the trees to be cut down.

Council discussed finding out who owns the trees and having the owners of the trees be responsible for the removal of the trees.

Handicap parking applications investigation into them being done-request by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about how another application was submitted to the borough and that the application is being reviewed.

Council discussed the handicap parking request and that the process needs to be reviewed.

Space for storing Halloween products for festival. It must be dry, and temperature controlled. request by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about needing a space to store Halloween Products for the Halloween Festival and is requesting permission from council to use the area above the borough office.

Water and Electric at Ashton Park-request by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about needing water for Ashton Park and electricity for the Halloween Festival.

Bruce Markovich stated there is electric at Ashton Park but that currently Michele is going to have to bring water to Ashton Park if she would like water there.

Tree in Kennedy Park request by Michele Bartek

Michele Bartek spoke about a tree that is being donated to the Lansford Borough to be Lansford's Christmas Tree. Council will be voting on whether to accept the tree at the monthly meeting.

Parks & Recreation

Update on fencing for East End Playground and Ashton Park. -request by Gwyneth Collevecchio

Gwyneth Collevecchio spoke about the budget and current amount that is available for supplies and maintenance in Parks and Recreation. Fencing for The East End Playground and Ashton Park came under the \$10,000.00 that is currently available from the budget thus those two parks are going to be fenced this year.

Special Event Request from Lansford Halloween Special Events-request by Gwyneth Collevecchio

Gwyneth Collevecchio spoke about the Lansford Halloween Special Event Festival on October 26th, 2025 from 2:00p.m. to 7:00p.m., which will be included on the monthly agenda to be approved.

Zoning/Code/Rental

Schedule of condemned houses and filings being attached at courthouse. request by Jennifer Staines

27 August 8 properties

12 September 5 properties

26 September 6 properties

10 October 6 properties

24 October 4 properties

Jennifer Staines spoke about the condemned houses and filings that will be done at the courthouse.

Remainder of fee schedule. 2026 Rental licensing rates going up [others to] Need to change rates in rental ordinance.-request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines asked Borough Secretary Ashley Mclaughlin to speak about the fee schedule.

Ashley McLaughlin spoke about multiple items on the fee schedule such as dumpster permit cost, sidewalk cost, rental license fee cost, and the quality-of-life fine increases that were approved at the last council meeting.

Jennifer Staines spoke about a code report she received from the Code and Ordinance Officer Shane Monk.

Garbage ordinance. -request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines spoke about the importance of placing garbage curb side no more than 24 hours prior to pick up in garbage cans with fitted lids. Residents are requesting a garbage can on the 400 block of East Bertsch Street by the midrise bus stop as kids at the bus stop are throwing garbage on the street.

Handicapped Parking-request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines spoke about the handicap ordinance and that she would like the ordinance updated to reflect the current way that handicap parking requests are reviewed.

Skill games -request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines spoke about the skill game ordinance, that she feels council should consider discussing and adopting the ordinance.

Fireworks ordinance changes. Fireworks only on 4 July, low noise or ' no ' noise fireworks. No fireworks after 10 pm-request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines spoke about the firework ordinance.

Bruce Markovich spoke about a new state law around fireworks and that the borough can get around the law only through the law stating that fireworks can not be discharged less then 150 feet of a building or vehicle.

Finish all the filings on condemned houses prior to end of the year. -request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines spoke about the filings on condemned house and that the animal ordinance is to be advertised.

Handicapped door on borough hall building. -request by Jennifer Staines

Jennifer Staines inquired about if the funds will be available for handicap doors for the borough hall building.

Bruce Markovich stated that the handicap doors were included on a grant application for 2025 and money for the doors will not be available until around late 2026 or early 2027.

The meeting was adjourned by Bruce Markovich at 8:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley McLaughlin".

Ashley McLaughlin

Secretary