

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 28th, 2026

The May 28th, 2026 Special Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Joseph Genits at the Lansford Borough Town Hall, 1 West Ridge Street, Lansford, Pennsylvania. The meeting was attended by President Pro Tempore Michele Bartek, Vice President Joesph Butrie, Council Member Gwyneth Collevecchio, President Joseph Genits, Council Member Bruce Markovich, and Mayor Denise Leibensperger.

Council Member John Zym was present via phone call.

Council Member Jack Soberick and Solicitor Robert Yurchak were not in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Denise Leibensperger, Michele Bartek, Gwyneth Collevecchio, and Bruce Markovich stated they want it noted in the minutes that they feel the executive session that occurred before the meeting at 5:30p.m. was illegal and a violation of the sunshine law.

- A. Jonas Crass from PA Department of Community & Economic Development spoke about the Strategic Management Planning Program Grant that the borough was awarded. Over the few months Kafferlin Strategies will create a strategic plan for the borough which will then be presented before council to consider and then vote to implement. The plan would be a five-year plan focusing on improving the borough overall. The grant will span the next five years and will include a strategic plan prepared by Kafferlin Strategies that will be presented to the borough to consider and then vote to implement. Ben Kafferlin from Kafferlin Strategies explained how the grant going forward will work, the timeline that can be expected, and about the report that will be provided to the borough which will highlight the areas and items that should/need to be improved within the borough.
- B. Joseph Genits read the following, "Thank You Statement: The Krajnak and Gilbert Families recently purchased the new table skirts as a donation in memory of the passing of George Krajnak Sr. who served the borough for many years as the fire chief of the American Fire Company No. 1, as a council member, and as the mayor of Lansford. Sincere thanks on behalf of the Borough Council." Council agreed to send a thank you letter to The Krajnak and Gilbert Family thanking them for the donation.

Public Courtesy-

- P1. Ronald Peck of 119 East Ridge Street inquired about the Lansford pool and what the status of that area is, will it be filled in and what plans is council considering for use of the parcel?
- P2. Tommy Vadyak of 334 West Abbott Street thanked council for bringing up the sunshine law violation in his opinion that was held in executive session. He feels that borough funds are being misused in many areas.

Correspondence

- C1. Minutes from the Coaldale-Lansford-Summit Hill Sewer Authority. No motion was made. (For information purposes).

Motions to Approve

1. Motioned to appoint Shannon Darker as the Zoning Officer for the Lansford Borough due to Ray Swartz leaving Arro Consulting. Motion by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Motioned to approve Joseph Butrie's request for the Lansford 150th Anniversary Motorcycle Ride on Saturday, June 27, 2026, departing the Lansford Legion at 10:30 AM and ending at 5:00 PM. Motion by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by John Zym. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Council combined Motion 3 and Motion 4 into one motion. Motion to revoke the previously approved motion from May 13, 2026, for payment of \$700.00 to Leonard Ruggiero for sidewalk repairs at 383 West Ridge Street, due to the determination that Lansford Borough was not responsible for the damage and Motion to revoke the previously approved motion from May 13, 2026, for payment to John Hosak of \$309.00 for sidewalk drain cover repairs related to Borough snow removal activities, due to no Borough liability being found. Motioned by Gwyneth Collevecchio and seconded by Bruce Markovich. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Motion was addressed in motion 3.

5. Council discussed the crossing guard contract which would include a one dollar per hour increase to be effective September 1st, 2026 through August 31st, 2029. Motion to table the crossing guard contract by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joseph Butrie. Motion passed unanimously. A meeting is to be scheduled with council and the Teamsters to negotiate a recommendation for a new crossing guard contract.
6. Council discussed streaming meetings and their opinions toward the borough streaming meetings. Motioned to table/remove the motion to ratify a streaming policy which implements and would include an additional payment to the secretary/treasurer for added duties to their job descriptions. Motion by Joseph Butrie and seconded by Bruce Markovich. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Council discussed how a pension was offered and included in the secretaries work agreements when they were originally hired and that a pension committee was established but no follow-up was completed. Motioned to table the motion to set the hourly pay rate at \$25.50 per hour for Ashley McLaughlin and \$26.50 per hour for Maria Ahner effective June 1st, 2026, in lieu of providing the previously approved retirement. A request for the benefit of back pay of \$5,260.76 to Ashley McLaughlin and \$5,736.51 to Maria Ahner to compensate for the retirement benefits which had been approved by council but were never provided. Council indicated the need to talk with the solicitor, determine where the funds will come from, and the overall legality of the pension payment request. Motion by Michele Bartek and seconded by Joseph Butrie to table the pension benefit and back pays. Motion passed unanimously. Council to request a meeting with the pension fund representative and the office staff to be included to further determine an amicable solution to the pension benefit initially offered.

Motioned to adjourn by Joseph Butrie and seconded by John Zym. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by President Joseph Genits at 8:48p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ashley McLaughlin".

Ashley McLaughlin

Secretary