

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on **Tuesday, March 17, 2026** in Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street, Lewisburg. Present: Council President Bilenky Trahan; Council Vice President Comas, Councilmembers Armbruster, Heayn, Pearson, Karahuta, Grobes, Manager Lowther, Secretary Wendt, Mayor Alvarez, Community Development Grant Manager Berkey, Solicitor Lyons and Junior Councilmembers O’Mealy and Kalaberer. Also present: Vincent DiFonzo, Tim Turner, Justin Strawser, Debra Sulai, and Bill Meek.

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Bilenky Trahan called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve the February 17, 2026, Regular meeting minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY AGENDA ITEM:

Debra Sulai commented on several agenda items: Planning and Public Works Committee: Item d. Reach out if need funding; Item f. Likes the Landing Agreement; Item g. Does not want to see a redesign of the project; Item i. Likes the Agreement; Admin and Public Safety Committee: Item g. Interested in this Ordinance and is here to assist if needed.

Tim Turner announced he provided a small proposal from an engineer’s perspective for the Stormwater Management Ordinance and to reach out to him if there are any questions.

Bill Meek said he likes the exemption of under 1,000 sq. ft. relating to Item c. Stormwater Management Ordinance. He also likes the idea of a list of stormwater best practices for 1,000-5,000 sq. ft. projects.

Kyle Gardner said that the Lewisburg Borough Planning Commission did not recommend the language for Item c. He said the PC did not recommend 1,000 sq. ft. for full exemption, but the PC also did not necessarily recommend 2,000 sq. ft. He said the PC recommended making the water quality formula written in plain English on the exemption application. Councilmember Pearson agreed that PC did not recommend 1,000 sq. ft. but is standing by the 1,000 sq. ft. upper limit for exemptions.

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to approve HARB item a. as submitted and recommended by HARB per their minutes dated March 10, 2026. Motion was unanimously approved.

- a. **Craig Ranck / 102 Brown Street / Front Porch Railing** (HARB approved and recommends Council approval)

Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to reschedule the April Planning and Public Works Committee Meeting to Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. Councilmember Comas voted “No”. Motion was passed with a 6-1 vote.

Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to direct the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise changes to the Borough’s Stormwater Management Ordinance as recommended by the Borough Engineer to fully exempt very minor projects of under 1,000 square feet of disturbance and create a Stormwater Exemption Application and a list of stormwater best practices that can be utilized by applicants in the 1,000-5,000 sq. ft. project disturbance size. Councilmember Bilenky Trahan voted “No”. Motion was passed with a 6-1 vote.

Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve, in conjunction with the BVRA Board, the expenditure of Recreation Funds for the removal of 7-8 of the remaining ash trees in St. Mary Street Park during 2026 and to replant trees 5-10 trees per ash tree removed. There was some discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
February 17, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM

Sulai

Turner

Meek

Gardner

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS
HARB

C. Ranck

Reschedule
Planning & Public
Works Committee
Meeting

Direct Borough
Solicitor to prepare
changes to the
Stormwater
Management
Ordinance

Removal of Ash
Trees in St. Mary
Street Park

March 17, 2026

Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to direct the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise changes to the Borough's Ordinance making White Pine Alley between South Seventh Street and South Sixth Street One Way East Bound and to post White Pine Alley between South Seventh Street and South Sixth Street and Ludwig Alley from St. Louis Street to White Pine Alley as "no combination trucks over 10,000 GCWR". Motion was unanimously approved.

Prepare Ordinance making White Pine Alley One Way East Bound and no combination trucks over 10,000 GCWR

Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Comas to approve the proposed Lewisburg Landing Agreement between Lewisburg Borough and the Kenny's (property owners). Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Lewisburg Landing Agreement

Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve Resolution 26-03 for the DCNR C2P2 Planning Grant application associated with the River Parks Project. Motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution 26-03

Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve the engineering change order from Collier's Engineering in the amount of \$45,909.60 for design services associated with the TASA Market Street Fifth Street – Sixth Street Safety Improvements Project. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Engineering change order from Collier's Engineering

Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve the proposed agreement between Lewisburg Borough, East Buffalo Township, and the Union County Trail Authority regarding the BVRT Crossing at U.S. Route 15. Motion was unanimously approved.

Agreement regarding BVRT Crossing at U.S. Route 15

Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to approve Felipe A. Vazquez (d.b.a. Chata Vazquez) to use the Lewisburg Tri-globe Streetlight image in artwork to be for sale at the 2026 Lewisburg Arts Festival. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval for Felipe A. Vazquez for use of tri-globe streetlight image

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: Buffalo Valley Regional Police (BVRPD) Chief Embeck submitted a monthly report. There was some discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
BVRPD

William Cameron Engine Company (WCEC) Chief Blount submitted a monthly report.

WCEC

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to approve payment of bills from February 15, 2026, through March 14, 2026, in the amount of \$505,068.44. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Bills

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to reschedule the April Administration and Public Safety Committee Meeting to Monday, April 13, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. Motion was unanimously approved.

Reschedule Admin & Public Safety Committee Meeting

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to authorize the expenditure of up to \$15,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a video/audio broadcast system for Borough Council Chambers. Motion was unanimously approved.

Authorize \$15,000 to purchase video/audio system for Council Chambers

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to appoint William Lowthert as the voting Delegate and Kathy Wendt as the Alternate Voting Delegate for Lewisburg Borough at the PSAB Annual Conference in Hershey from May 31 – June 3, 2026. Motion was unanimously approved.

Appoint Lowthert and Wendt as Voting Delegates for PSAB Annual Conference

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to direct staff to notify the Central Keystone Council of Government (CK COG) that the Borough would like to transition from patrolling the Borough for code violations to a complaint-based system initiated by the Borough Manager. There was a lengthy discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Move from patrolling for code violations to a complaint based system

March 17, 2026

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to direct the Borough Solicitor to prepare a Resolution amending the Regional Police IGA as recommended by the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Commission. There was some discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Prepare Resolution amending the Regional Police IGA

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to request on behalf of the Union County Veterans' Fourth of July Parade Committee the assistance of the Milton Borough, Mifflinburg Borough, New Berlin Borough, Watsontown Borough, Union Township, and White Deer Township Fire Police for the event. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval to request assistance from local Fire Police for UC Veterans' Fourth of July Parade

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve Resolution 26-02 for the Lewisburg Borough 2026 Disposition of Records. Motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution 26-02

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to direct the Borough Council President to form a Borough Council Personnel Subcommittee to establish the management evaluation process for 2026. Motion was unanimously approved.

Direct Council President to form a Borough Council Personnel Subcommittee

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to appoint Marcus Hayes as a Lewisburg Borough Representative Alternate on the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Civil Service Commission. Motion was unanimously approved. (The next day the Borough was informed that Borough Council can not appoint someone to the BVRP Civil Service Commission, Borough Council can only recommend.)

Appointment of Marcus Hayes to BVRP Civil Service Commission

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Pearson to recommend Jordi Comas to the Lewisburg Neighborhoods Board as the Borough's second representative to the LN Board. Motion was unanimously approved.

Recommend Jordi Comas to LN's Board

A discussion was held regarding adding a third Lewisburg Borough Council Meeting to the monthly calendar. There was a lengthy discussion. The Borough Manager will send an email to Council members for their preferences on a day to schedule a third meeting.

Discussion of a Third Monthly Council Meeting

Current vacancies on Zoning Hearing Board Alternate, term expiration December 31, 2026; Zoning Hearing Board Alternate, term expiration December 31, 2026; HARB, term expiration December 31, 2028; HARB, term expiration December 31, 2028; Lewisburg Area Joint Sewer Authority term expiration December 31, 2030.

Vacancies

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Debra Sulai, LN, announced that 30 Days of Biking will be in April; LN will be planting trees for Earth Month held in April as well as a litter pick-up event.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
Sulai, LN

BOROUGH MANAGER:

Councilmember Heayn made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Grobes to direct the Borough Solicitor to prepare and advertise an Ordinance adopting the restated 2015 Pension Plan Document dated January 1, 2025. Motion was unanimously approved.

BOROUGH MANAGER
Prepare Ordinance adopting the Restated 2015 Pension Plan

BOROUGH SOLICITOR: None

BOROUGH SOLICITOR

REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES:

Mayor Alvarez announced two Proclamations: "Bucknell University Men's and Women's Basketball Team for an Outstanding Season" and "Bucknell University BizPitch Competition and the Entrepreneurial Spirit of Lewisburg and the Susquehanna River Valley". Mayor Alvarez also reported on March 28th she will be hosting a roundup of Mayors from across the Commonwealth to discuss Community and Economic Development as well as a tour of downtown Lewisburg and lunch; and May 5th the Appalachian Leadership Institute will in visiting Lewisburg for a walking tour.

REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES

Mayor Alvarez

March 17, 2026

Council President Bilenky Trahan gave a shout out to Councilmember Pearson for the help that she provided to several hundred kids at the Philadelphia Bike Expose.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Community Development Grant Manager Berkey announced several participatory opportunities for the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan: A public forum will be held online on March 26th from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm to discuss the complete street policy, the pedestrian safety campaign, Saint Anthony Street safety concepts, along with intersection diagrams. A North Fourth Street Green Infrastructure Project presentation will be held on March 30th at 3:00 pm and at 6:30 pm. It will also be discussed at the April 14th Borough Council’s Work Session at 6:30 pm.

Berkey

Borough Manager Lowthert explained the nomination process for the open Second Vice-President position on PSAB’s Board of Directors and reported that Councilmember Heayn has expressed an interest in being nominated.

Lowthert

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to nominate David Heayn to be the Second Vice-President of PSAB. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval to nominate David Heayn for 2nd V-P of PSAB

Councilmember Comas announced that Friday, March 24th there will be a pub sing at the Bull Run beginning at 7:30 pm.

Comas

Councilmember Pearson announced that a Week Without Driving will be held from October 1st to October 8th. She noted that she spoke to the Secretary of Transportation and requested that PennDOT take it on and promote it. Pearson also announced that she will be doing a workshop this Friday in Montandon to discuss the Regional Rural Active Transportation Plan.

Pearson

WRITTEN REPORTS: Councilmember Bilenky Trahan made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to acknowledge receipt of the monthly Parking Report, Zoning Officer Report, Code Enforcement Officer Report, CK COG February Activity Reports, CK COG February Building Permit, and BVRA January Minutes and Financials. Motion was unanimously approved.

WRITTEN REPORTS

WORK SESSION: There will be a Work Session to be held Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Topics: (1) LN Presentation on Short Term Rentals in Lewisburg Borough and (2) Continued discussion of the North Fourth Street Green Infrastructure G3 Project.

WORK SESSION

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA:

Justin Strawser, The Daily Item, asked for more information regarding the following Agenda items: Lewisburg Landing Agreement and where it was located and the size of the lot; which parks were involved in the River Park Project and how much is the Planning Grant for; what video/audio equipment would be included for the \$15,000 approved for the broadcast system for council chambers; and asked for more details on the motion regarding the Borough moving to a complaint based code enforcement.

MEDIA QUESTIONS

J. Strawser

There being no further business, Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy D. Wendt
Borough Secretary