

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on **Tuesday, July 15, 2025** in Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street, Lewisburg. Present: Council President Heayn; Councilmembers Comas, Pearson (via telecommunications), Powers, Stamm, Grobes, Manager Lowthert, Secretary Wendt, Mayor Alvarez, Community Development Grant Manager Berkey, and Solicitor Lyons. Also present: Vicki Fritz, Kathleen Imgrund, Karl Imgrund, Judy Wilson, Justin Strawser, Martha Barrick, Debra Sulai, Janice Butler, and Gawhara Abou-Eid.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilmember Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stamm to approve the June 17, 2025, Regular meeting minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY AGENDA ITEM:
Janice Butler had some concerns as to why changes were being made to Council’s By-Laws and Code of Conduct. Council President Heayn said he would be happy to discuss it further with her.

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilmember Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Grobes to approve HARB items a and b as submitted and recommended by HARB per their minutes dated July 8, 2025. Councilmember Pearson voted “No”. Motion was approved.

- a. **Vicki Fritz / 112 North Third Street / Porch (update)** (HARB approved and recommends Council approval)
- b. **Benjamin & Sarah Wheatley / 701 Market Street / Fence Replaced** (HARB approved and recommends Council approval)

Councilmember Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Comas to request that Borough Council President establish a Sub-committee to review the Borough’s Rental Inspection Ordinance. Motion was unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: Buffalo Valley Regional Police (BVRPD) Chief Embeck submitted a monthly report. Chief Embeck reported that the department purchased a 2025 Chevy Tahoe cruiser. He also said they sold a special response vehicle on municibid and will use the money from the sale to buy a trailer. Chief Embeck also explained the Blue Envelope Program and how it makes traffic stops easier for both autistic drivers and police officers. Chief reported that Shaun Gatewood has been hired as the department’s first mental health co-responder.

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

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to approve payment of bills from June 15, 2025, through July 12, 2025, in the amount of \$349,946.84. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to request the Milton Fire Police’s assistance for the BVRPD National Night Out on August 5, 2025 from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm with a rain date of August 12, 2025. Motion was unanimously approved.

Current vacancies on Zoning Hearing Board Alternate, term expiration December 31, 2026, HARB, term expiration December 31, 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY NON-AGENDA ITEMS:
Judy Wilson reported her safety concerns at the intersection of Pennsylvania Street and Shikelimo Lane. She said cars speed through there and it’s hard to see traffic when pulling onto Pennsylvania Street due to the overgrown shrubbery and milkweed. Chief Embeck said he will put a patrol in the area. Manager Lowthert said he will notify CK COG for any necessary code enforcement actions.

ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
June 17, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM
J. Butler

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS
HARB

V. Fritz
Wheatley

Approval to establish a Sub-committee to review Rental Inspection Ord.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
BVRPD

WCEC

Approval of Bills

Request Milton Fire Police assistance for BVRPD NNO

Vacancies

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
J. Wilson

BOROUGH MANAGER:

Manager Lowthert reported that the 2026 budget work session schedule has been distributed. If Council does not have any changes, he will advertise the meetings.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Councilmember Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stamm to enact Ordinance No. 1088 authorizing the William Cameron Engine Company and any other fire departments operating within the Borough to seek reimbursement for costs and expenses incurred when responding in fires, floods, accidents, hazardous material incidents and other casualties in the Borough of Lewisburg. Motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES:

Mayor Alvarez reported that Music in the Park will be held tomorrow; LDP is working on a series “Motion in the Park”; Sidewalk Chalk Festival will be held on Friday; Susquehanna Valley Growers Market is Friday; CommUnity Zone will offer listening room events; and the 2nd Annual International Festival in the Park will be held this year.

Council President Heayn reported that the motions to adopt Rules of Order and By-Laws will be tabled until next month. He also reported that a Town Hall Meeting was held at 5:00 pm today to discuss the South Eighth Street/White Pine Alley Removal of Architectural Barrier Project. He also announced the Management Performance Evaluation forms were distributed for review. He would like to have it in place for implementation next year. He reported that the topic for upcoming August Work Session will be the 2026 Budget, and the September Work Session topic will be the Noise Ordinance. Councilmember Comas added that he would like to have more public feedback while preparing the budget. Chief Embeck reported that he had a couple of complaints in reference to the noise on Market Street. Chief also said that there are a couple days of high saturated patrol target enforcement scheduled.

Councilmember Comas had a question as to who should contact CK COG in the event of a code issue. Manager Lowthert said that most complaints come through the Borough Office first. Councilmember Comas asked Chief Embeck if the police needed any volunteers for the National Night Out on August 5, 2025. Councilmember Comas also asked Chief Embeck what the policy was at the Police level when cooperating with ICE.

WRITTEN REPORTS: Councilmember Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Grobes to acknowledge receipt of the monthly Parking Report, Zoning Officer Report, Code Enforcement Officer Report, CK COG June Activity Reports, and CK COG June Building Permit. Motion was unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION: There will be a Work Session to be held Tuesday, August 12, 2025.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA:

Gawhara Abou-Eid, The Standard-Journal, questioned why the Rental Inspection Ordinance needed improved. Councilmember Powers said there are many areas in the current Ordinance that need reviewed and updated. Abou-Eid also asked what concerns were discussed at the Town Hall meeting regarding the S Eighth St/White Pine Alley Project. Council President Heayn said residents/property owners were concerned with safety, traffic patterns, lack of need, and requested more involvement.

Justin Strawser, The Daily Item, asked how many people were in attendance at the Town Hall meeting regarding the 8th Street Project. He also asked if there were any people speaking in favor of the project. Strawser asked for clarification on Ordinance No. 1088 in reference to who WCEC would be seeking costs from.

BOROUGH MANAGER
2026 Budget Work Session Schedule

BOROUGH SOLICITOR
Enact Ordinance No. 1088

REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES

Mayor

Heayn

Comas

WRITTEN REPORTS

WORK SESSION

MEDIA QUESTIONS
G. Abou-Eid

J. Strawser

July 15, 2025

Justin commented that having a Borough spokesperson is nice but wanted to make sure that journalists aren't being precluded from doing their job when Rules of Order are taken into consideration. Council President Heayn clarified that Council Members can speak to press whenever they want at any time.

There being no further business, Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy D. Wendt
Borough Secretary

MEDIA
QUESTIONS
Continued

J. Strawser

ADJOURNMENT