The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026** in Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street, Lewisburg. Present: Council President Bilenky Trahan; Council Vice President Comas, Councilmembers Armbruster, Heayn, Pearson, Karahuta, Stamm, Grobes, Manager Lowthert, Mayor Alvarez, Community Development Grant Manager Berkey, Solicitor Lyons and Junior Councilmember Kalaberer. Also present: Angie Hunselman, Lynne Ragusea, Vincent DeFonzo, Bruce Platusich, Constatine Fokas, Kevin Gardner, Kyle Gardner, and Debra Sulai.

ATTENDANCE

A CDBG-DR Public Hearing was held on August 25, 2026 to discuss the South Sixth Street Project and Municipal Parking Lot 4 Reconstruction Project.

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

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Karahuta to approve the August 18, 2026, Regular meeting minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
August 18, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY AGENDA ITEM:

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM

Constatine Fokas, owner of LaCasa, stated his concern with the removal of parking spaces for the flood mitigation project.

C. Fokas

Lynne Ragusea, LPN, asked council to be mindful of the need for parking for the business community.

L. Ragusea

Debra Sulai, LN, invited all to the Fall River Road Holiday will be held on October 4th with a rain date of October 18th.

D. Sulai

Kyle Gardner asked Council to look at the economic value loss versus the amount of flood mitigation in regard to parking spaces. He also suggested getting a Letter of Map Revision (LOMA-R) from FEMA to potentially save an entire block from getting flooded as well as save every household some money by requiring NFIP flood insurance.

K. Gardner

Kevin Gardner said the need for parking has never been greater.
Comas replied that parking will be reviewed by the parking committee and will take commends under advisement.

K. Gardner

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 September 8, 2026. Motion was unanimously approved.

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS
HARB

a. **Bluebird Atelier / 217-223 Market Street / Sign** (HARB approved and recommends Council approval)

"Bluebird Atelier"

Motion was made by Councilmember Pearson, seconded by Councilmember Karahuta to approve a request from Lewisburg Neighborhoods to close a portion of St. Anthony Street for the Fall River Road Holiday 2026 on October 4, 2026 (rain date October 18, 2026) and permission to submit the required letter to PennDOT. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of River Road Holiday

Motion was made by Councilmember Pearson, seconded by Councilmember Grobes for the Borough Council President to sign for Project Selection Approval associated with two projects for inclusion on the Union County CDBG-DR Debby application to PA DCED – South Sixth Street Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements and Flood Resiliency Project and Municipal Parking Lot 4 (MPL4) Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements and Flood Resiliency Project. There was some discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Project Selection approval for two projects for UC CDBG-DR Debby application to PA DCED

Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve Add Change Order 4 from Gutelius Excavating Inc. in the amount of $4,287.38 for the additional removal and replacement of materials at the alley intersection associated with the accessible ramp installation. Expense to be paid from the Borough's CDBG grant funding as part of the South Eighth Street/White Pine Alley RAB Project. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Change Order 4 from Gutelius Excavating, Inc.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

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

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 August 16, 2026, through September 12, 2026, in the amount of $512,021.65. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Bills

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to set the 2027 Lewisburg Borough Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation at $183,480.00 as recommended by the Borough's Actuary. Motion was unanimously approved.

Pension MMO

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to direct the Borough Solicitor to prepare a Fee Resolution increasing the monthly parking lot permit fee from $50.00 to $100.00 per space per month with a 50% discount for all full-time Lewisburg Borough Residents and Lewisburg Borough business employees, with appropriate documentation, effective January 1, 2027. Motion was unanimously approved.

Prepare Fee Resolution increasing parking lot permit fees

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to approve Mary Storer to pay her 2026 Lewisburg Borough Real Estate Taxes at Face, instead of Penalty, due to a lost check in the mail. Motion was unanimously approved.

Payment of M. Storer's Real Estate Taxes

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve Shing Yeung to pay his 2026 Lewisburg Borough Real Estate Taxes at Face, instead of Penalty, due to a lost check in the mail. Motion was unanimously approved.

Payment of S. Yeung Real Estate Taxes

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Pearson to approve Council Member David Heayn attending the PSAB Fall Leadership Conference in Erie, PA from October 9-11, 2026. (Total expenses may exceed the $1,000.00 annual threshold for elected officials).

Approval for D. Heayn to attend PSAB Fall Leadership Conf.

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 (for a person having expertise, experience, or a background in preservation, historical or planning areas); HARB term expiration December 31, 2026; and Planning Commission term expiration December 31, 2029.

Vacancies

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY NON-AGENDA ITEMS:
Debra Sulai, Lewisburg Neighborhoods, requested that Council set aside time and money to address the feral cat issue. Sulai also suggested that the Borough consider an Ordinance regarding the feeding of wildlife. Council President Bilenky Trahan reported that the Borough does not have a TNR program, however, there are several individuals in the area who are working with a TNR organization who are working on trapping and neutering the cat colony in the North Ward.

D. Sulai

B. Bilenky Trahan

Lynne Ragusea, LDP, announced that this weekend is Bucknell's Parents Weekend as well as International Festival in Hufnagle Park; and the LDP Soiree will be held tomorrow night at Campus Theatre.

L. Ragusea

BOROUGH MANAGER:
Manager Lowthert applauded Lewisburg Neighborhood's for the river clean up and the tremendous number of tires removed.

BOROUGH MANAGER

BOROUGH SOLICITOR: No Report.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR

REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES

REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES:

MAYOR:

MAYOR

Mayor Alvarez reported the passing of Harry VanSickle. Alvarez also reported that there will be a Celebration of Life for Dianne Powers on Saturday, September 26th, 1:00 pm at Bucknell Hall. Mayor Alvarez announced two Proclamations: "Week Without Driving 2026" and "National Coffee Day and Declaring Lewisburg Coffee Capital of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania". Mayor Alvarez also announced that Halloween trick or treat night will be held on Saturday, October 31st from 5:30pm – 8:00pm.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Council President Bilenky Trahan announced that the unPaved gravel race will be held on October 11th.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/GRANT MANAGER:

COMM/DEV. GRANT MANAGER

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve Payment Application 2 from Gutelius Excavating Inc. in the amount of $54,661.62 associated with the South Eighth Street/White Pine Alley RAB Project. Invoice to be paid by Union County as part of Lewisburg Borough's CDBG Program. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Application 2 from Gutelius Excavating, Inc.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to approve Payment Application 3 from Gutelius Excavating Inc. in the amount of $15,811.10 associated with the South Eighth Street/White Pine Alley RAB Project. Invoice to be paid by Union County as part of Lewisburg Borough's CDBG Program. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of Application 3 from Gutelius Excavating Inc.

Community Development/Grant Manager Berkey announced that the Commonwealth Finance Authority met today and awarded their Local Share Program grant funding and awarded 43% of projects submitted and with a cost of $348,389,052. Lewisburg Borough did not receive any funding for the two projects submitted.

Berkey

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilmember Comas addressed Bruce Platusik, 227 S. Fourth Street, to speak. Mr. Platusik spoke in regard to Bucknell students driving cars and parking on Borough streets as a long-term parking option. He requested that Council address this issue. Council decided to discuss this matter in Planning and Public Works Committee and Parking Sub Committee.

B. Platusik

Motion was made by Councilmember Comas, seconded by Councilmember Pearson to adopt Resolution 26-09 recognizing Dianne Powers in the Borough of Lewisburg. Motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution 26-09

Councilmember Comas updated Council on the Borough's Participatory Budgeting and asked for feedback ASAP.

Comas

Councilmember Heayn announced that September was Suicide Prevention Month.

Heayn

JR. COUNCIL MEMBERS:

JR. COUNCIL MEMBER

Jr. Councilmember Kalberer announced that it was National Vote Registration today.

Kalberer

WRITTEN REPORTS: Councilmember Pearson made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Heayn to acknowledge receipt of the monthly Parking Report, Zoning Officer Report, Code Enforcement Officer Report, CK COG August Building Permits, and BVRA June Minutes, July Financials, and July Minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

WRITTEN REPORTS

WORK SESSION: There will be a Work Session to be held Tuesday, October 13, 2026 to discuss the Bull Run Greenway Master Plan approved by Lewisburg Borough Council in 2017.

WORK SESSION

MEDIA QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council President Bilenky Trahan called for an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters at 8:00PM. Council returned at 8:27PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Councilmember Heayn made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Grobes to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy D. Wendt
Borough Secretary