

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held at 6:30 PM on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025** in Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street, Lewisburg. Present: Council President Heayn; Council Vice President Bilenky Trahan, Councilmembers Armbruster, Comas, Pearson (via telecommunications), Powers, Stamm, Grobes, Manager Lowthert, Secretary Wendt, Mayor Alvarez, Community Development Grant Manager Berkey, and Solicitor Lyons. Also present: Nada Gray, Michael Derman, Norm Butts, Lynne Ragusea, Gibson O’Mealy, Eli Kalberer, Kevin Gardner, Erin Karahuta, Gawhora Abou-eid, Martha Barrick, Debra Sulai, Maggie Hall, and Emily Hontz.

An Executive Session was held on August 25, 2025, 6:37 pm – 6:52 pm following the Borough’s Budget Work Session to discuss personnel matters.

An Executive Session was held on September 5, 2025, 10:03 am – 10:18 am following the Borough’s Administration and Public Safety Committee Meeting to discuss personnel matters.

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 Bilenky Trahan to approve the August 19, 2025, Regular meeting minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S) ON ANY AGENDA ITEM:
Michael Derman discussed the changes to the CSFES IGA. He explained that Buffalo Township terminated their involvement in the IGA, however, it still includes East Buffalo Township, Kelly Township and Borough of Lewisburg. There was a lengthy discussion of other changes to the IGA to make the agreement clearer.

Debra Sulai, Lewisburg Neighborhood, expressed her excitement for the TASA Grant application and the installation of the extension of the Rail Trail crossing over Route 15.

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Councilmember Bilenky Trahan made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to approve HARB item b. as submitted and recommended by HARB per their minutes dated September 9, 2025 and to table HARB item a. until next month. Motion was unanimously approved.

- a. **“Stillwater Sanctuary, LLC” / 100 Market Street / Sign** (Tabled until next month)
- b. **Owen Floody / 731 Saint Louis Street / Sign** (HARB approved and recommends Council approval)

Councilmember Bilenky Trahan made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to include the following streets in the Lewisburg Borough’s 2026 Streets Project and permission to release the project for bid:

- i. Spruce Street from St. Louis Street to the dead end for mill/overlay.
- ii. North Eighth Street from North Derr Drive to Market Street for mill/overlay.
- iii. North Front Street from St. John Street to St. Anthony Street, including 6 ADA ramps, for mill/overlay.

Motion was unanimously approved.

The Lewisburg Borough’s Flood Insurance Assessment information was presented to Council for review as part of the Borough’s FEMA/CRS Ratings System Program.

Councilmember Bilenky Trahan made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Comas to approve Lewisburg Borough as co-applicant with Union County on the TASA grant application for the U.S. Route 15 BVRT Crossing Project. There was some discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
<u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u> August 25, 2025
<u>EXECUTIVE SESSION</u> September 5, 2025
<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>
<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> August 19, 2025
<u>PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEM</u> Derman Sulai
<u>PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS</u> HARB Stillwater Sanctuary. Floody 2026 Streets Project
 Flood Insurance Assessment Information
 TASA Grant App for US Route 15 BVRT Crossing Project

September 16, 2025

Councilmember Bilenky Trahan made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Comas to approve the painting of the edge of the Hufnagle Park Event Venue Ramps for visibility improvement. It was decided to have the Planning & Public Works committee review and recommend what design to paint. Motion was unanimously approved.

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

William Cameron Engine Company (WCEC) Chief Blount submitted a monthly report. Councilmember Comas requested that Chief Blount attend the Admin – Public Safety Committee meeting for updates.

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to approve payment of bills from August 17, 2025, through September 13, 2025, in the amount of \$602,822.65. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to set the 2026 Lewisburg Borough Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation at \$250,525.00 as recommended by the Borough’s Actuary. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to appoint Eli Kalberer and Gibson O’Mealy as Lewisburg Borough Junior Council Persons with terms expiring May 31, 2026. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Armbruster to adopt Resolution 25-13 terminating the 2018 Central Susquehanna Fire and Emergency Services (CSFES) Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement (IGA) between Lewisburg Borough, East Buffalo Township, Kelly Township, and Buffalo Township. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Grobes made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to adopt Resolution 25-14 authorizing Lewisburg Borough to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement (IGA) with East Buffalo Township and Kelly Township. Motion was unanimously approved.

The October 3rd Administrative and Public Safety Committee Meeting has been rescheduled to October 10th at 8:30 am due to staff and elected official attendance at the PA Municipal League Annual Leadership Summit in Erie, PA.

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, 2025.

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

Debra Sulai, Lewisburg Neighborhood, announced the following upcoming events: September 20 - Community International Festival, Noon–3:00 pm; September 28 - River Focus Community Clean-up begins at 1:00 pm; October 5 – River Road Holiday, 1:00-5:00 pm (rain date October 19); October 10-12 – Bike Fest; She noted that volunteers are always welcome. Also, starting in October at the Community Zone, a Community Dinner and Game Night will be held once a month.

Maggie Hall stated her concerns regarding Bucknell University Parent’s Weekend and Social Gathering Permits issued, as well as the misconception that clean up does not need to be done before 9:00 am Monday when codes begin their ticketing. Ms. Hall also said that she loves the crosswalks, but it is still a safety issue when using them to cross the streets.

BOROUGH MANAGER: No Report

Hufnagle Park
Event Venue
Painting of Ramps

**ADMINISTRATIVE
AND PUBLIC
SAFETY
BVRPD**

WCEC

Approval of Bills

Pension MMO

Appoint Jr. Council
Person: Eli
Kalberer and
Gibson O’Mealy

Resolution 25-13

Resolution 25-14

Rescheduled
Admin and Public
Safety Committee
Meeting

Vacancies

**PUBLIC
COMMENT ON
NON-AGENDA
ITEMS**

D. Sulai

M. Hall

**BOROUGH
MANAGER**

September 16, 2025

BOROUGH SOLICITOR:

Councilmember Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bilenky Trahan to enact Ordinance No. 1089 amending the Curb and Sidewalk Ordinance by eliminating the use of cinders in the construction of sidewalks and the furnishing of certificates of satisfactory completion. Motion was unanimously approved.

REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES:

Mayor Alvarez read a letter received from Attorney Graham C. Showalter congratulating the Borough on the decision to resurface streets in the Borough and the wonderful results. She also announced that tomorrow, as part of DCED “Bringing the World to PA” annual event, trade representatives will be touring areas of Lewisburg as well as attending a meeting at the Small Business Development Center. She also announced Spiceez’s grand opening on 9/19; the International Festival on 9/20; Ludacris is at Bloomsburg Fair on 9/24; National Coffee Day is 9/29; Bucknell Homecoming is 10/3; Evangelical’s Cookin’ for a Cause is 10/16; Community Design session for Wolfe Field is 10/29. Mayor Alvarez announced two Proclamations: “Recognizing Constitution Week and Citizenship Day” and “Recognizing Halloween in the Borough of Lewisburg”. Mayor Alvarez also announced that Trick or Treating will be held in the Borough on October 31, 2025 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.

President Heayn announced that today is Voter Registration Day.

Community Development Grant Manager reported that Wolfe Field Master Site Development Plan Community Design Workshop will be held October 19th, 6:30pm – 8:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church.

Councilmember Comas stated his appreciation for “Recognition of Constitution Week and Citizenship Day” Proclamation. Comas also said he will be attending Union County’s 250th Celebration Committee meeting on 9/18.

Councilmember Bilenky Trahan reminded everyone that the Planning & Public Works meeting will be held on October 9th (rescheduled from October 2nd). Bilenky Trahan announced that the unPaved gravel race will be held on October 12th with Slow Roll and Fun Rides on October 11th. She also announced the launch of Susquehanna River gravel adventure field guide will be that weekend.

Councilmember Pearson read a “Week Without Driving 2025” Proclamation that will be held on September 29th – October 5th. Pearson encouraged everyone to participate even if for one day or one trip without driving.

WRITTEN REPORTS: Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Bilenky Trahan to acknowledge receipt of the monthly Parking Report, Zoning Officer Report, Code Enforcement Officer Report, CK COG August Activity Reports, CK COG August Building Permit, BVRA June and July Financials, and BVRA 7-23-25 Minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION: There will be a Work Session to be held Tuesday, October 14, 2025 to discuss anticipated Safe Streets for All Draft Plan Presentation to Borough Council, as well as a possible Budget Work Session.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA: None

Council President Heayn called for an executive session to discuss personnel matters and union contract negotiations at 7:38PM. Council returned at 8:09PM.

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Powers to approve a side agreement between AFSME and Borough of Lewisburg to approve an hourly wage increase of 10% for Emily Hontz effective immediately through October 31, 2025. Motion was unanimously approved.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR

Ordinance No. 1089

REPORTS / COMMUNITY UPDATES / PUBLIC NOTICES

Mayor Alvarez

Council President

Berkey

Comas

Bilenky Trahan

Pearson

WRITTEN REPORTS

WORK SESSION

MEDIA QUESTIONS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Hourly wage increase for Emily Hontz

September 16, 2025

Councilmember Comas made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stamm to approve a one-time bonus for the Borough Secretary and the Borough Community Development/Grant Manager in the amount of \$1,000 each as compensation for appreciation and flexibility as we go through this difficult time. Motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Councilmember Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Stamm to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy D. Wendt
Borough Secretary

One-time Bonus for
Secretary and
Comm Dev/Grant
Manager

ADJOURNMENT