

MINUTES
LANGHORNE MANOR BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – the Meeting of Langhorne Manor Borough Council was called to order in the Langhorne Manor Borough Hall, 618 Hulmeville Avenue, Langhorne, Pennsylvania on September 9, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. Daylight Savings Time by Nick Pizzola.

PERSONS PRESENT – Nick Pizzola – President, Cheryl Oessenich – Vice-President, Councilpersons: James Niwinski, Phil Gillies, Sam Jennings and Bob McBeth, Police Chief John Kenney, Solicitor: Thomas J. Profy, IV., Borough Manager: Peter Gray, Secretary-Treasurer: Bonnie McGoldrick.

PERSONS ABSENT – Councilperson, Devin Keating, Mayor Robert Byrne

- 2. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Cheryl Oessenich

- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MOTION TO APPROVE.**

Council President asked if there were any questions, concerns or corrections to the minutes of August 12, 2025.

Council President called for a motion to approve the minutes from August 12, 2025 Mr. Jennings made the motion as called for. Ms. Oessenich seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

- 4. RESIDENT COMMENTS** – Chris Croteau, 608 Station Avenue, commented that our police salaries are low in comparison to surrounding boroughs and townships, and should be increased.

Councilperson Devin Keating arrived at 7:04p.m.

Council President responded to Mr. Croteau. The council is aware of the salary discrepancy, and it would be addressed when the budget is prepared for 2026.

Written questions related to the adoption of EIT.

1. “Nick stated during last month’s meeting, we haven’t had a public meeting on this topic’, Why not?
2. “The letter states ‘cash reserves were low.’ Where is the historical and current data on Cash reserves stored for residents to view?”
3. Can each council member state:
 - a. If their household taxes will be increased by this proposed EIT?
 - b. The reason they do or do not support his measure?

Response to question #1: It’s happening tonight.

Response to question #2: Anyone can request the information from the Borough Secretary.

Response to question #3: Will be addressed in the council discussion to follow.

Chris Crouteau, 608 Station Avenue, commented.

Teresa Weiser, 206 W. Prospect Avenue, read a statement into the record (see attached).

Michael Minch, Tax Collector, commented on reversing the previous tax increase.

Dan Nicastro, 403 Station Avenue, stated his opinion on rolling back taxes.

5. DISCUSSION AND MOTION TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF ONE HALF OF ONE PERCENT(.005) EARNED INCOME TAX.

Council members stated their opinions.

Of the 7 council members, only 1 currently pays EIT. The remaining 6 will be required to pay EIT if this tax is adopted.

The discussion addressed:

- a. Thoughts on eliminating the Occupation Tax and “Rolling Back” the tax increase that was levied in 2024.
- b. The increase in the cost of Trash collection.
- c. Engineering costs of Stormwater, upkeep on basin projects, future imposed projects, MS4 Engineering Permit costs.
- d. Irresponsibility of leaving \$158,000 of resident tax monies unrecovered from other municipalities.

- e. The accuracy/inaccuracy of the \$158,000 figure. The figure is an estimate. The first-year returns will only be for 3 quarters not the full year.
- f. Whether or not the tax increase will affect our qualification for grant awards?
- g. How the tax is monitored/administrated.

The Council President read Ordinance number 2025-02 into the record.

Council President called for a motion to approve Ordinance number 2025-02. Ms. Oessenich made the motion as called for. Mr. Gilles seconded. There were no questions. Council President called for a vote. 6 council members voted in favor. 1 council member opposed. The motion passed.

Council President stated that rolling back the borough tax increase (approved in 2024) and elimination of the occupational tax will be considered when 2026 budget preparation is addressed in the fall.

6. POLICE REPORT – Chief Kenney reported 178 total hours for May.

Assist Other Police – 5	Medical Emergency – 3
Fraud – 1	All Other Complaints – 3
Total Gasoline – 56 gal.	Total Citations – 0
Total Mileage – 317	Traffic Stops - 0
Traffic Citations – 0	Criminal Arrest - 0
Non-Traffic Citations - 0	Total Complaints – 12

Regarding Fraud, Chief Kenney advised residents to notify him of any contacts from a person selling event tickets. Do not purchase anything or send any money especially using VENMO.

a. UPDATE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT RE: AUTOMATED STOP ENFORCEMENT.

Chief Kenney explained; The school buses will have cameras that identify drivers who violate the school bus traffic laws. Photo evidence will be sent to our Police Chief who will approve the fine. Fines will be \$300. Of that fine \$25 will be returned to the borough.

The Council President read, in its entirety, the Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning Automated Enforcement of Failure to Stop for School Bus with Flashing Red Lights in Accordance with the ACT 2023-19, 75 PA. C.S.A. Section 3345, as amended.

b. MOTION TO APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Council President called for a motion to approve the Agreement as presented. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Ms. Oessenich seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

c. UPDATE ON VIALYTICS SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTATION. Chief Kenney said his issues had been resolved and asked the Borough Secretary if the address alignment had been corrected. Address alignment has not been correct but the software is working.

d. UPDATE OF THE 11/8/25 BARBARA T. 5K RUN THAT PARTIALLLY GOES THROUGH THE BOROUGH. MOTION TO APPROVE PROVIDING POLICE COVERAGE AT NO CHARGE FOR THIS EVENT. Council President and Chief Kenney agreed to provide police coverage for the event on 11/8/2025.

Council President called for a motion approving event coverage with no charge to the Barbara T Foundation. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

7. INSPECTOR'S REPORT – There were 4 permits issued in August, 2 that are still in process and there has been a revised submission for the proposed new home construction at corner of Highland and the Interchange.

8. REPORTS

a. Jim Niwinski – No report

b. Cheryl Oessenich – Residents have requested that a Text message reminder be sent for holiday trash delays.

Ms. Oessenich is going to attend training for Grant Writing that was provided by Senator Ferry's office.

- c. **Nick Pizzola** – As follow up to last month, Mr. Pizzola monitored his trash service for the last month and had no issues with the service. Ms. Oessenich was generally satisfied as was Mr. Jennings.

Mr. Pizzola asked council members to submit BCRDA grant requests before the next council meeting on September 23rd. Grants will be the only subject addressed at the council meeting in two weeks.

- d. **Bob McBeth**- Reported that neighbors had complained about blind spots at intersections due to overgrown vegetation and asked if there was someone we could call to trim the intersections. Discussion ensued. Letters have been sent to four locations. The borough cannot send someone to trim bushes on private property. He asked the Borough Secretary to provide him with the addresses.

The conversation readdressed the PECO Poles that are not removed.

- e. **Sam Jennings**- No report
- f. **Phil Gillies** – Has scheduled the Liquid Fuels audit for October 10th.
- g. **Devin Keating** – Is working on updating our information on the Grants we have for Stormwater Management and looking into other available grants.

9. MAYORS REPORT – No report

10. BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT– No report

11. SOLICITORS REPORT – No report

12. CORRESPONDENCE – None

13. APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT – Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the General Unpaid Bills Report for September.

Council President called for a motion to approve the General Unpaid bills for September. Mr. Gillies made the motion as called for. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Sewer Unpaid Bills Report for September.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Sewer Unpaid bills for September. Mr. Gillies made the motion as called for. Mr. Jennings seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Highway Aid Unpaid Bills Report for September.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Highway Aid Unpaid bills for September. Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Ms. Oessenich seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

14. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT - Council President asked if there were any questions or concerns about the Treasurers Reports for August 2025.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the General fund Report for August. Mr. Niwinski made the motion. Mr. Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

The report for the sewer fund was not correct so we will approve it next month.

Council President asked for a motion to approve the Highway Aid Fund Report for August. Ms. Keating made the motion. Mr. Niwinski seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

15. MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE SEPTEMBER 23RD MEETING

There will be a September 23rd meeting to address Grant Applications.

16. COMMENTS FROM RESIDENTS AND VISITORS – None

17.**ADJOURNMENT** - Council President called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Mr. Niwinski made the motion as called for. Mr. Gillies seconded. There were no objections. The motion carried.

18.**NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

Respectfully Submitted

Bonnie McGoldrick

Secretary/Treasurer

Statement from Teresa Weiser

"I read a quote from a scientist today that seemed appropriate for this discussion. 'It is a policy driven document that selectively presents information to support a pre-determined narrative.'

I know that regardless of comments made by myself or other residents, this EIT is going to be approved tonight. My comment from the March meeting still holds true. We do not know the revenue to be generated or the residents impacted, but you're pushing this through as fast as possible.

As we don't understand those intended consequences of this earned income tax increase, I'm also concerned about the unintended consequences, like impact to property values, rental rates, and our relationship with Cairn and Langhorne gardens whose employees will be affected.

I'd like to spend the remainder of my public comment talking about the why letter sent to residents.

First to review our yearly expenses by highest cost

1. Trash pick up 135k
2. Road maintenance 122k
3. Police 112k
4. Borough office salary 45k
5. MS4 report 35k
6. Insurance 29k

Stormwater is a Boogeyman that keeps getting animatedly raised. The projects consistently have a 15% engineering cost, where most grants have 10% engineering allowance. To date, the SWC has found grants that cover or work in tandem to cover the engineering costs. If you're talking about the MS4 report cost, that is one of our lower yearly costs and thanks to Nick's efforts didn't increase year over year. What did increase last year was the cost for trash collection, police, borough employees, and insurance. All of those increased costs were decided by council outside of monthly meetings or in executive sessions.

Now onto the selectively chosen information to support the pre-determined narrative. The limited data we have has been provided to us by Keystone tax collectors. I believe the information they gave us to be factual, but also mention they are not an unbiased source as they only benefit if we enact an EIT.

The referenced 158,000 already paid by residents is council is purely coincidental to the max case projection of 158500 for a 0.5% EIT. The already paid number includes EIT percentages higher than .5%. Mr. Lawson stated back in his May presentation that the borough will not receive the full estimated amount. My interpretation of his statement led me to believe it would be noticeably less.

On to the speculative 'most painless & lowest cost' statement.

A majority of residents likely already do pay an EIT, but I think it's a lot closer to 60/40, than a handful of impacted residents the council has repeatedly stated. If we're talking residences, I think it's possible a majority could be impacted by an earned income tax increase. This seems to track with my general peer group.

My biggest concern though is the lack of transparency throughout this discussion. Council was given documentation in February. That document still hasn't been released to residents. The May presentation from Keystone was provided to residents in mid-August so council can vote tonight. No public session was held for discussion the topic even though I specifically ask numerous times since February.

As a resident who had a tax increase this year and will have another tax increase next year, the lack of clarity in the budgets and why these funds are needed is concerning. I am paying more, I am not sure I am getting more. I am also concerned that there is no long term plan if excess funding is raised through this effort. “