

**BOROUGH OF JENKINTOWN  
700 SUMMIT AVENUE  
JENKINTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA**

**MINUTES OF THE BOROUGH OF JENKINTOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 26, 2025, 7:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

Jay Conners	Council President
Christian Soltysiak	Council Vice President
Deborra Sines-Pancoe	Councilor
Gordon Lewis	Councilor
Steve Spindler	Councilor
Maxine Marlowe	Councilor
Joanne Bruno	Councilor
David Ballard	Councilor
Alexandria Khalil	Councilor
Anne MacHaffie	Councilor
Alex Bartlett	Councilor

**REGRETS:**

Aliza Narva	Councilor
Gabriel Lerman	Mayor
Kenneth (Jim) Riggins	Public Works Foreman

**GUESTS:**

George Locke	Borough Manager
Chief Thomas Scott	Chief of Police (via teleconference)
Chief Ken Lynch	Borough Fire Chief
Khal Hassan	Borough Engineer
Patrick Hitchens	Borough Solicitor
Kelly Hudson	Chair, Legacy Park at Jenkintown Elementary Community Board
Jillian Greenberry	Member, Legacy Park at Jenkintown Elementary Community Board
Sandra Tudge	Recording Secretary, Minutes Solutions Inc. (via teleconference)

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On a motion made by Christian Soltysiak, seconded by an unidentified Councilor, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025, Borough of Jenkintown Council meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.**

**4. APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS**

**On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by an unidentified Councilor, it was resolved to approve payrolls in the amount of \$206,280.85 and invoices totaling \$259,090.19. Motion unanimously carried.**

**5. COMMUNITY UPDATE – SPS TECHNOLOGIES FIRE INCIDENT**

Chief Thomas Scott reported on the response over the past two weeks following the fire at SPS Technologies. He thanked the restaurants in the Borough and Abington Township for providing meals and shelter to first responders during the first 72 hours of the fire.

Chief Thomas Scott reported that a total of 114 hours of fire department service was dedicated to the scene, from 9:35 p.m. February 17, 2025, when the fire started, to the afternoon of February 22, 2025, when it was fully extinguished.

Several teams have been hired by SPS Technologies to assist with cleanup efforts throughout the Borough. Information updates from SPS can be found at <https://SPSupdates.com>, where details on plant processes and chemicals involved are available. The Borough continues to work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on monitoring efforts, while SPS Technologies remains responsible for air quality and water runoff. SPS Technologies operates its own water treatment facility on campus and will treat water before discharging it into the creek. Additionally, SPS has removed most of the chemicals stored on-site. The Borough is actively communicating residents' concerns to SPS.

The Borough has worked closely with the School Superintendent to ensure that the schools remain safe. DEP collaborating with SPS Technologies to determine whether soil testing is warranted, which is typically indicated when air monitoring detects particulates. Chief Thomas Scott clarified that DEP has primary compliance authority, followed by Abington Township. The Borough will continue advocating for ongoing monitoring by SPS Technologies and clear communication of results from the DEP, EPA, and other relevant authorities.

High winds spread debris from the fire, impacting several properties in the Borough. Cleanup teams are conducting thorough debris collection efforts across the Borough and Abington Township. The demolition and removal of debris from the SPS Technologies site will take time, but the EPA continues to monitor air quality, utilizing seven on-site monitors and seven additional monitors around the area. Reports from the DEP and EPA indicate that air quality in the Borough remains safe. The Borough will continue to work with the jurisdiction.

Chief Thomas Scott emphasized the positive outcome of the response efforts, highlighting that no lives were lost and no injuries were reported. He acknowledged speculation within the community regarding the fire's impact but reaffirmed his trust in the due diligence of the authorities involved.

Chief Thomas Scott opened the floor to questions from Council.

Alexandria Khalil thanked the first responders and expressed deep gratitude to the community.

Jay Conners then opened the floor to questions from the public. It was noted that the public had a time limit of three minutes to speak.

**Resident Mary Jane Riley:**

Asked whether the cleanup crews intended to collect the small pieces of debris on the sidewalks and lawns.

**Chief Thomas Scott:**

Responded that the cleanup crew was conducting inspections and collecting small pieces of debris across the Borough.

**Jay Conners:**

Responded that he had observed the cleanup of lawns on his street. He reminded residents that they can call the hotline to identify areas of debris.

**Kevin Poirot, 153 Wyncote Road:**

Noted that the Governor and Jay Conners have publicly responded to the community's questions, while SPS Technologies has not. He encouraged Council to defend the residents in their seeking answers. He suggested the Borough undertake independent testing, and consider joining the lawsuit to offset costs associated with conducting testing.

**Jay Conners:**

Thanked Kevin for his comments, noting that some Councilors live in the area of concern and their children attend the affected schools. He confirmed that Council is on the residents' side. He added that Chief Thomas Scott is the Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator and is performing at his maximum for the residents.

**Alexandria Khalil:**

Responded that Council has listened to the residents and has been raising their concerns up the chain.

**Robert Kohlepp, 400 Lindon Street:**

Stated that he has been advocating for soil testing and wrote to the School Board offering to pay for testing at the school. He read the response from the Chair of the School Board, which stated that the testing of the school property is restrained by resources and the recommendations of government experts. He noted that the e-mail did not address his willingness to pay for the testing and the decision to test is not within the School Board's purview. He stated that the Borough should advocate for immediate testing.

**Resident Sean Parker:**

Continued to read the response from the Chair of the School Board, which stated that the School Board has continued inquire with authorities and SPS Technologies regarding the chemicals involved in the fire. The Chair of the School Board also underscored the importance of in-person learning. Sean Parker noted that SPS Technologies did not have a good track record.

**Heidi Braunschweig, 413 Leedom Street:**

Noted that they had observed soot daily on cars since the fire and asked whether there was a plan to clean the streets.

**Jay Conners:**

Responded that he was not aware of any street cleaning scheduled and noted that it was his understanding that street cleaning was not recommended.

**Resident Heather, 217 Runnymede Avenue:**

Asked when community members could participate in a forum to learn about the chemicals involved in the fire. She noted that there seems to be fragmentation in the community regarding the scientific evidence and the community's fears could be mitigated by providing more information.

**Christian Soltysiak:**

Responded that she had recommended that the Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Response (HazMat) Team provide education to the community, but they were unable to attend the current meeting.

**Jay Conners:**

Responded that the Council intends to further discuss the chemicals with the community.

**Alexandria Khalil:**

Stated that she was confident in the expertise of the Superintendent and the School Board in terms of protecting the safety of the students.

**Resident Sean Parker:**

Inquired about the factors that prevented a mass casualty event.

**Chief Thomas Scott:**

Responded that all fire departments in the area had previously prepared for such an event and were aware of the areas of potential impingement. He commended Chief Ken Lynch's outstanding response to the situation.

Chief Ken Lynch then discussed the fire department's response, noting the strength and professionalism of the first responders. He expressed pride and gratitude in their performance and the dedication of the command staff. He thanked Chief Scott for his collaboration and the community's outstanding response. Chief Ken Lynch also highlighted the significant impact on the families of first responders and expressed gratitude to them.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alison Jenkin, Cedar Street, asked Councilors to table the vote on Cedar Street parking to allow for residents of Cedar Street to further understand the rationale of the ordinance through a dialogue with Council.

Bill Fraser, 316 Cedar Street, stated that he looked forward to the opening of Legacy Park. He then commented on Cedar Street parking, noting that the residents of Cedar Street did not endorse Park Mobile at previous meetings. He stated that ParkMobile would simply advertise parking on the street to non-Cedar Street residents. He acknowledged that some changes were made to the initial proposal but there was no opportunity for open dialogue. He asked Councilors to veto the ordinance or table the vote for further discussion. Bill Fraser expressed endorsement of George Lock's suggestion that there be permit parking on one side of the street, and three-hour parking on the other.

Mary Jane Hoag, 405 Cedar Street, expressed concern about the lack of parking on Cedar Street, especially for those who do not have driveways, and about parking availability decreasing with the ordinance. She also commented on the risk of reducing property values by installing ParkMobile signs. The residents wanted further discussion, and she suggested that Council table the motion.

Joy Stevens, 408 Cedar Street, agreed with her neighbor's request to meet with the Councilors to conduct further discussion.

Heidi Braunschweig, 413 Leedom Street, stated that residents of Leedom Street were not aware of the proposed ordinance for 10-hour metered parking and suggested that the motion should be tabled or vetoed. She explained that residents were respectful of parking within the limited availability and did not understand the reason for the ordinance. She suggested raising the price of parking elsewhere if the motive was financial.

Katherine Friedman, 429 Leedom Street, noted that parking is limited and it would be more difficult with available parking limited to 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. with no parking enforcement. She stated that she had received two parking tickets for parking on Leedom street, as she cannot obtain a permit. She asked the Council to vote against the ordinance or table it for

further discussion. She noted that there had been no notification of the ordinance to the residents of Leedom Street.

Joel Kroll, 403 Cedar Street, asked how the Borough would benefit from this change and questioned whether two Parking Enforcement Officers were more costly to the Borough than the collected revenue.

Linda McGrath, 411 Cedar Street, referred to a previous parking study that suggested that Council should pay attention to parking spillover to residential areas located near businesses. She asked whether Council could be considered in breach of contract if there was no parking available on the street for permit holders. She also noted that there was no notice of a meeting specifically about Cedar Street parking, only notice of a meeting about parking.

Amy Kroll, 424 Cedar Street, requested that if Council decided to implement ParkMobile parking, there would be only one ParkMobile sign for the street.

John Crow, 424 Cedar Street, expressed frustration that he was attending another meeting to contend parking in front of his house. He asked for Council to oppose the ordinance or to table the motion and invite residents to a meeting to discuss and further understand why the ordinance is needed.

Luke Stachowicz, 423 Cedar Street, noted that he attended three meetings about parking. He stated that Council should vote against the ordinance and not table the motion.

Jack Duvilla, 402 Cedar Street, noted that parking was limited on Cedar Street and the ParkMobile signs would further reduce availability. He reminded Council that they should represent the residents.

Mary Jane Riley explained that the reason that no one from Cedar Street attended the previous meetings because it was advertised as a meeting for streets with parking problems. ParkMobile was viewed by residents as a solution for streets with parking problems. Cedar Street residents did consider their street within the scope of the discussions. She further requested that Council post minutes of their meetings within a week of the meetings taking place.

Theresa, Cedar Street, asked that the Councilors vote against the ordinance, as it will increase parking problems.

Deborra Sines-Pancoe wanted to correct misstatements made during the public comments. She explained that she did not have the capacity to organize a separate meeting for Cedar Street residents on parking prior to the meeting due to the fire incident, but she would aim to organize a meeting within the next few weeks. Deborra Sines-Pancoe clarified that there was no plan to draw parking lines or put meters on Cedar Street. Under the proposed ordinance, the three-hour parking limit would be enforced during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to increase turnover and allow for more parking. Part of the rationale for limiting the time period for parking was to deter postal employees from parking all day. She further clarified that the primary purpose of the ordinance was to make parking permits enforceable, not to generate more revenue for the Borough. She added that she better understood the need for residents to have more time to understand the ordinance and would vote to table the motion.

Alexandria Khalil agreed with tabling the motion, as residents did not understand the purpose of the previous meetings and residents needed to realize that there is a parking problem. She added that Chief Thomas Scott had held several meetings in addition to Borough council meetings.

Gordon Lewis noted that there must be a way to regulate parking throughout the Borough. Solutions that are enforceable, benefit everyone, and do not negatively impact anyone specifically, are needed.

Steele Stevens, 408 Cedar Street, noted that Council's decision not to include those directly affected by the Ordinance was a mistake that should be rectified by at minimum tabling the motion and creating a process for residents to consider the options.

Patrick Hitchens read an e-mail from Bianca Biasa, a resident of Cedar Street, which stated that there was no communication about incorporating ParkMobile on Cedar Street.

George Locke read the comments from Facebook.

Resident Ally Lester asked Council to consider having ongoing communication with SPS Technologies, DEP, and EPD, and asked who was conducting the environmental testing in the Borough.

Resident expressed concern about SPS Technologies documents as they do not include solvents listed on their permits.

## **7. PRESENTATION – LEGACY PARK**

Kelly Hudson and Jillian Greenberry reviewed the Legacy Park's mission, the community survey results, the status of fundraising to date, methods to donate, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events. It was noted that the information would also be presented at the Legacy Park kickoff event on March 9, 2025.

The Legacy Park Community Board is reimagining the greenspace for Jenkintown Elementary school playground and area to create a unique, inclusive, and multigenerational park for the entire community.

The results of the survey indicated that the most common time for park use was during after-school hours, followed by evenings and weekends. The most common age of playground users was children ages five to 11 years old. Survey respondents identified the priorities for the park as a variety of play structures followed by safety, long-term maintenance, and sustainability. Imaginative play areas, open play areas, and shaded areas were recognized as important features.

The project is 100% funded through donations, grants, and business sponsorships. Approximately \$146,000 of the \$2 million target has been raised to date. Donations will be allocated to equipment, landscaping, enhanced pathways, and lighting. The e-mail address to donate is [play@jentowndrakes.org](mailto:play@jentowndrakes.org). Donations can be also made via check or Venmo.

It was noted that all work toward developing Legacy Park has and will continue to be provided by volunteers. The following volunteer opportunities were reviewed:

- Tuesday Night Markets
- Battle of the Bands on June 24, 2025
- Merchandise
- Popcorn fundraiser
- Goodbye picnic
- Red and Blue Fair Design Reveal event at the Fair on May 17, 2025
- Fundraising and community outreach

The kickoff event will take place as a rolling presentation at the Hiway Theater on March 9, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The community can RSVP via SignUpGenius. Further information can be found on the Legacy Park at Jenkintown Elementary Facebook page.

## **8. REPORTS**

### **8.1 Engineer's Report**

Khal Hassan from Pennoni Associates noted that the engineer's report was included in the meeting package. The engineer has been working on completing projects at 501 Washington Lane, 826 Homestead Road, and the grocery store.

### **8.2 Public Works Department**

George Locke reported on Jim Riggin's behalf. There were four winter storms, of which one was plowable event. Public Works extensively treated the roads and sidewalks with brine and road salt. Public Works also assisted with the flushing of sewers on York Road. With regard to the trenching on York Road, the new PennDOT employee overseeing the municipality agreed that York Road is in poor condition and will try to arrange repaving before paving season. George Locke added that the contractor has been responsive to repairing potholes.

### **8.3 Solicitor's Report**

The Solicitor's office continues to provide services on an as-needed and as-requested basis.

### **8.4 Mayor's Report**

Jay Conners read the Mayor's statement, which extended thanks to first responders, agencies at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as other municipalities for their response.

### **8.5 Police Chief's Report**

Chief Thomas Scott noted that the monthly Police Chief report was included in the meeting package. He reported that he recently received confirmation from the DEP that there were no PCBs involved in the SPS site. The DEP is in the process of determining whether soil testing will be responsive.

### **8.6 Manager's Report**

George Locke noted that there were no updates to the report he provided to the Jenkintown Workshop Committee on February 19, 2025.

## **9. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **9.1 Act 49 of 2024 – Purchase of Uniform Pension Service Credit, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by an unidentified Councilor, it was resolved to approve the MOU with the Police Benevolent Association, amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement to allow participation in the Act 49 of 2024. Motion unanimously carried.

## **9.2 Act 49 of 2024 – Uniform Pension Service Credit, Ordinance**

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by an Unidentified Councilor, it was resolved to approve advertisement of the Uniformed Pension Ordinance with revision allowing participation in the Act 49 of 2024. Motion unanimously carried.

## **9.3 Ordinance 2025-1, Ch. 172 – Vehicles & Traffic Art. III and IV**

On a motion made by Christian Soltysiak, seconded by an unidentified Councilor, it was resolved to approve the of adoption of Ordinance 2025-01 amending Article III and IV of Ch. 172 (“Vehicles and Traffic”) making comprehensive revisions to parking regulations and metered parking/parking payment zones and Borough-operated parking lots. Motion tabled.

On a motion made by Joanne Bruno, seconded by Alexandria Khalil, it was resolved to table the motion to approve the adoption of Ordinance 2025-01 amending Article III and IV of Ch. 172 (“Vehicles and Traffic”), making comprehensive revisions to parking regulations and metered parking/parking payment zones and Borough-operated parking lots, until the Council’s meeting in March, 2025. Motion carried.

In favor: 8

Opposed: 1

The Council discussed the need to set a time limit for tabling the motion and considered holding a meeting before the next Council meeting with ward leaders, councilors, and residents to discuss the ordinance.

Christian Soltysiak noted that multiple had already been held on the ordinance and expressed concern that residents either might not attend the next meeting or remain unwilling to discuss any parking changes.

Alexandria Khalil stated that Chief Thomas Scott and all Council members had attended previous public meetings, but she was willing to hold one more meeting with residents for a detailed discussion on the ordinance. Anne MacHaffie agreed that another meeting to talk with residents would not be necessary.

David Ballard asked whether the ordinance could be amended to address concerns from Cedar Street residents regarding ParkMobile. Patrick Hitchens confirmed that the Borough’s code allows Council to amend an ordinance before voting on it. He added that any statement would need to be advertised within 20 days of the present meeting. Patrick Hitchens also noted that he had drafted an amendment, if needed, to better reflect the current parking rules on Cedar Street and to restore a statement that had been mistakenly removed from the final draft ordinance, clarifying that a permit does not guarantee parking.

David Ballard then asked whether Council could amend the motion to table only the sections of the ordinance related to Leedom Street and Cedar Street. George Locke agreed that was one possible approach. However, Jay Connors expressed concern that rewording the ordinance at such a late hour would be challenging.

Patrick Hitchens advised that If Council intended to advertise for the March, 2025 meeting, it would need to call a special meeting between the current date and two weeks before the regular business meeting. He suggested that Jay Connors could direct staff to schedule a special Council meeting on a specific date, after which staff would organize and advertise the meeting and agenda in the *Intelligencer*.



Gordon Lewis requested that residents bring possible parking solutions to the special meeting and not simply a catalogue of the problems.

**9.4     Jenkintown Commons Limited Partnership No. 3 (GIANT)**

**On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by an unidentified Councilor, it was resolved to approve the letter of credit release in the amount recommended by the Borough Engineer of \$578,587.41 (1%/23,898.09 remaining). Motion unanimously carried.**

**10.     NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**11.     ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was closed at 9:46 p.m.

**DISCLAIMER**

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date