

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

**MINUTES OF THE BOROUGH OF JENKINTOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 23, 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
Alexandria Khalil	Councilor
Anne MacHaffie	Councilor
Alex Bartlett	Councilor
Aliza Narva	Councilor

REGRETS:

David Ballard	Councilor
Kenneth Riggins	Public Works Foreman
Gabriel Lerman	Mayor

GUESTS:

George Locke	Borough Manager
Chief Thomas Scott	Chief of Police
Patrick Hitchens	Borough Solicitor
Mark Bickerton	Borough Traffic Engineer, Pennoni Associates
Tiffany Fisher	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 7:02 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion duly made, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2025, Borough of Jenkintown Council meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

4. APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS

On a motion duly made, it was resolved to approve payrolls in the amount of \$253,620.93 and invoices totaling \$282,559.12. Motion unanimously carried.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bryan Stuckert, 410 Cottman Street and 412 West Avenue, shared from the perspective of a plumbing contractor regarding an issue with the wording in the Borough's lateral ordinance compared to the process that is currently being used. The ordinance states that when a property is being put up for sale or changing ownership, the current owner must have the property inspected by a plumber. That inspection is then sent to the Borough engineer for review, and the engineer creates a report to send back to the owner. The issue he noted is that the report received from the engineer contains instructions on how the work must be completed and how to use the products, yet the ordinance does not state this is due process; it only states that the issues must be fixed. He stated that, as a plumber, he believes the plumber contracted should be the one to report what fix needs to be put in place, adding that the Borough engineer's suggestions often go against manufacturers' suggested use and warnings, resulting in unnecessary costs for the owner or plumbing contractor.

Mark Bickerton stated that he was not prepared to respond, but that he will investigate this issue.

George Locke shared that he reviewed Mr. Stuckert's comments and spoke with the engineer and the solicitor who reviewed the ordinance, and they confirmed that the lateral ordinance does specify who does what and who is responsible for deciding what work needs to be done. He noted that he is responsible for approving the report, but that they use their sanitary sewer engineer to review the inspection and create the report.

Bryan Stuckert stated that emails have been going back and forth for a month and a half. He noted that the lawyer who reviewed the issue had replied, stating that the engineer can note the fix that needs to be done, but the document does not declare that the engineer can state how it must be executed and with what materials.

Jay Conners confirmed understanding of the issue and thanked Mr. Stuckert for bringing it to the attention of Council. He supported reviews of ordinances when applicable to improve them. He reiterated that the engineer was not prepared and that they will investigate the issue further.

Mary Jane Riley shared that she has an issue with the \$90,000 that has been spent on a new police car when the police force members have reduced as of late, and they already have four cars. She shared an issue with the re-paving planned on West Avenue, stating that the street only has a few potholes and is not in a condition to require re-paving. She added that the Borough recently spent approximately \$150,000 on Walnut Street repairs and that the Borough's remaining budget for major road construction is currently around \$100,000, and so West Avenue must be the only road planned to be repaired.

Maureen Lucak shared that the Jenkintown Environmental Advisory Committee (JEAC) will be holding their annual Block by Block cleanup on April 27, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and asked that participants meet in the town square where brooms, shovels, and other supplies will be provided, but she noted that it would be helpful if participants brought their own supplies. She shared thanks on behalf of the JEAC for Manager Locke allowing the installation of bird collision window clings on the town hall building, further thanking Foreman Kenneth Riggins, Mark Fregoni, and Raheem Cooper for installing the nearly invisible window clings. She added that they are now a part of Bird Safe Philly and will find use for the leftover window cling.

Randy Garbin, 99 Runnymede Avenue, stated that a car with Pennsylvania plates has been abandoned for two weeks at the end of Rodman Avenue with its flashing lights on. The lights have since turned off, indicating a dead battery.

6. RETIREMENT RECOGNITION – OFFICER FRANK JAWORSKI

Chief Thomas Scott acknowledged Officer Frank Jaworski's 25 years of service and noted that he has been serving in public safety since 1992 as a dispatcher. Officer Frank Jaworski was a field training officer, a bike officer, and a traffic safety officer for the Borough. In addition, he was a member of the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office Local Drug Task Force and issued hundreds of arrests over various crimes. He received recognition from Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his enforcement of the DUI laws in the commonwealth. He is heavily involved in the community and developed many community engagement activities over the years. He worked part time in his own community for 20 years while simultaneously serving Jenkintown Borough. Chief Thomas Scott congratulated Frank Jaworski on his retirement from the Borough and thanked him on behalf of the residents.

Frank Jaworski thanked everyone and shared that it was his privilege to serve. He added that he will always be there for everyone and that he is grateful for all the friends he made along the way, especially for his supportive wife of 35 years.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

Patrick Hitchens opened the public hearing for the Ordinance 2025-2 Short-Term Rental.

7.1 Ordinance 2025-2 Short-Term Rental

On a motion made by Joanne Bruno, seconded by Alexandria Khalil, it was resolved to approve adoption of Ordinance 2025-02 Short-Term Rental. Motion carried unanimously.

The council previously authorized the advertisement for a short-term rental ordinance after months of discussion and review with the local planning commission. The ordinance contains two components: one is a revision to the zoning ordinance that will address short-term rentals from a zoning perspective, and the other is a rental registration requirement that is outside the zoning issue. He shared that, because there is a zoning component, he recommends following the procedures listed under the municipalities' planning code, which states that any revisions to the zoning code must be held via public hearing and recorded by way of stenographic record, which is why a stenographer was present and why this item was moved up on the agenda.

The first document marked into record was B1, a copy of the legal advertisements for the hearing held April 23, 2025. The second document marked into record was B2, a copy of the ordinance itself. A third and final document marked into record was B3, a copy of the Montgomery County Planning Commission review letter regarding the draft ordinance dated December 12, 2024.

Jay Conners opened the floor to comment from Council.

Deborra Sines-Pancoe asked if an inspection requirement is listed.

Patrick Hitchens confirmed that there is an annual application process. Under subsection G, it is noted that, upon the application of the owner, enforcement may conduct an inspection of the unit to ensure it meets all requirements.

Christian Soltysiak thanked everyone who worked on this ordinance.

Joanna Bruno thanked the planning commission, specifically Lucinda Bartley, who put in many hours and worked diligently to prepare this ordinance.

Jay Conners opened the floor to public comments. There were none.

Patrick Hitchens closed the public hearing.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Engineer's Report

Mark Bickerton and Manager Locke are working on Phase 2 of the scoping application for improvements to Walnut Street and Runnymede Avenue, which will cost approximately \$150,000. The official application opens June, 2025. They are continuing to assist with land development and several projects across town. The Giant traffic issue may be resolved with the current solution called Qwick Kurb. They have been ordered and will be received soon.

8.2 Solicitor's Report

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

8.3 Police Chief's Report

Chief Thomas Scott shared that SPS Technologies will reopen Highland Avenue on April 28, 2025, to traffic from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. to allow movement of materials across Highland Avenue and flaggers will be on-site.

He reminded residents of the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day scheduled for April 26, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Jenkintown police station. Other police departments are participating in the take back.

8.4 Manager's Report

The Borough has started a new program to replace lights that have been knocked down using a new numbered map. Two poles on Leedom Street and five on York Road have been replaced. One pole remains to be replaced on York Road. Trench restoration is set to take place April 24, 2025, on York Road to repair potholes. The milling and paving of York Road, where the utilities company disturbed the road, will take place in the last week of April or first week of May at night.

The Block to Block event takes place April 27, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and residents can meet at the town square or clean their way there. This event was advertised on the Jenkintown School District electronic sign.

General liability and vehicle insurance coverage was renewed with Utica insurance for the fire department after implementing policy changes. The new policy was issued at a savings of \$10,193, which is a 23% decrease in the insurance cost.

The Borough is cosponsoring a free electronic waste recycling event on May 3, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Jenkintown Library, 460 York Road. No registration required.

The 2025 Ford Explorer police vehicle has been delivered to Fred Beans through the Commonwealth's Cooperative Purchasing Program and the quote for the outfit has been provided to U.S. Bancorp as part of the documentation required for master lease revision, and the Borough will see the vehicle in May or June, 2025.

9. ORDER OF BUSINESS

9.1 Release and Settlement Agreement – 210 Greenwood Avenue

On a motion made by Jay Conners, seconded by Alex Bartlett, it was resolved to approve the 210 Greenwood Avenue release and settlement agreement in the amount of \$16,205. Motion carried unanimously.

Two sewer backups occurred at 210 Greenwood Avenue, not caused by the resident. Repairs were paid for by the resident and documents were provided to support the amount paid to repair damages to the property and basement. The Borough is reimbursing for the cost of the repairs and lost wages to repair the property but not for any punitive damages. It was a drain line that was not on any plans that broke and washed out the sewer lateral twice at 210 Greenwood Avenue. The Borough had since tied it off to the active line and this exact issue should not happen again.

9.2 Jenkintown School District Letter of Support for Federal Funding

On a motion made by Jay Conners, seconded by an unidentified councilor, it was resolved to authorize the Borough Manager and Council President to send a letter of support for the Jenkintown School District's request for federal funding for the development of recreational space. Motion carried unanimously.

It is a letter of support but does not bind the Borough to a financial commitment.

9.3 Jenkintown Police Department Policies

On a motion made by Christian Soltysiak, seconded by an unidentified councilor, it was resolved to approve the Jenkintown Police Department policies, Numbers 1.1.1-1.2.8, 41.2.2, 41.2.2a, 41.2.3, 41.2.3a, 42.2.12, 46.1.10. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Thomas Scott stated that there is an error in the agenda that lists the policy numbers as "1.1.1, 1.2.8" when it should say "1.1.1-1.2.8", and he reviewed the policy titles within the error set of numbers. It has been corrected for the motion.

9.4 Night Market Contract – JCA and Evergreen Events

On a motion made by Jay Conners, seconded by an unidentified councilor, it was resolved to approve the night market agreement from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays from May 27, 2025, through to September 30, 2025, excluding June 3, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

The agreement excludes June 3, 2025, due to the Sunset 5k Run. This event was mentioned in The Philadelphia Inquirer's April 23, 2025, issue as one of the farmers markets to visit. As of April 23, 2025, all music performances have been booked for the night market.

9.5 2023 ADA Curb Ramp Project – Albert G. Cipolloni Jr. & Sons, Inc.

On a motion made by Jay Conners seconded by an unidentified councilor, it was resolved to approve authorization of the final payment request No. 3 in the amount of \$30,963.42 including tax when recommended by the Borough engineer. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was closed at 7:45 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.

Director

Director

Date

Date