

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

**MINUTES OF THE BOROUGH OF JENKINTOWN COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2026, 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

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|----------------------|------------------------|
| Jay Conners | Council President |
| Christian Soltysiak | Council Vice President |
| Gordon Lewis | Councilor |
| Deborra Sines-Pancoe | Councilor |
| Steve Spindler | Councilor |
| Joanne Bruno | Councilor |
| Anne MacHaffie | Councilor |
| David Ballard | Councilor |
| Alexandria Khalil | Councilor |
| Joshua Curtin | Councilor |

REGRETS:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Alex Bartlett | Councilor |
| Maxine Marlowe | Councilor |

GUESTS:

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| Gabriel Lerman | Mayor |
| George Locke | Borough Manager |
| Kenneth Riggins | Public Works Foreman |
| Khaled Hassan | Borough Engineer, Pennoni Associates |
| Patrick Hitchens | Borough Solicitor |
| Marcus Lambert | Director of Finance |
| 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 7:08 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by Christian Soltysiak, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026, Borough of Jenkintown Council meeting and the minutes of the February 18, 2026, Borough of Jenkintown Committee workshop meeting as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

4. **APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS**

On a motion made by Jay Conners, seconded by Joanne Bruno, it was resolved to approve payrolls in the amount of \$193,379.51 and invoices totaling \$93,405.02. Motion unanimously carried.

5. **AGENDA**

On a motion made by Anne MacHaffie, seconded by Christian Soltysiak, it was resolved to open the agenda to appoint another candidate to the Human Relations Commission. Motion unanimously carried.

The Borough advised Patrick Hitchens before the meeting held on February 25, 2026, that Council may want to make additional appointments beyond what is contained on the current agenda. He guided Council on the updated ruling by the Supreme Court to motion to open the agenda to add an action item to the agenda to add additional appointments if passed.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

7. **PRESENTATION**

7.1 **Environmental Advisory Committee**

Mary Mertens presented in support of the proposed single-use plastic ordinance. She shared that they have worked on this ordinance diligently for over a year. They have reviewed over 40 municipalities in Pennsylvania who have already passed the single-use plastic regulations ordinance to create the ordinance for Jenkintown Borough. Of the 40 municipalities who passed the ordinance, 20 of them implemented bag fees. The purpose of the ordinance is to restrict the use of single use plastic bags in Borough businesses at checkout, except for plastic bags used for produce, dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags, and more of the like. It exempts any non-profit businesses in the Borough using donated plastic bags. Instead of single use plastic, businesses can provide a reusable bag or a recycled paper bag with a 10-cent fee. The fee does not apply to online orders. The business can choose to charge more, but the minimum is a 10-cent fee. The exemption specifies that customers using SNAP, WIC food stamps, or any other food benefit program would be exempt from the bag fee.

Two other single-use plastic items restricted in the ordinance are plastic straws or stirrers. Businesses can provide a compostable alternative. The ordinance contains a specification allowing businesses to provide plastic straws to customers upon request, as some needs require plastic over paper.

Mary Mertens reviewed the enforcement component section of the ordinance and noted that the ordinance would be effective 120 days from the date of approval. This will allow time for businesses to use up any bags they have and to allow time to comply with the ordinance. There is an exception stipulation that grants businesses the ability to claim undue hardship to the Borough manager, explain their reasoning, and the Borough manager would have the discretion to allow the business additional time to use up the amount of bags they have.

The Borough code requires that the Borough advertise a copy of the proposed ordinance in a newspaper of general circulation to notify the people that it has been made available. It is not a requirement to notify the businesses directly. The ordinance was created to be pro-business, and the Environmental Advisory Committee will provide the signage that is required in the ordinance by stores to post at all points of sale.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Engineer's Report

Khaled Hassan stated that a copy of the report was provided in the meeting package. The engineers continue to provide assistance to the Borough for traffic matters and related projects. They collaborated with the Borough on February 10, 2026, to make the submission of the 2025 FEMA annual report. The Borough Engineer and Borough Manager are collaborating for the 2026 paving project and the possibility of an ADA ramp application to the CDBG.

8.2 Public Works Department

Kenneth Riggins stated that the Public Works report was in the meeting package. He stated that the focus of Public Works has been clearing ice and snow from the February, 2026, snowstorms.

He reminded residents not to snowplow from their driveway to the road, as it will ice over and cause a hazard. He suggested that residents remind their neighbors of the hazard, and he highlighted the importance of snowplowing the excess onto the residents' own lawns.

Council discussed options for enforcing sidewalk clearing and how to proceed with notifying residents of their duty to clear. It was noted that corner houses with the corner sidewalks have an important role to play by keeping the sidewalks clear of snow for children and all residents.

Kenneth Riggins stated that Public Works has cleared wider corners with the plow or with shoveling but stated that the primary responsibility lies with the homeowner.

Council proposed sending warnings to residents who are not clearing their sidewalk snow and clarifying that the expectation is listed in the ordinance. West Avenue at Walnut Street and 500 West Avenue were noted as hazardous areas with uncleared sidewalks. Mayor Lerman suggested taking action to communicate the expectations from the ordinance as clearly as possible to residents to avoid sudden fines on the community.

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

Mayor Lerman shared praise for Public Works' efforts during the February, 2026, snowstorms, noting that their snow clearing standards have impressed visitors to the Borough.

8.5 Manager's Report

Manager Locke stated that the Borough is working through the electronic transfer of files with the director of finance, Marcus Lambert. They have completed an upload of all zoning files. The outcome of the paper files will be discussed in an upcoming meeting. The Borough is working on a financing code software program with Edmunds GovTech.

The Borough was awarded two grants recently that will be worked on collaboratively with the Borough engineer. The engineer drawings have been completed for the Montco 2040 grant regarding pedestrian traffic calming and safety at five intersections within the Borough. They will be presented in an upcoming meeting.

The parking inventory has been finalized, but it has not yet been returned. The public meeting will be held to review the parking inventory after the information is handed off to the county in March, 2026.

9. ORDER OF BUSINESS

9.1 Letter of Support, Multimodal Transportation Grant Application – Abington Township

On a motion made by Jay Conners, seconded by Joanne Bruno, it was resolved to move to issue a letter of support to Abington Township for the Multimodal Transportation grant, Phase 5 of the Jenkintown Abington Connections Project. Motion unanimously carried.

9.2 Resolution 2026-11 – Borough Emergency Operation Plan

On a motion made by Christian Soltysiak, seconded by Anne MacHaffie, it was resolved to move to adopt Resolution 2026-11 Borough Emergency Operation Plan, as required by Section 7503 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management service code. Motion carried. Nine in favor and one abstention.

9.3 Police – Authorization to Purchase Duty Firearms Holsters for Sworn Personnel

On a motion made by Christian Soltysiak, seconded by Alexandria Khalil, it was resolved to move to approve the budgeted purchase of duty firearms and holsters for sworn personnel of the police department, inclusive of the trade-in sale of existing duty firearms. Motion unanimously carried.

9.4 Destruction of Public Records

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by Joshua Curtin, it was resolved to move to authorize the destruction of the records listed in Exhibit B, in full compliance with the retention periods and procedures set forth by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Local Government Records Committee. Motion unanimously carried.

9.5 Single-Use Plastic Regulations – Ordinance 2026-02

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by Alexandria Khalil, it was resolved to move to approve the public advertisement of Ordinance 2026-02 “Single-Use Plastic Regulations”. Motion unanimously carried.

9.6 Human Relations Commission Appointments

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by Alexandria Khalil, it was resolved to move to make the following reappointments and appointments to the Human Relations Commission in compliance with Chapter 47 of Jenkintown Borough Code: chairperson Lisa Smith with a term to expire January 1, 2029; Melissa Jackson-Schmitt with a term to expire January 1, 2028; and Joan Horvath with a term to expire January 1, 2027. Motion unanimously carried.

On a motion made by Anne MacHaffie, seconded by Christian Soltysiak, it was resolved to move to appoint Beth Cormier to the Human Relations Commission in compliance with Chapter 47 of Jenkintown Borough Code with a term to expire January 1, 2027. Motion unanimously carried.

9.7 Proposed Zoning Map Revision – Town Center District

On a motion made by Joanne Bruno, seconded by Christian Soltysiak, it was resolved to move to approve the public advertisement of the proposed zoning map revision to the Town Center Zoning District as proposed by the Borough Planning Commission. Motion unanimously carried.

Because this is a zoning ordinance, it is a map amendment. Specific notice will be mailed to applicable property owners to advise them of the rezoning of their property, as well as advertised in a newspaper and posted. The specific impacted properties will be notified.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 8:00 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