

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

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

MEMBERS:

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

REGRETS:

Joshua Curtin	Councilor
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GUESTS:

Gabriel Lerman	Mayor
George Locke	Borough Manager
Kenneth Riggins	Public Works Foreman
Mark Bickerton	Borough Engineer, Pennoni Associates
Sean Kilkenny	Borough Solicitor
Shauna Rivera	Executive Assistant to Chief of Police
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 7:04 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 Alexandra Khalil it was resolved to approve the minutes of the Borough of Jenkintown Council meeting held February 25, 2026, as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

4. **APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS**

On a motion made by Jay Conners, seconded by Maxine Marlowe it was resolved to approve payrolls in the amount of \$195,751.33 and invoices totaling \$112,639.87. Motion unanimously carried.

5. **MAYOR STATEMENT**

On a motion made by Jay Conners, seconded by Christine Soltysiak it was resolved to approve directing staff to draft a resolution in support of the mayor statement on local law enforcement and immigration enforcement in Jenkintown Borough. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Lerman clarified that Borough employees cannot and do not engage in racial profiling, and that the act of racial profiling or bias of any form is explicitly prohibited and would be grounds for disciplinary action, including termination. He clarified Jenkintown Borough's position and policies related to immigration. The Borough's statement on immigration enforcement was made available in paper copy at the meeting held March 25, 2026.

6. **AGENDA**

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by Joanne Bruno, it was resolved to open the agenda to direct staff to draft a resolution in support of the mayor's statement on local law enforcement and immigration enforcement in Jenkintown Borough. Motion unanimously carried.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council held an executive session on March 25, 2026, before the public council meeting.

Alison, Resident of Rodman Avenue, shared support and thanks for the mayor's statement and recognized the efforts put forth by the community to ensure Jenkintown Borough reflects the same values.

Sue-Ann Devito, 100 West Avenue, commented about the mayor statement made during the public council meeting held on November 24, 2025, and shared personal opinions on subsequent actions taken regarding the Borough's immigration policy. It was stated that Patrick Hitchens brought the policy to Lansdale Borough and, upon review, Lansdale Borough requested edits and changes to the immigration policy.

Justin Mixon, 317 Hillside Avenue, shared that it is his job to support immigration and family law issues within Jenkintown Borough. He referenced lines in the immigration policy that are unclear and requested clarity for the benefit of immigrants, in addition to requesting that residents be notified when ICE is contacted within the Borough.

Jessica Fierman, 317 Hillside Avenue, shared that she is a lawyer and invited Jenkintown Borough employees to collaborate to create a policy that responds to the concerns that the residents have expressed with the Borough Council and employees.

Peter Wai, 427 Maple Street, shared how the immigration policy impacts him personally and noted appreciation for the changes made to the immigration policy after the meeting held November 24, 2025. He urged the Borough to reconsider wording within the immigration policy to clearly state that the Borough will not cooperate with ICE in any capacity.

Tim Dibble, 260 Mather Road, shared that he has lived in the Borough for 30 years and works in the criminal justice system. He stated that he stands in solidarity with those in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and around the country who have been arrested and detained without a judicial warrant of any kind, including American citizens. He stated objection to law enforcement in Jenkintown Borough wearing facial coverings and not having identification or warrants. He noted that the policies and resolutions are good natured, with strong legal policy language in some areas, but that they hold contradictions in other areas. He asked for clarification surrounding the contradictory parts of the policy. As a result, residents will have transparency and accountability in the community.

Lila Aleman, 448 Maple Street, clarified a past comment she had made about ICE racial profiling. She stated that contradictions exist within the Borough's current immigration policy. She requested a special session to review the immigration policy for residents to have a deeper understanding. On March 24, 2026, the US Attorney for the Southern District of New York filed a letter to federal court stating that they are correcting a material mistaken statement of fact that the government had made to the court regarding ICE's ability to be in certain places conducting certain activities in New York. She clarified that the mistrust felt is not with Jenkintown Borough employees. She suggested that cooperating with an agency that has admitted in court that they have lied about their legal abilities should be limited as much as possible. She shared data from a report that specifies 400 judges have found at least 4,000 individuals illegally detained and stated that facts of this nature are what cause mistrust and fear.

Bryan Gouge, 429 Maple Street, shared that, as a global health worker, he has worked in countries with autocratic authoritarian leadership and noted similar patterns with institutions like ICE becoming an instrument of the government. He stated that inflammatory conflict by ICE has escalated since the meeting held November 24, 2025, and requested that the Borough Council and employees reflect upon the last six months as a caution and as guidance to clarify the immigration policy.

An unidentified speaker requested a session for the Borough and residents to communicate effectively and listen to both sides of the immigration policy discussion. They reflected upon past successful collaborations towards ordinances and commission discussions.

Muhammad Ali Khan, 267 Washington Lane, shared that he immigrated to Jenkintown in 2013 and feels safe within the community. He stated that he loves where he lives and wishes residents could feel the confidence-building measures on behalf of the Borough and stated that he would appreciate more open conversations to represent the values of Jenkintown.

Marielle Zakrzwski, 404 Leedom Street, shared concern for safety under the current administration and requested clarification within the policy.

Grace Upadhyay, 421 ½ Maple Street, shared that one of the core tenets of peace and conflict resolution is centering the needs of those who are the most vulnerable. She shared personal impact experiences and perspective about the immigration policy and urged all present at the meeting to consider the impact to those considered the most vulnerable.

Hillary Fullborn, 246 Wyncote Road, shared appreciation for the mayor's statement and stated that the policy is an improvement from the last meeting held November 24, 2025. She noted that areas of concern remain that require review and editing and urged Council to consider removing contradictions between what the Borough stands for and what the policy states.

Alvaro Aleman, 448 Maple Street, requested that all members of Council speak on their personal stance regarding collaboration with ICE within Jenkintown Borough. He clarified that

he is against any collaboration with ICE and urged the Council to reconsider the potential legal liability to the Borough due to the immigration policy as is written.

Timothy Franciek, 600 Cheltena Avenue, respectfully requested that Council pause the proposed changes to the intersection of Cheltena Avenue, Cedar Street, and Linda Vista Avenue until the submitted request for information has been fully addressed and carefully reviewed by both the Council and the community. He emphasized that the request should not or need not delay the advancement of the other grant-funded projects. He shared concern that the proposal is attempting to solve a problem that has not been clearly defined or demonstrated to exist. He shared that there are no records of vehicular or pedestrian accidents dating back to 2014 at this intersection. He reviewed areas of concern and the lack of data to substantiate the proposed improvements. He urged the Council to consider whether the proposed improvements could introduce new risks for pedestrians and drivers. He asked that Council thoroughly evaluate existing conditions and address concerns outlined in a package of material he submitted to the Council during the meeting held on March 25, 2026.

Chris Mulholland, 605 Cloverly Avenue, stated that he has experienced Jenkintown Borough since 1998 and has never had a concern with the intersection of Cheltena Avenue, Cedar Street, and Linda Vista Avenue. He noted that proposed improvements to an intersection without a proven problem may cause issues where they do not exist.

Chris Callus, 601 Cheltena Avenue, shared that he works with international students and sees firsthand how the immigration policy updates are impacting immigrants in real time. He shared his stance on the policy and his desire for a clearly worded policy with no room for misunderstanding. He echoed Timothy Franciek's sentiments about the intersection proposal and noted that, at this time, there is not enough evidence to support the changes to the intersection.

Monica Waymouth, 200 Summit Avenue, shared that many children live in the area and more have moved in since the meeting held November 24, 2025, who require a safe crossing area at Summit Avenue. Without the proposed improvement of a stop sign, children walk four to five blocks for a legal crosswalk. She stated that she hopes this improvement will move forward.

Paulette Callus, 601 Cheltena Avenue, requested that the intersection of Cheltena Avenue, Cedar Street, and Linda Vista Avenue be separated from the other proposed intersection improvements and shared concerns surrounding the proposed bump outs and danger to parked vehicles in the area.

Alicia McDade, speaking on behalf of herself and Dan and Denise McDade of 600 Linda Vista Avenue, stated that she stands in solidarity with Timothy Franciek's comment. She added concern about the proposed improvements and the configuration of stop signs and crosswalks. She cited an example regarding drivers at the Leedom Street and West Avenue intersection looking at the stop signs instead of the crosswalk. The crosswalk is located in front of the stop sign, on the side where a car would stop, instead of the usual configuration of the crosswalk located after the stop sign, in front of where the car would stop. She shared an interaction with a crossing guard in the area who clarified that the intersection feels unsafe and cited the configuration of the stop sign and crosswalk as the reason.

Christie Corallo, 522 Cheltena Avenue, noted that most of the proposed improvements would be beneficial to the Borough. She shared concern that the proposed improvements to the intersection of Cheltena Avenue, Cedar Street, and Linda Vista Avenue could cause confusion and accidents. She requested that the Council consider delaying the proposal for this specific intersection.

There were no public comments received by email.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Engineer's Report

Mark Bickerton reviewed the report provided in the meeting package. The Green Light-GO grant is due at the end of March, 2026, and is in progress with Manager Locke's collaboration. The Borough is continuing to advance the traffic signal upgrade at Walnut Avenue and Runnymede Avenue.

8.2 Public Works Department

Foreman Riggins reviewed the Public Works report provided in the meeting package.

8.3 Solicitor's Report

The solicitor's office has been working with Borough staff on various policies and resolutions.

8.4 Mayor's Report

Mayor Lerman shared that the Borough has not had any interactions with ICE, and that the Borough's policy does state that they would share with residents if there were a visible presence in the Borough. He clarified they are open to sharing information if any interactions do occur.

8.5 Manager's Report

Manager Locke stated that the Borough is finalizing the annual DCED audit. The administration has collaborated with the Borough engineer and granting authorities on many grants. The funding contract has been signed for the small water grant. The ARLE grant contract has been provided. The Local Share Account (LSA) grant will be presented as a motion to advertise during the meeting held on March 25, 2026. The Borough Hall accessibility upgrades have been deemed acceptable expenses for the Community Development Block Grant, and the upgrades are predicted to cost approximately \$160,000. This allows funding from the LSA grant to be put toward electrical, plumbing, rehabilitation, and other concerns.

The JCA has confirmed Monday evenings to host the Night Market, featuring craft supplies and vegetables. A spring craft fair in Town Square will be held May 9, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Festival of Arts will be held September 27, 2026. The holiday market will be held December 5, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and the "Light up the Square" event will be held that same evening, December 5, 2026, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. PECO has committed to sponsor the "Light up the Square" event with \$1,000. The Menorah lighting in Town Square will be held December 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The JCA is sponsoring all events listed through 2026.

It was noted that residents have had their tax bills sent back to them as undeliverable, and up to 30 were received at the tax office as undeliverable. The rules for submittal were not clarified in advance for the 2025 tax year, which caused the error. Berkheimer Associates has updated the post office requirement. The tax collector is contacting those who have received them back to their homes and is requesting that they be brought into the office directly for resolution.

9. ORDER OF BUSINESS

9.1 Appointment of Zoning Hearing Board Counsel

On a motion made by Jay Conners, seconded by Alex Bartlett it was resolved to approve the appointment of Hill Wallack LLP as the Zoning Hearing Board counsel. Motion unanimously carried.

9.2 Single-Use Plastic Regulations – Ordinance 2026-02

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by Joanne Bruno, it was resolved to approve Ordinance 2026-02 “Single-Use Plastic Regulations”. Motion unanimously carried.

9.3 LSA – Rehabilitation and Accessibility of Borough Hall

On a motion made by David Ballard, seconded by Alexandria Khalil, it was resolved to move to approve permission to advertise the rehabilitation and accessibility project at Borough Hall funded through the LSA grant awarded to the Borough. Motion unanimously carried.

9.4 2026 Borough Road Paving Project – Advertise for Public Bid

On a motion made by Deborra Sines-Pancoe, seconded by Joanne Bruno, it was resolved to approve permission to advertise the 2026 paving project. Motion unanimously carried.

9.5 Resolution 2026-12 – Montco Community Development Block Grant

On a motion made by Deborra Sines-Pancoe, seconded by Alexandria Khalil, it was resolved to approve Resolution 2026-12 for making application for grant funding not to exceed the amount of \$250,000 to remove architectural barriers in Borough Hall. Motion unanimously carried.

9.6 Montco Implementation Grant – Traffic Calming, Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility

On a motion made by Christian Soltysiak, seconded by Alexandria Khalil, it was resolved to approve the submittal of the proposed improvement plans to the Montgomery County Planning Commission for final review and comment. Six were in favor and five opposed. Motion carried.

Council highlighted that this grant is for Borough-wide accessibility, pedestrian safety, and traffic calming improvements. It is intended to create a more accessible Jenkintown Borough for residents and visitors who require accessibility measures that are not currently implemented, and it will benefit all who live in the Borough.

Mayor Lerman reviewed concepts from the past 16 years that did not solve pedestrian accessibility concerns and summarized how the current proposal is a summary of findings. Manager Locke clarified that the intersection of Cheltena Avenue, Cedar Street, and Linda Vista Avenue is a main portion of the grant. It makes up \$100,000 of the \$250,000 grant. He has sought clarity from the county regarding whether they can remove the one intersection from the grant proposal, and he awaits a response. The vote is to send the proposal to the county for final review, and after the final review, if changes are made in the proposal, then the Borough will have to return the proposal for another approval. Any changes to the proposal would need to be rereviewed and resubmitted to the county.

Mark Bickerton stated that the intersection of Cheltona Avenue, Cedar Street, and Linda Vista Avenue does not yet have the stormwater drainage designed. They will be installed at low points or at any point where the proposed improvements are catching water.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Deborra Sines Pancoe shared that a local Borough Council gathering will be held in Lansdale Borough.

A county-wide town hall meeting will be held on April 8, 2026, at Norristown Area High School regarding immigration. The Montgomery County director of immigrant affairs and immigration law attorneys will be present.

11. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday - April 22nd, 2026.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 9:08 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