



The Borough of Elverson
101 South Chestnut Street
Elverson, PA 19520
Phone (610) 286-6420
Fax (610) 286-5950

March 4, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Elverson Borough Council was held on March 4, 2025, and called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President, Merle Stoltzfus and Dennis Kurtz who led the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

ATTENDANCE:

Council Members: Merle Stoltzfus, Mike Trojecki, Dennis Kurtz, Laura Pennza, Julie Duffy, John Scalia, Mayor Esther Prosser and Secretary/Treasurer, Lorrie Stolz

Absent: Council Member Tom Feeley

Also in attendance: Mark Stabolepszy, SSM Group, Greg Philips, PP&O, Lisa Palser, Parks, Rec. and Trails Committee, Justin Horrocks, Jansen Horrocks, Rebecca Wilson, Richard Cording, Joseph de Garay, Sharon de Garay, Tim McEwen, Ron Grant, Jim TerBush, George TerBush, Diane Cikoski, Cindy Franchitti, and Donald Perry

MINUTES:

Motion made by Dennis Kurtz and seconded by Julie Duffy to accept the February 4, 2025, Council meeting minutes as submitted. Motion carried by all.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Motion made by Laura Pennza and seconded by Dennis Kurtz to accept the Treasurers Report and pay the bills as presented. Motion carried by all.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Justin and Jansen Horrocks gave Council an overview of the Skatepark project at Livingood Park. Justin stated that in February 2023 Council approved the Skatepark project, in April 2024 they applied for a grant and in January 2025, the grant was approved. Justin stated they are now fully funded and ready to move forward with the project. Justin stated it is a fully concrete skatepark; there is no annual inspection required. Justin stated every 2 – 3 years it will need to be painted / patched and the cost for that will be \$100 - \$150 and it will need to be re-sealed every 5 years at a cost between \$800. to \$1,000. Justin discussed that this will be a skate at your own risk skatepark so the insurance will cost about \$550 a year, and trash collection is \$250 a year and Justin suggested getting one additional trash toter. Justin stated the service maintenance would be included in the Parks & Rec. annual budget and the insurance and trash collection would be incorporated in the Borough's annual maintenance budget. Julie Duffy commented that the skatepark sits back far; Justin stated that this plan allows for growth if it should be needed in the future. Merle Stoltzfus stated that the PA Strikers use the baseball fields at Livingood Park, and they pay to use the fields each year; Merle asked if the users of the skatepark would be willing to help offset the cost of the maintenance for the skatepark. Justin and Jansen stated they could set up a booth for donations on Elverson Day and do some fundraising events. Mike Trojecki asked what the hours of the skatepark would be, Justin stated they would be the same as the park hours which are Dawn to Dusk. Lisa Palser stated the skatepark will be part of the park and will be Borough property; if there are any problems, residents should call the State Police. Julie Duffy asked how soon they would be breaking ground; Justin replied they are hoping by May.

Rebecca Wilson, 34 W. Sunnyside Drive, discussed her concerns regarding the Anaerobic Digester with Council.

Richard Cording, 22 Stable Drive, stated before moving to Elverson he lived across the street from an incinerator that spread toxic smoke into his home once a week. He discussed his concerns about the Anaerobic Digester with Council.

PARK, REC, AND TRAILS:

Lisa Palser discussed the re-application process for the Blue Rock Trail Grant. Lisa is requesting approval from Council to reapply for the grant.

Motion made by Julie Duffy seconded by Dennis Kurtz to approve the request to reapply for the Blue Rock Trail grant. Motion carried by all.

COUNCIL DIGESTER DECISION:

Although immediately adjacent, Merle Stoltzfus expressed how the proposed Anaerobic Digester project is not within the jurisdictional limits of Elverson and outside Chester County. There is public confusion because the digester property is served by Elverson P.O. and has an Elverson address.

Prior to the meeting, Merle contacted the Borough Solicitor, Greg Philips, to be prepared to explain to Borough Council the extent of Borough authority and/or influence currently possible at this time in the process.

Solicitor Philips presented various options. Step One requires a letter brief to obtain party status at the Conditional Use hearing. Should Council have opposition, standing as a party is not possible apart from action by Council.

Solicitor Philips stated, with the current indefinite delay of the hearing, Caernarvon will need to advertise twice to reconvene the hearing. This should provide adequate time for Council to prepare to cross-examine witnesses should the Borough get standing.

If there was no opposition by Elverson to the digester, Elverson could do nothing. If there is, Elverson community may want to express opposition, Council will need to vote to engage with Solicitor Philips toward gaining standing. Mike Trojecki moved, and Julie Duffy seconded to take steps necessary to be able to express opposition as a party. The motion carried by an affirmative voice vote.

Dennis Kurtz, Julie Duffy, and Tom Feeley agreed to represent Council in working with Attorney Philips.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Merle Stoltzfus discussed the 2025 agreement with the PA Strikers.

Motion made by Mike Trojecki and seconded by John Scalia to approve the 2025 Agreement with the PA Strikers. Motion carried by all.

Motion made by Laura Pennza and seconded by Julie Duffy to approve the 2025 Heilner Landscaping contract. Motion carried by all.

MAYORS REPORT:

Esther Prosser discussed the Newsletter. Esther stated she likes the Savvy Citizen App and would like the Borough to consider using that as a means of communication as well. Merle suggested Esther, Laura, and Lorrie continue to work on this to make it happen. Esther stated she spoke to Peter Mountz the leader of the Trail Life USA Group; they are building two (2) cornhole games for Livingood Park. Esther stated street sweeping will be Thursday, March 27th and there will be a litter pick-up throughout the Borough on Saturday, March 15th 8am – 10am, everyone will meet in the Borough Hall parking lot at 8am please bring your own trash bags and gloves.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

Merle Stoltzfus discussed the quote the Borough received for new carpet in Borough Hall from Martin's Flooring; Merle stated Tom Feeley would like to see if he can negotiate the price.

STREETS AND LIGHTS:

Julie Duffy asked about the status of the street sign at Parkside and Dengler Drive; Merle Stoltzfus stated he fixed the sign on Saturday.

Donald Perry, 122 E. Conestoga Road stated there is a culvert located at 122 E Conestoga Road, and it is collapsing. Donald said he contacted Paul Friel's office, and they said it is a Borough issue. Merle Stoltzfus stated this is an ongoing battle with the State; Route 401 is a state highway, and unfortunately, this is a PennDOT issue. Merle stated we will stay in contact with Paul Friel's office for assistance with this matter.

STATE POLICE:

Merle Stoltzfus reviewed the State Police report; there were no concerns.

ENGINEERING:

Mark Stabolepsky stated Blue Rocks development is finishing and getting ready to close out. He stated SDE, the Municipal Authority's Engineer is working on their part of the Act 537 Plan Update, once Mark gets it back, he will be presenting it to Council for review.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:

Merle Stoltzfus stated there is a report from the Municipal Authority in their packets.

NEW BUSINESS:

Greg Philips stated the Local Services Tax will be increasing from \$52.00 to \$156.00 a year. Merle Stoltzfus explained this is a tax on any employee who works in the Borough, it will be increasing from \$1.00 a week to \$3.00 a week.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Julie Duffy to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully,

Lorrie Stolz
Secretary Treasurer