

**Larksville Borough
Council Meeting
February 3, 2026**

Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice President Austra with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Roll Call: Vice President Austra, Mr. Chase, Ms. Davis, Mr. Hooper, Ms. Stochla, Mayor Zawadski Solicitor Malak, and Ms. Valatka. Absent was Mr. Hudak and President Lehman.

Motion to approve the minutes from previous meeting on January 6, 2026, by Mr. Hooper, seconded by Ms. Stochla. Ayes have it. Motion passes.

Correspondence-none

Officer Report

Police Commission-VP Austra advised the WSRPD begun on 1-1-26. There is an increased presence throughout the borough. Someone stated they are not on Warman St., and this will be referred to Chief Coffay.

Solicitor Malak stated he was working on drafting easements for storm water and working on tower lease agreements. He also worked on sewer easements on borough owned property and questions regarding public funding requirements for emergency projects.

Fire-Ms. Davis reported a total of 45 responses for the month. There were 15 EMS assists, 3 accidents and 109.5 personnel hours.

EMA-none

Ambulance-Ms. Stochla stated 52 calls and 56 calls to date so far.

Recreation-Ms. Davis said the Easter Egg Hunt will be coming up and we will co-ordinate with State School again this year.

Road-Ms. Davis advised she will have a meeting with DPW on Monday to discuss some issues.

Engineer-none

Code-none

Motion to accept all formal reports by Ms. Stochla, seconded by Mr. Hooper. Ayes have it. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Mr. Shoemaker-Warman St. said he asked Alec about his street being paved and Alec stated Larksville is moving to a new COG and the road is guaranteed to get paved. His brother's Hometown Heroes banner blew off the pole. Mr. Shoemaker has been talking to many people, and he wants the flag put on the pole. It has been down for 6 months. He wants his banner and all the other banners hung up. Mr. Austra stated his aunt handles this and they will be hung up in the spring. Mr. Austra does not want our tax dollars spent on overtime to hang these. VP Austra said our DPW has hung all the flags, and they will be hung in the spring. She also stated we are not going to allow her to do multiple orders throughout the year. She will only place one order at a time of year that works for everyone. The poles belong to UGI and they are union workers. We cannot allow just anyone to do this work. VP Austra said she understood his frustration and we are very proud of our Veterans. Our DPW had issues with the hardware, so they went out and found better hardware to hang the banners. Mr. Shoemaker then said again, Alec stated the road is on the list to be paved. He also does not see police on his road. Alec gave Mr. Shoemaker a flag that flew over the capital building in Harrisburg. VP Austra said she will check in with Alec about paving the road.

Shannon-Carver St. Her mother lives on Schrader St. and the area is disgusting. In Edwardsville, if a vehicle is there for over a year the police get it removed. A resident on Schrader St. has garbage everywhere and was in the middle of the road and would not let her through. He spit on her truck, cursed at her and told her to back up and get out of his way. There are broken cars everywhere. Nurses cannot get through the road and will not do home visits. VP Austra asked if she called the police. Shannon said no because nothing is done. VP Austra said she will go up there with our code officer.

Ms. Price asked if it is public knowledge of how much we pay Mascaro. Yes, it is, the price was discussed at a previous meeting. We only had 1 bid for trash. VP Austra said we would have to triple our manpower to pickup our own trash and buy a truck. This would cost more than we are paying now.

Executive Session was not needed.

Old Business-Hill Lane has been completed and will be inspected later due to weather. We were denied an additional grant for Romanoskey Park.

New Business

Ted Ritsick gave a presentation on the Lower South Valley Land Bank and South Valley COG. Both are made up of multiple municipalities. South Valley COG has many advantages. They have a fueling station, have paving equipment, and other equipment that Larksville can use. Ted said if we pass the resolution at the next meeting it will be in time to join South Valley Cog in March. Larksville can participate but we will need a resolution. The fee is \$3,700 per year. The COG we belong to now is more expensive. Every year there will be a list of paving projects. The borough needs to pay for materials.

Joining the Lower South Valley Land Bank has been tabled for now. They deal with blighted properties and tax sale properties. They also apply for grants. VP Austra said Alec told her we got the \$500,000 and it's in the bank. Ted said we must finish the application. There are procedures we need to follow to get this grant. M&T is getting Ted all the required info this week and should receive the grant info by Feb 14th. Then by the end of February or beginning of March we should receive this \$500,000 grant. Ms. Valatka stated we do not know how much money Larksville is going to receive from this grant. Next year will be more feasible.

Motion to pay Cynthia Sherrill, tax collector \$600 per quarter by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Stochla. Ayes have it. Motion passed unanimously.

Assignment of Committees was tabled until next month.

Motion to appoint Tom Erwine Jr. to the Planning Board by Mr. Chase, seconded by Ms. Stochla.

Roll call: VP Austra- yes, Mr. Chase-yes, Ms. Davis-yes, Mr. Hooper-yes, Mr. Hudak-yes, Ms. Stochla-yes. Motion passes.

Multimodal grant was approved for \$500,000. The engineer will be looking to pave Howard St, the top of E. State St. and Lance Hill. More info to follow.

Motion to allow the Luzerne County Referees requesting to use Council Chambers March thru May on Sundays from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Stochla. Ayes have it. Motion passes.

Motion to pass Resolution 1 to waive annual contributions to the firefighters' pension plan by Mr. Hooper, seconded by Ms. Stochla.

Roll call: VP Austra- yes, Mr. Chase-yes, Ms. Davis-yes, Mr. Hooper-yes, Mr. Hudak-yes, Ms. Stochla-yes. Motion passes.

Motion to pass Resolution 2 for emergency repair of Larksville Borough's HVAC system by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hooper.

Roll call: VP Austra- yes, Mr. Chase-yes, Ms. Davis-yes, Mr. Hooper-yes, Mr. Hudak-yes, Ms. Stochla-yes. Motion passes.

Motion to use our storm water account to build a new salt shed for the borough in the amount of \$44,091.40 by Mr. Hooper, seconded by Ms. Stochla.

Roll call: VP Austra- yes, Mr. Chase-yes, Ms. Davis-yes, Mr. Hooper-yes, Mr. Hudak-yes, Ms. Stochla-yes. Motion passes.

Solicitor Malak stated this is a line of credit that a municipality can apply for to pay bills until tax money comes in. Once tax money is received, the loan can be paid off. We have two proposals, one from M&T for \$100,000 with an interest rate of 4.39%, the other from Northwest for \$150,000 with an interest rate of 4.76%. The sewer funds should ONLY be used for emergency situations. We may need a special meeting to pass a resolution for this loan.

Motion to apply for Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$100,000 by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Stochla. Motion carried.

Roll call: VP Austra- yes, Mr. Chase-yes, Ms. Davis-yes, Mr. Hooper-yes, Mr. Hudak-yes, Ms. Stochla-yes. Motion passes.

Announcements:

The next meeting for Larksville Borough Council will be held on March 3, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

No further business.

Adjournment at 7:00 p.m. by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Stochla. Ayes have it.