

**Larksville Borough
Council Meeting
November 6, 2025**

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

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

Motion to approve the minutes from previous meetings on October 7, 2025, by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Miller. Ayes have it. Motion passes.

Correspondence

Kuharchik sent estimates to repair traffic signals at Carey Avenue Bridge. There are lane loop sensors that may need to be repaired along with video detection cameras being placed.

Luzerne County is holding a public workshop on Monday November 17th at 4:30 p.m. on making our roads safer. The public is invited.

Officer Reports

Mayor-no report

Solicitor-no formal report. Mr. Malak has been working on drafting legal acknowledgements for last month. Working on fire fighter arbitration with another Attorney, reviewing deeds and continue to work on easements with WVSA. We have 2 more easements found.

Fire- Mr. Hudak stated we had 5 EMA assists, 4 vehicle accidents, and 7 gas leaks. He asked about fallen trees in the road and who should be handling this. President Lehman said DPW manages trees down.

EMA-no report

Ambulance-no report

Recreation-Ms. Miller stated the monument is being prepared for Veterans' Park and will be held until we are ready for it. Ms. Davis said the parade and tree lighting will be on December 7. Santa will not go around in fire engine this year. More info will follow.

Road- President Lehman stated 2 lights were out on the borough building and will be fixed by DPW.

Engineer- Ms. Valatka said the bids will be in January for Orchard St. and the work should start in the spring.

Code-Mr. Thomas stated 10 rental inspections were completed. He issued 126 building permits ytd.

Motion to accept all formal reports by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Stochla. Ayes have it. Motion passes.

Public Comments

Mr. Johns, Larkin St. said there are many abandoned cars on Larkin and Apple St. President Lehman said he will speak with Chief Edwards and they will be tagged.

Mr. Leshinski-Waller St. asked if Larksville took out a \$300,000 loan. President Lehman stated Larksville did not take out a loan, Edwardsville managed it. Larksville purchased the property for \$175,000. Edwardsville took out the loan because the government has shut down but we do have the grant money coming. Mr. Leshinski said the taxpayers will be paying this. Mr. Leshinski asked questions about grading the property. Vice President Austra stated the Regionalization Meeting is on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

President Lehman said we do not have the final amount for tearing the building down and leveling the property.

Mr. Schaffer asked about Veterans' Park. Ms. Miller stated we received grants to redo the park. There will be a memorial area. The design is being worked on by Quad 3. The bids will be out in the spring. President Lehman said there will be a sitting area and will beautify the park. Ms. Miller said the blacktop around the basketball court would be removed.

Laura Keller, Director of Plymouth Public Library, stated she has attended several meetings. Larksville is part of their service area and thanked us for supporting the library. The library is primarily supported by donations and state aid.

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. by President Lehman, seconded by Ms. Stochla.

Motion to go into regular session at 7:00 p.m. by President Lehman, seconded by Ms. Stochla.

Old Business

Luzerne County Lions Club will be replacing the signs on Washington Ave soon.

New Business

Wyoming Valley West students attended the meeting. President Lehman explained how our monthly meetings work. He encouraged them to ask questions to get a better understanding of what happens at meetings.

Ms. Valatka stated the price for 2025 trash was \$627,000 and we are \$20,000 short. This is due to having 119+ vacant properties and about 60 residents that have not paid the yearly fee. The price for 2026 trash is \$690,000. Taking this into consideration, the price for 2026 will be \$425 for regular and \$400 for seniors. Ms. Miller stated this is something we don't enjoy doing. We do not make any profit from trash. President Lehman stated the board in front of the building is the price that the residents have to pay for 2025 with penalties.

Motion to increase all trash stickers by \$50 for 2026 by Ms. Miller, seconded by Vice President Austra.

Roll Call: Vice President Austra yes, Ms. Davis yes, Mr. Hudak yes, Ms. Miller yes, Ms. Stochla yes, President Lehman yes. Motion passes.

Motion to purchase 280 recycling cans for 2026 in the amount of \$4494.00 by Ms. Davis, seconded by Ms. Miller. The cans cost \$16.08 each plus tax and handling.

Roll Call: Vice President Austra yes, Ms. Davis yes, Mr. Hudak yes, Ms. Miller yes, Ms. Stochla yes, President Lehman yes. Motion passes.

Ms. Valatka advised health care for 2026 has increased by 5.2%. Update—Ms. Valatka was able to negotiate the increase to 3% instead of 5.2%.

Mr. Fronzoni stated Mr. Baucom resigned from the fire dept., so he would like to hire Mr. Toporcer.

Motion to hire Kyle Toporcer as a part time fire engineer at \$17.00 an hour by Ms. Stochla, seconded by Ms. Miller.

Roll Call: Vice President Austra yes, Ms. Davis yes, Mr. Hudak yes, Ms. Miller yes, Ms. Stochla yes, President Lehman yes. Motion passes.

Motion to authorize payment of bills and payroll as funds become available by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Hudak. Ayes have it. Motion passes.

A budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th at 4:00 pm.

X. Announcements:

The next meeting for Larksville Borough Council will be held on December 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

XI. Further Business—thanks to WVW students for attending the meeting.

XI. Adjournment at 7:15 p.m. by Ms. Davis seconded by Ms. Stochla.