

ELLWOOD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M. – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
November 17, 2025

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Brad Ovia called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Barry, Mr. Celli, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Lamenza, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Ovia

Also Present: Solicitor Ryan Long, Borough Manager Kevin Swogger, and Mayor Anthony Court

Absent: Mr. Cragle

INVOCATION – Tod Custer, Christ Presbyterian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VISITORS

1. Robert DiBuono, 704 Line Ave – Re: Stop Sign (College Ave. at First St.)

COMMUNICATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Special Meeting 10/6/25 & Regular Meeting 10/20/25

A motion was made by Mr. Barry, seconded by Ms. Lamenza, to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting held 10/6/25 and the Regular Meeting held 10/20/25 and the as submitted. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Pre-Paid Voucher List 11/13/25 and List of Vouchers to be Paid dated 11/13/25

A motion was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Celli, to approve the Pre-Paid Voucher List dated 11/13/25, in the amount of \$578,488.86, and the List of Vouchers to be Paid dated 11/13/25, in the amount of \$236,815.63. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the Departmental Reports, as submitted. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

BID OPENINGS

ORDINANCES

1. Stop Intersection – College Street at First Avenue
A motion was made by Mr. Barry, seconded by Ms. Lamenza, to adopt an Ordinance, as submitted, amending the traffic ordinance establishing a stop intersection on College Street at First Avenue (northbound and southbound). Roll call vote. Voting in favor were Mr. Barry, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Lamenza and Mr. Ovia. Voting against were Mr. Celli and Ms. Williams. Motion carried, 4-2.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Free Holiday Parking
A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Lamenza, to adopt a Resolution, as submitted, authorizing free parking at all currently metered spaces located on Lawrence Avenue, Bell Avenue, Crescent Avenue, 5th Street, 6th Street, 7th Street and the Beaver Avenue parking lot for a maximum of two (2) hours from November 28 through December 31, 2025. Motorists exceeding the 2 hour time limit will be subject to a \$5.00 fine if paid within 72 hours. Violators who fail to make payment within 72 hours will be subject to prosecution through the District Justice office. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
2. Lawrence Co. 2025 Hazard Mitigation Updated Plan
A motion was made by Mr. Barry, seconded by Ms. Lamenza, to adopt a Resolution, as submitted, adopting the Lawrence County 2025 Hazard Mitigation Updated Plan as the official Hazard Mitigation Plan of the Borough of Ellwood City. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
3. 2026 Police Pension Contribution
A motion was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Barry, to adopt a Resolution, as submitted, requiring contributions to the police pension fund by the police department in the amount of 4.5% for all current employees and 5% for any employee hired after 1/1/25 for the year 2026. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Finance: (Williams, Celli, Lamenza)

Health/Public Safety: (Cragle, Lamenza, Ovial)

1. EC Area Chamber – Let There Be Lights, EC Parade Committee – Christmas Parade
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Ms. Lamenza, to approve the following:
 - the request by the EC Area Chamber of Commerce to hold a “Let There Be Lights” event December 5 from 6-9pm on Lawrence Avenue. It is further requested to close Lawrence Avenue from 4th – 6th Street at 4pm for the event. Also, to approve suspending Part 10, Chapter 1066, subsection 1066.03 (a) of the Codified Ordinance Book pertaining to the prohibition of alcohol. This suspension only applies to participants of the “Let There Be Lights” event. Event insurance shall be purchased, naming the Borough of Ellwood City as an additional named insured. All necessary State and County permits shall be in place for this event.
 - the request by the EC Parade Committee to hold the Christmas Parade December 6 beginning at 3:00pm

Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

Public Works: (Celli, Barry, Williams)

1. Payment – Youngblood Paving – 2025 Street Paving Program (repayment)
A motion was made by Mr. Barry, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve pay application #1 (repayment) to Youngblood Paving in the amount of \$230,477.12 for costs associated with the 2025 Paving Program. This amount will be paid from the General Fund. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

Utilities: (Williams, Celli, Johnson)

1. **Rescind Motion Made 9/15/25 - Approve Quote (Saracon Industrial Services)**
A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Celli, to rescind the motion made at the Regular Council meeting held 9/15/25 to “approve the quote from Saracon Industrial Services in an amount not to exceed \$7,566.96 for the removal of sludge from the aeration basins. This amount will be paid from the Sewage Fund.” Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Rescind Motion Made 10/20/25 - Approve Quote (McCutcheon Enterprises, Inc.)**
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Ms. Williams, to rescind the motion made at the Regular Council meeting held 10/20/25 to “approve the quote from McCutcheon Enterprises, Inc. (MEI) in the amount of approximately \$150,000 for sludge removal/cleaning of the oxidation tanks and influent tank at the wastewater treatment plant. This amount will be paid from the Sewage Capital Reserve Fund.” Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
3. **Advertise Ordinance – Sewer Rate Increase**
A motion was made by Mr. Barry, seconded by Mr. Celli, to advertise an amendment to the sewer ordinance amending rates and effective dates. This is in conjunction with the 2023 PennVest Loan (\$2.5 million) for the Wampum Avenue Pump Station Project. Rates shall be raised 3% each year for the years 2025 – 2032 and 2050 – 2055 to provide sufficient revenue to meet total expenses. Roll call vote. All in favor, except Mr. Johnson. Motion carried, 5-1.

Parks/Recreation: (Cragle, Williams, Ovia)

1. **EC Area Chamber of Commerce – Christmas in the Park, EC Area Chamber – Ugly Sweater 5K**
A motion was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Celli, to approve the following:
 - the request by the EC Area Chamber of Commerce to use Ewing Park from November 29 – December 23 from 6-9pm for the annual Christmas in the Park event
 - the request by the EC Area Chamber of Commerce to hold an “Ugly Sweater 5K” event December 13 in Ewing Park with registration at 3pm and the race starting at 4:30pm

Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

Administration/Personnel: (Lamenza, Cragle, Ovia)

1. **Advertise – Board/Commission Vacancies**
A motion was made by Ms. Lamenza, seconded by Ms. Williams, to advertise the vacancies on the following Boards/Commissions: Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission, Economic Development Authority, Civil Service Commission, Library Board, Board of Health, and Recreation Board. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
2. **Advertise Ordinance - Code Book Updates**
A motion was made by Mr. Barry, seconded by Mr. Celli, to advertise an ordinance approving the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances and resolutions as parts of the various component codes of the codified ordinances. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
3. **Worker’s Compensation Insurance – Firefighters**
This item was pulled from the Agenda.

4. Police Pension Plan – 2026 Cost of Living Adjustments (Disher, Forester (QDRO), Kingston, Liberatore, List, Magnifico & Parsons)
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Mr. Barry, to approve the year 2026 cost of living adjustments for retired police officers Jon Disher, Patricia Forester (QDRO), David Kingston, Matthew Liberatore, Richard List, Robert Magnifico and Wayne Parsons, as submitted by the Actuary. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
5. Herbert, Rowland, & Grubic, Inc. (HRG) – 2026 Fee Schedule
This item was pulled from the Agenda.
6. Advertise Ordinance – Compensation (Mayor/Council)
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Ms. Lamenza, to advertise an ordinance increasing the compensation of the Mayor to \$5400 annually and Council members to \$3600 annually, effective January 1, 2026. The increase in compensation applicable for the Mayor (beginning 1/1/26), and every Mayoral term thereafter and every new term for Council (i.e. Mancini) but not an incumbent (i.e. Lamenza, Ovial, Williams), and any newly elected council member elected after 1/1/26. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

Community Development/Buildings: (Ovial, Cragle, Johnson)

Blight: (Johnson, Barry, Ovial)

Technology: (Cragle, Williams, Lamenza)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

MAYOR'S REPORT

MANAGER'S REPORT

VISITORS

1. Joe Mancini, 309 Second St. – RE: Taxing Vape Shops

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Budget Workshop – November 17 at 7pm

Executive Session (Personnel/Labor Contracts) – November 25 at 5pm

2026 Budget Workshop – November 25 at 6pm

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Mr. Celli, seconded by Ms. Williams. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Contracts (CodeRed)

Linda M. List
Borough Secretary