

ELLWOOD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M. – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
March 16, 2026

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Brad Oviai called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Celli, Mr. Cragle, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Lamenza (via phone), Mr. Mancini, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Oviai

Also present: Solicitor Ryan Long (arrived 6:03pm) and Mayor Anthony Court

INVOCATION – James Johnson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VISITORS

1. Peri Malcolm RE: school zone flashing 15mph signs/speeding
2. Kathy Tillia EC School Board Member – RE: school zone flashing 15mph signs/speeding
3. Lynn Jones RE: Zoning Map Amendment (Pershing Street HM district)

COMMUNICATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Special Meeting 2/9/26, Regular Meeting 2/16/26

A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Mr. Mancini, to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting held 2/9/26 and the Regular Meeting held 2/16/26 as submitted.

Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Pre-Paid Voucher List dated 3/12/26 and List of Vouchers to be Paid dated 3/12/26.

A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Mr. Cragle, to approve the Pre-Paid Voucher List dated 3/12/26, in the amount of \$622,648.29, and the List of Vouchers to be Paid dated 3/12/26, in the amount of \$304,832.48. Roll call vote. All in favor, with Ms. Williams, abstaining from To Be Paid, PO ID#26-00386, Invoice #3293258. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

BID OPENINGS

ORDINANCES

1. Adopt Ordinance – 90 Minute Parking (Pittsburgh Circle/Glen Ave)
A motion was made by Mr. Cragle, seconded by Mr. Celli, to adopt an amendment to the traffic ordinance, as submitted, establishing a 90-minute parking zone on Pittsburgh Circle (west side) from Glen Avenue to a point 100' south, Monday through Friday from 8am – 7:30pm. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
2. Adopt Ordinance – Mechanical & Electrical Amusement Devices
A motion was made by Mr. Cragle, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt an amendment to the Mechanical & Electrical Amusement Devices Ordinance, as submitted, changing the date when the license fee is due from January 31 to November 1 of each year. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Application – Lawrence Co. Liquid Fuels Tax Funds
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Mr. Mancini, to adopt a Resolution, as submitted, authorizing the submission of an application to Lawrence County for an allocation of County Liquid Fuels Tax Funds (\$18,230) for a roadway replacement project, specifically to replace two (2) concrete sections of Bridge Street between Bluff Avenue and Linden Avenue (east side)(Phase II). Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
2. Repeal Resolution #2026-3 Revised Fee Schedule
A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Williams, to repeal the adoption of Resolution #2026-3, amending the Borough's fee schedule. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
3. Revised Fee Schedule
A motion was made by Ms. Lamenza, seconded by Mr. Mancini, to adopt a Resolution, as submitted, amending the Borough's fee schedule. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Finance: (Williams, Celli, Lamenza)

1. Charge Tax Collector for 2026 Tax Duplicate
A motion was made by Mr. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Cragle, to charge Sue Gatto, Tax Collector for the 2026 Tax Duplicate of \$3,297,351.96 at Face. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
2. Transfer – To General Fund from Park Improvement Fund
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Ms. Lamenza, to transfer \$14,390 to the General Fund from the Park Improvement Fund. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

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

1. Advertise Ordinance – Stop Intersection (Pittsburgh Circle at First Street)
A motion was made by Mr. Mancini, seconded by Ms. Williams, to advertise an amendment to the traffic ordinance establishing a stop intersection on Pittsburgh Circle at First Street (eastbound & westbound) and to remove the “no left turn” at this intersection. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
2. EC Volunteer Fire Department – Installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box
A motion was made by Mr. Cragle, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the request by the EC Volunteer Fire Department to install a Safe Haven Baby Box at the fire department. The ECVFD will abide by all the State requirements under the program (Newborn Protection Act, PA Title 23 Code 6504.3). Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
3. EC Area Historical Society – Model A/Model T Car Cruise
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the request by the EC Area Historical Society to hold a Model A/Model T car cruise on June 14 from 9am – 5pm. It is further requested to close Fifth Street from Lawrence Avenue to Crescent Avenue and Bell Avenue from Vosler Way to the First Methodist Church parking lot for this event. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

Public Works: (Celli, Mancini, Ovial)

1. New Castle Engineers – 2026 Paving Program
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Ms. Lamenza, to authorize New Castle Engineers to prepare/advertise bids for the 2026 Street Paving Program. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

2. Approve Quote – Groff Tractor & Equipment (Backhoe)
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Mr. Mancini, to approve the purchase of a 2026 John Deere Backhoe Loader (Model 320) from Groff Tractor & Equipment at a cost of \$144,390 (Costars) with a trade in of a 2012 JCB Backhoe. This amount will be paid from the General Fund. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

Utilities: (Williams, Celli, Cragle)

1. Approve Quote – Power Substation Services - \$15,704.50
A motion was made by Ms. Lamenza, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the quote from Power Substation Services in the amount of \$15,704.50 to retrofill (1) two-load tap changers (oil change). This amount will be paid from the Electric Capital Reserve Fund. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
2. Approve Quote – VanGorder Construction - \$7,000
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Mr. Mancini, to approve the quote from VanGorder Construction in the amount of \$7,000 for the purchase of a 300KW transformer coming from a Mt. Vernon Drive commercial property. This amount will be paid from the Electric Fund. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

Parks/Recreation: (Mancini, Johnson, Ovia)

1. LHS Boys Tennis Team, EC Little Wolverine Football, Boy Scout Troop #806, “Renee’s Run” Benefit Walk/Run, Holistic Wellness Event
A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Cragle, to approve the following:
 - * the request by the LHS Boys Tennis Team to use the Ewing Park Tennis Courts March 1 – May 15 from 3-6:00pm.
 - * the request by the EC Little Wolverines to use the multipurpose field at Stiefel Park May - June, Mondays & Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm and July 1– Oct 31, Monday – Friday, 6-8pm.
 - * the request by Boy Scout Troop #806 to camp at shelter #8 on April 24 & 25 during the Earth Day Festivities and to have a small campfire.
 - * the request to hold a benefit walk/run event (“Renee’s Run”) on June 27 from 8am-12pm in Ewing Park.
 - * the request to hold a holistic wellness event on July 18 from 10am-4pm in Ewing Park.

Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

6. YMCA Pool Mgmt. Agreement
A motion was made by Mr. Mancini, seconded by Ms. Lamenza, to approve the 2026 YMCA Swimming Pool Management Agreement, as submitted. The cost for the YMCA to manage the pool is \$14,000. This amount will be paid from the General Fund. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

Administration/Personnel: (Lamenza, Cragle, Williams)

1. Travel Request – PSAB Conference (Court, Celli, Williams)
A motion was made by Mr. Cragle, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the travel request by Anthony Court, George Celli, and Jan Williams to attend the PSAB Conference in Hershey, PA May 31 – June 3. The cost is \$3,252.51 plus meals and mileage. This will be paid from the General Fund. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

2. Advertise Employment – Summer Employment (Parks & Playground Instructors)
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Mr. Cragle, to advertise for summer employment (Parks, and Playground Instructors). Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
3. Policy – Electronic Communications & Computer Use Policy
A motion was made by Mr. Cragle, seconded by Ms. Williams, to adopt a policy, as submitted, regarding “Electronic Communications and Computer Use”. Voice vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
4. Advertise Ordinance – Municipal Employees’ Pension Plan
A motion was made by Mr. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Celli, to advertise an amendment to the Municipal Employees’ Pension Plan clarifying that when an employee is on Workers Compensation, that time is considered to be an “Authorized Leave of Absence” and further outlining the terms of “Credited Service”. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
5. Travel Request – Advanced Lineworker Training (Devin Marshall)
A motion was made by Mr. Cragle, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the travel request of Devin Marshall to attend Advanced Lineworker Training in Columbus, OH, May 18-21 and July 13-16. The total cost will be \$5,756. This amount will be paid from the Electric Fund. Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
6. Employment – Joshua Syphrit (Part-Time Firefighter) & Tyler McCutcheon (Part-Time Firefighter)
A motion was made by Mr. Cragle, seconded by Ms. Williams, to authorize the hiring of the following:
 - * Joshua Syphrit as a part-time Firefighter at the rate of \$21.00/hour.
 - * Tyler McCutcheon as a part-time Firefighter at the rate of \$21.00/hour.Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

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

1. Zoning Map Amendment – From HM-1 Hospital/Medical District to R-1 A-Residential District
A motion was made by Mr. Celli, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to start the process of amending the Zoning Map changing certain parcels from HM-1 Hospital/Medical District to an R-1 (A-Residential District). Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.
2. Lease Agreement – John DiBuono (Ellwood Area Family Center)
A motion was made by Mr. Mancini, seconded by Mr. Cragle, to approve the Rental Agreement, as submitted, with John DiBuono to use the building at 311 College Street for a family recreation center. The term of this lease will be for the period 5/1/26 – 4/30/27 and DiBuono will be paid \$1,000/month (\$12,000/year). Roll call vote; all in favor. Motion carried.

Blight: (Johnson, Mancini, Lamenza)

Technology: (Cragle, Johnson, Mancini)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Allegheny Electric Cooperative – Agreement for Electric Service
A motion was made by Mr. Cragle, seconded by Mr. Celli, to approve the Agreement with Allegheny Electric Cooperative, as submitted, relative to the delivery of power and rate schedules. Roll call vote. All in favor, except Ms. Williams. Motion carried, 6-1.

MAYOR'S REPORT

MANAGER'S REPORT

VISITORS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Picnic shelter reservations will begin on the fourth Monday in **March** (Mar. 23) at 7:30am for non-Borough residents

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

Personnel (Police Benefits)

Linda M. List
Borough Secretary