

Borough of Carlisle
Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
July 2, 2025
6:00 PM

Present at the meeting: Mayor Shultz, Deputy Mayor Landis, Councilors Mellen, Perry, Roos, Shiles, and Stuby. Also present were Borough Manager Armstrong, Police Chief Landis, Assistant Borough Manager Juday, Director of Finance Cohen, Water Resources Director Abeln, Director of Transportation & Waste Management Bergsten, Fire Chief O'Donnell, Public Information Coordinator Taylor, and Borough Secretary Blair.

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Shultz called the meeting to order at 6:01pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, then provided an update on the recent "1000 year" storm and the Borough's master plan to update the stormwater system in the Borough.

Fire Chief and Emergency Management Coordinator Randy O'Donnell gave a quick update on the storm damage and remediation and provided special thanks to Cumberland County and all the surrounding communities who came in to support the Borough with emergency rescues and the thousands of calls from the storm-related damage.

Deputy Mayor Landis requested that the Borough post a list of situations for the residents to watch out for in the aftermath of severe storms, in relation to personal safety and looking out for the wellbeing of neighbors and neighboring businesses.

II. Citizens to be Heard

Owen Parker of 613 N. Hanover St. provided his support for the Welcoming Ordinance.

Mark Carroll of W. Willow St. inquired about the Borough's trash service and requested clarification on how the Borough came to the service currently being provided. All members of Council provided additional clarity on the last Bid for service, the factors to consider, and the surrounding communities who are paying more for the same service; and are watching the Borough of Carlisle closely regarding the potential move to an "in house" Solid Waste and Recycling service.

Tina Ziegler of 120 E. Louther St. requested another update on the Welcoming Ordinance. She expressed her disappointment that the Ordinance was not on the evening's agenda and there was currently no open discussion on the Ordinance or an alternative to the Ordinance. She referenced a recent situation involving a community member taken into ICE custody and how she believed this individual came to the attention of ICE. She expressed unsubstantiated concerns regarding a potential role the Carlisle Police Department could have played in the matter.

Ms. Ziegler stated her belief that an Ordinance would prevent the police department from being able to collaborate with ICE beyond what is federally required and then commented that guidelines can sometimes be inconsistently followed.

Mayor Shultz explained that an Ordinance would not protect individuals from reporting someone they know to be in Carlisle unlawfully, nor would it prevent ICE from operating in the community.

He stated that Ms. Ziegler's earlier comments implicated the police department without any evidence of involvement, addressing it with Chief Landis who confirmed they had no contact with ICE.

Ms. Ziegler made additional remarks regarding the police department and an officer-involved shooting that occurred in 2024. Mayor Shultz responded by clarifying that the resident involved in the referenced shooting had attempted to kill a police officer.

Mayor Shultz reminded Ms. Ziegler of what was discussed in the last meeting, noting that the issue was sent to legal counsel for review, the Borough has expended funds to have an attorney review the ordinance and make revisions, and that council has held a session with that attorney to discuss potential revisions. He said it is on the council's list of priorities, and they will get to it whether it's an ordinance or some internal policy.

Jeff Englehart of 218 S. West St. a professor at Dickinson, provided support for a Welcoming Ordinance for the benefit of the international students at Dickinson.

Deputy Mayor Landis continued with the different options available, but her concern was that Carlisle is not that far from DC and that she didn't want Carlisle to become a place that is "taught a lesson". She indicated that she is trying to do things meaningfully and sometimes that is not so fast. She wanted everyone to know that they have put significant time into it, are not ignoring it or minimizing it, are but trying to do it thoughtfully to give strength to it and not open Carlisle up to vulnerabilities that possibly could have a counter effect.

Ms. Ziegler went on to ask (from the audience) when they would get to hear these conversations and Mayor Shultz explained that the conversations with the attorney were subject to attorney client privilege, that she wouldn't be part of that discussion, and that if they brought the attorney in to address issues, that would be different.

Councilor Perry added that she understands that it seems to be taking a long time, but that they are doing what they are supposed to as a council.

James Evans, 157 B. St., pointed out speeding near Wagner's Gap & B St. and the accident at West and B. Street on his way to the council meeting. He requested stop bars or more noticeable signs to get people's attention.

Don Smith, 350 H St., discussed traffic calming measures and requested a traffic study at East & Bedford St. He also indicated he didn't care for the current trash program, not because of cost, but how the costs are combined on the billing. He highlighted how the trucks leave community a mess and brought up the need for policy evaluations and a cost/benefit analysis of the programs imposed upon the public.

III. Presentations

1. Maurita Abeln, Director of Water Resources, gave an update on Water Service Line Material Inventory.

Councilor Roos suggested some communication between the Borough and the property management companies to make sure all the rental properties are assessed within the Boroughs' timeline.

Mayor Shultz confirmed with Director Abeln that residents of rental properties can conduct the inspections themselves as well as see on the map, once it is complete, that the property was inspected.

2. Richard Juday, Assistant Borough Manager, presented a proposal to bring Solid Waste & Recycling “in house” by the end of 2027.

Council thanked all the Staff and Residents who participated in the study, noting the great deal of research that went into it. Examples were given of the increases in costs over recent years and how it affected the Borough as well as the surrounding communities and noted, based on history, the increase will be much higher than expected then next time the current program goes out to bid. It was noted that moving the program in house will allow the Borough to respond to issues more quickly, as the current renewal options are limited.

Mayor Shultz added that not only was recycling part of the proposed package, but that Compost, brush pick up, bulk pick up, and the compost site itself are all included in the total costs.

A breakdown of the current costs was then discussed, showing what the public was paying for.

Assistant Borough Manager Juday requested Council’s permission to continue the process and to encourage residents to provide feedback.

Mayor Shultz pointed out the potential for unexpected cost savings to the residents.

IV. Meeting Minutes

1. Borough Council voted 7-0 to approve the June 4, 2025, Workshop Meeting Minutes. (Landis/Stuby)

V. New Business

VI. Public Comment

Mark Carroll of W. Willow St. added that the in-house trash program was a good idea.

Councilor Mellen reminded everyone of the annual Stars Burst over Carlisle the following evening at Carlisle Fairgrounds, and thanked the Premier Sponsor the Elks Club, the Eagles Club, and the Carlisle Club as well as North Middleton Township, Carlisle Events, the Special Fire Police and all the first responders who keep the public safe.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Brenda Landis, Deputy Mayor

Patricia Blair, Borough Secretary