

**LATROBE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL VOTING MEETING
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2025
LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Mayor Bartels called to order the Special Meeting of Latrobe City council at 6:35 p.m.
Mayor Bartels informed all that an Executive Session was held to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

Mayor Bartels asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Bartels asked all for a moment of silence.

Secretary to Council read Roll Call:

Deputy Mayor Ralph Jenko – absent
Dawn Vavick – present
Lenor Rivera – present
Bridget DiVittis – absent
James Kelley – present
Ann Amatucci – present
Mayor Eric Bartels – present

Also, present were the following: Sue Trout, City Manager; Lee Demosky, Solicitor; Richard Bosco, Chief of Police; Robert Daerr, Police Captain; Beth Straka, Deputy Director of Community Affairs and Police Services, Scott Wajdic, Public Works Director; Melanie McGregor, Assistant Public Works Director, and Josh Mayro, Code/Zoning Officer.

CITIZENS' REQUEST (related to agenda)

None.

RESOLUTION #2025-34

Resolution 2025-34 to approve and support efforts for Mutual Aid for the build out of their facilities in The City of Latrobe's municipal building for \$50,000 via an application through the Local Share Account grant program. Mr. Kelly made the motion seconded by Ms. Vavick. Vote 5-0.

Mrs. Trout explained this is to support the efforts of Mutual Aid Ambulance Service. The grant is for the build-out of facilities in The City of Latrobe Municipal Building. Mrs. Trout stated the request was to possibly have Mutual Aid Ambulance come back into the city. There's some discussion underway to relocate down into the basement of city hall where they used to reside. If they decide to re-locate back to city hall, they will need equipment associated with coming back. And the resolution is for them to obtain three powered stair chairs associated with equipment for their ambulances to run safely and to best help our residents with local calls and area calls. This is an equipment request. And the item that they're looking for is called powered stair chairs,

something that assists the operators, the actual EMTs, in lifting of patients properly. The grant application process to apply for this funding closes on September 30th. Mutual Aid is trying to get support letters and support from initiatives, that's why they've asked us if we'd approve this resolution. It's a step to help them provide service more efficiently to area residents.

Chief Richard Bosco stated power and lift equipment allows them to perform their tasks with less people. These power chairs, instead of having two or three medics that move or lift somebody, can move one person. So, it helps with their staffing issues. They are seeking our support for services. They are going to, with our assistance, with what we've already provided them, do the retrofit. They anticipate starting as late as December or early as January and would like to do it before that, but staffing is the issue. So, they're seeking our support in this LSA grant for return and in-kind services on their behalf to final retrofit of the space that they had once occupied downstairs.

Ms. Vavick asked if Mutual Aid is ok with housing their facilities at The City of Latrobe building.

Mrs. Trout said when the city met with Mutual Aid, they toured the building and saw it was available. They know they can bring their own furniture and make it the way they would like it. The city hasn't seen a budget or a cost estimate as to what they think they're going to need to spend, maybe it's because they're just not that far along in their process. Also, Mutual Aid will be bringing this to their board for discussion.

Chief Bosco explained Mutual Aid is getting back every inch of territory that they had. That includes two offices, an updated social room and a kitchen. They won't have lost any ground whatsoever, apart from 7-3 projects based on their balance of ownership.

Mrs. Trout said the city is applying for the same grant, to demolition 319 Main Street. It was approved at the last meeting and Mrs. Trout wanted to clarify that. Also, Mrs. Trout said we are kind of competing against ourselves, and it seemed like an initiative that we should try to support. The city is hopeful for their own initiative to be picked for grant funding, but we don't make those decisions, we make applications.

Mayor Bartels asked if this was casino money.

Mrs. Trout stated this is casino money and it's called the local share account money. Mrs. Trout had called Senator Ward as well as State Representative Leslie Rossi for support and both said the funding is combined. It depends on the number of applications they have, the level of sincerity that they feel what the communities need, money that exists, and what processes must be in place to accomplish the goals of all the applications.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mrs. Vavick spoke about a problem with e-bikes and speed. Some are riding them on sidewalks while others are riding them on the road, weaving in and out of traffic.

Mayor Bartels asked Chief Bosco how many of these riders are being stopped and how many initial complaints were filed.

Chief Bosco stated the department has engaged with them if they're on the sidewalk and will ask them not to ride on the sidewalk. No e-bike can go over 20 miles an hour. Any e-bike that goes over 20 miles per hour is illegal. You can't have an engine-sized electric motor larger than 70 amps. The Segway cycle that several of our residents ride back and forth to work is illegal on the streets of Pennsylvania but we are told to contact the local district attorney for enforcement policy for what's legal and the department is still waiting for an answer. Electric or motorized carts, even under our current code, all the individuals that live in the high rise are not allowed downtown with their motorized carts. Our current code prohibits them from the high rises, the border is in front of the police station, all the way up to Alexandria. In the downtown area, no motorized or electric scooters, carts, wheelchairs are permitted according to our code. With that either everybody gets arrested, or nobody gets arrested. Until the code is re-addressed. The District Attorney can write local ordinance violations, take them to the magistrate to enforce them. So, it's a catch-22 all the way around. Chief Bosco also put a post on Facebook asking people not to ride on the sidewalks and had received many negative comments.

Public Works Director Scott Wajdic stated the city cannot let social media dictate the safety of the citizens.

The Special Meeting of the council adjourned at 6:55 P.M. with a motion from Mrs. Amatucci seconded by Ms. Vavick. All in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janina Hall

Janina Hall, Council Secretary