

**Lansdowne Borough Council
General Meeting**

February 19, 2020

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council General Meeting was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Mayor Campuzano led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present: President Hover, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English, Mr. Holt and Mr. Schleigh. Excused: Ms. James, Ms. Taylor and Borough Secretary Henry. Absent: Fire Company representative and Borough Solicitor Scott. Also present: Mayor Campuzano, Borough Manager Totaro and Police Chief Donegan. Carl Ewald, Esq. sat in for Mr. Scott.

The televised meeting will be aired at 7:00 p.m. the following Monday on RCN channel 52, Comcast channel 5 and Verizon channel 44.

Approval of agenda: Mr. Holt moved to approve the agenda with one change: President Hover deleted action item #6 until confirmation is received. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Byrne moved to approve the January 15, 2020 General Meeting minutes. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Announcements and Presentations: The Mayor had no items.

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Totaro deferred reading the report until March, 2020, indicating the Tax Collector had not delivered the final distribution from year end 2019 by the due date. President Hover asked what mechanism is in place to address this situation. Mr. Ewald commented he would advise Borough Council tomorrow on how to review the local tax collector law.

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Ewald noted Mr. Scott had sent no formal report.

Mayor's Report – The Mayor reported that the Town Forum was held last week. He thanked Ms. Byrne, President Hover, Mr. Totaro and census representative Ms. Mauro, who presented important information regarding the 2020 census and Park and Rec projects. Also mentioned at the Forum were concerns with overgrown tree limbs and shrubs on sidewalks and street lighting safety.

The Mayor attended a local breakfast meeting last week held for local elected officials sponsored by Congresswoman Scanlon. Ms. Taylor and Ms. James also attended. A FEMA representative spoke of the importance of flood insurance in the flood plain areas. They also spoke of grants available for fire companies that the borough will be investigating. A representative of the census spoke of the upcoming 2020 census.

At last week's Public Safety Committee meeting, the Mayor provided Penn dot's information about the Wildman Arms crosswalk. The Committee agreed it is important and should be further investigated. There are grants available and Mr. Totaro will look into it.

In August, the 10th annual National Night Out event will be held. The Lansdowne Business and Professional Association (“LBPA”) and police department will be holding a Designer Bag Bingo fundraiser on April 25, 2020 to help offset some of the costs associated with planned extra events.

The Mayor reported the police department had 644 calls for January. These calls included traffic accidents, disturbances, ticketing, theft, assault, burglary, animal control, medical and fire assistance and other administrative items.

In honor of African American month, the Mayor read a proclamation commemorating February as African American month in Lansdowne.

Fire Company Report – No report was given.

President’s Report – President Hover thanked the Mayor for hosting the Town Forum and Ms. Byrne for representing the census information. Upcoming Park and Rec projects discussed at the Forum: Gateway Slope, bicycle trails, Lansdowne Avenue crosswalk, the McKinley lot playground and stream bank restoration in Reservoir Park.

Committee Reports:

Public Health and Safety – In Ms. Taylor’s absence Ms. English presented the report. The Committee meeting was held on February 12. The Wildman Arms crosswalk was discussed and there are two known grants in this regard. Also discussed was the National Night Out event in August. The LBPA will be asking Borough Council for approximately \$2500, as requested in past years. Chief Donegan reviewed the pedestrian crossing at Lansdowne and Baltimore Avenues as well as areas where parked cars are too close to the corner. Part time officer interviews have been on hold due to an ongoing investigation. The Fire Chief reported they had 690 runs in 2019. The Fire Company is looking at a grant and providing solar panel training for police and firemen. Ms. English commented she is hoping to schedule a follow up with the Opportunity Zone people. Also discussed were the light outages reported by residents on Bryn Mawr Avenue. Emergency preparedness information has been updated and new training will be available. The Committee is also working to help residents get their house numbers more visible from the street for police and fire emergency personnel.

Finance and Administration – Ms. English reported PNC Bank was present to review the pensions that have been performing very well. The Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation (“LEDC”) revised agreement has been forwarded to the LEDC for their review. Ms. English will be sending out a borough employee performance evaluation form for Borough Council review.

Economic Development – President Hover reported the ED Committee meeting was held on February 12. There were a number of items discussed, one of which was a concern expressed last year about how to make borough communications more transparent and accessible for residents. The Committee met with the DandLions Company, who gave a presentation on their web site construction and newsletter services. They also discussed how to data mine Lansdowne Committee events into a monthly e-newsletter that individuals can subscribe to that consistently update all the events. They would also be in charge of the social media presence. There would also be a quarterly paper copy of the newsletter provided for residents wanting it. President Hover suggested looking at the web sites for Media Borough and West Goshen Township to get a sense of the type of work this company can do. As to cost comparisons, Mr. Totaro has not yet heard back from Council members on the information he sent in this regard.

President Hover reported the Committee also discussed demolition restoration standards and this needs more review by Solicitor Scott to create the ordinance. Also discussed were the bicycle facilities plan and how they would be an economic boon for the borough. The National Association of Realtors polled their members with the following results:

73% believed a home adjacent to a trail would be easier to sell with a higher selling price.

55% believed having access to lanes and trails would make homes easier to sell.

82% believe access to lanes and trails would be a saleable amenity to be advertised.

100% believe that trails and lanes create a good amenity for a community to have.

In addition, the Homebuilders Association provided information that trails are the most desired community amenity homeowners seek when buying a home. Mr. Schleigh asked if the statistics distinguish trails dedicated through parks versus trails that share public streets. President Hover noted there is a separation between the trails but any lanes provide an amenity for real estate values.

The LEDC contract – has been revised slightly to reflect how the Committee can market the programming done in Lansdowne.

Appointment lists – there are a number of lapsed appointments and President Hover has provided an up to date list.

Community Relations Committee - Ms. Byrne reported the Committee met on February 4. She asked that further discussion of the marketing plan for the e-newsletter as a supplement to the paper newsletter be tabled until Ms. James can further review it. President Hover asked when the e-newsletter will be sent out. Ms. Byrne commented there had been a slight misunderstanding between her and Ms. James about who was working on what edition. They are now aligned and there is no set deadline for the e-newsletter. The next paper newsletter deadline is March 20 with an expected mail out date the first week in May.

Ms. Byrne attended the UAA meeting. Their Red, White and Bluesy fundraiser will be held on March 28, 2020. The Newspaper Taxis, a Beatles cover band, will be back to perform. The UAA is also finalizing who will be the Marshall.

The first Community Relations on the Road meeting will be held on March 3 at The Burger Bank, 6:30 p.m. No purchase is necessary.

Library Liaison Board report: Ms. English reported that at the end of 2019, registered users increased to 7,181 over the 5,448 in 2018, representing a 32% growth. Door count in January was 6,539. The Library is planning to expand their programs to cover all age ranges.

Arts Board report: Ms. Byrne reported the 2020 House is holding a February Amour show until March 1. They will also do a March Madness sports themed art show from March 14 to March 29. There will be an interactive still life display where artists can sketch their own art. The 2020 House held a behind the scenes Open House earlier this month with a great turnout and a potential new Board member. There has been a question about receiving 2020 House mail and whether it should be sent to Borough Hall or the 2020 House. President Hover noted it should be sent to Borough Hall.

Environment, Parks and Rec – Ms. English reported the Committee discussed the current projects as previously mentioned by President Hover. The Boys and Girls Club would like to put up a banner. The Committee reviewed the Park Day planning, Board elections, information on native plant signs, basketball league. The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2020. They wanted to know the process for putting information about their projects on the LEDC calendar. President Hover commented this would be included under the marketing and advertising strategies under Economic Development. Mr.

Totaro noted that for now the borough calendar can be used and asked if the LEDC is the appropriate vehicle for Park and Rec items on the web site.

Ms. English asked if the Comcast Cares Day/Keep Lansdowne Beautiful Day will be held this year. Ms. Byrne commented the focus is on schools this year and they will allow her to do a project based on past performance, but this will be the second year they feel she should take a break. The Mayor commented he would definitely hold the Keep Lansdowne Beautiful Day. President Hover asked that further discussion on Comcast matters be held until further notice. Ms. English asked who is doing the Open Space audit. Mr. Holt commented that the Environment Advisory Council (“EAC”) will be holding a rain garden instruction event.

Lansdowne Landing Board report: Ms. English noted the Board is asking to replace the tables and chairs at the Landing. The proposed design will be forwarded to the Parks and Rec Board to insure it is in keeping with the rest of the borough parks. The Board also discussed how they will be filling their vacant seats. Also, they would like to install the native plant signage when the plantings are in place. The Board requested that programming be moved to the LEDC.

Infrastructure and Public Works – Mr. Holt reported the Committee has several ongoing open projects already discussed by Ms. English and Mayor Campuzano. In addition, the Committee discussed routine sewer maintenance and sewer projects to increase capacity and flow in certain areas of town. Also discussed were the different flooding issues and how to remediate them with the help of researching grants or grant applications. There was a visitor at the last Committee meeting who would like to discuss having an independent volunteer group or individual do trash and litter pickup and how much sponsorship the borough would or would not be agreeable to provide. Mr. Schleigh asked if an Adopt a Highway program had been considered. The Mayor noted this is only for state highways.

President Hover asked if any interview time had been set aside for a new Borough Engineer. Mr. Holt indicated that he and Mr. Totaro are discussing this timetable.

The Mayor asked that Eldon Avenue over on Gladstone Avenue be considered in the road improvement program.

Communications: Margot Davidson’s office is holding a shredding event/prescription pick up at the Upper Darby High School on February 22, 9 a.m. to noon. Police will also be available to see if child car safety seats are properly installed.

Old Business: No items for old business.

New Business:

1. LBGC-Hoffman Park, Borough Greene, Belmont Park Signage. Ms. English commented the Boys and Girls Club would like to put up the signage and she has requested they submit this in writing. The banner would be up from now until mid-March. Mr. Totaro indicated the banner request has been deferred until further consideration. The yard signs are the second request and only need permission.

2. Landing Tables and Chair replacements – Ms. English noted there are two types of tables being requested, one being for wheelchairs. Five tables are being requested. Ms. Byrne asked if they are the same material as researched by the Parks and Rec Director, Erika Sollberger. Ms. English noted they are the same material.

3. **Rain Garden Session** – Mr. Holt commented this event is being proposed for March 24, 7-8:30 p.m. at borough hall. The EAC is looking for approval to go ahead with the session. President Hover asked if the EAC needs to get consent for each proposed program. Mr. Totaro noted this was just an FYI that the space was available.

4. **Economic Development Authority (“EDA”) Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation (“HLTC”) support letter** – Mr. Totaro commented the HLTC is holding discussions with the EDA, the same group used by the borough for grants prioritized for the economic opportunity zones. The Theater is not in this type of zone.

Public Comment: Mr. Holt moved to Suspend Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Visitors:

1. Beth Harmer – LBPA President. The Designer Bag Bingo will be held at Marian Hall on April 25. Doors open at 6 p.m. with bingo starting at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at door. It is a BYOB and food event. There will also be two separate raffle drawings for a Louie Vuitton medium tote bag and a Yeti cooler collection. These raffle tickets are \$25 each and attendance is not necessary.

2. Bill Horton – American Legion Post 65 representative. Mr. Horton commented the Post would like to put up banners to honor fallen heroes of Lansdowne. Post 65 Executive Director Larry Smalley will also be meeting with the HARB to avoid complications. More information to follow. The Mayor asked if there would be any fundraising in this regard. Mr. Horton noted there could be a “thank you” tag from the business on the banner. The Mayor asked what Committee would be used to approve mingling the brackets for the seasonal banners also being requested by the borough. This would be the Economic Development Committee.

3. James Jackson – resident. Mr. Jackson asked if his driveway had been included in Mr. Holt’s flooding review. Mr. Holt could not recall the specific addresses involved and the next Infrastructure meeting will be held on February 24, 7:00 p.m. Mr. Jackson commented he attended the Mayor’s Forum and everyone was well prepared and asked if a tape of this meeting could be put on the web site. Mr. Totaro indicated that the special projects presentation has been on the web site for several months and the census information is also on the web site. President Hover noted this is part of the marketing strategy currently being reviewed. Mr. Jackson commented he has some trouble finding certain web site items and missed the former borough calendar chronological listings.

Mr. Holt moved to Resume Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Action Items:

1. Ms. English moved to pay the bills for the period. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Mr. Holt moved to adopt Resolution 2020-04 to set signature authority for County Liquid Fuels Funds. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Mr. Hover moved to reappoint Marian Schaner to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 2/19/2024. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous

4. Mr. Hover moved to reappoint Amy Floresta to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 2/19/2024. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
5. Motion regarding Faber resignation is tabled.
6. Motion regarding Smith resignation is tabled.
7. Ms. English moved to reappoint Betsy Riffert to the Health Board for a term expiring 2/19/25. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
8. Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2020-05 regarding a Special Occasion Liquor Permit Application for the HLTC. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
9. Ms. English moved to approve Lansdowne Boys and Girls Club lawn signage. President Hover amended the motion to indicate the Club will be removing the signs after intended use. Ms. Byrne seconded the amendment. Vote: unanimous.
10. Mr. Hover moved to approve issuance of a letter of support for the HLTC application to the Economic Development Authority. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Executive Session – Mr. Hover adjourned to executive session to discuss a personnel matter. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:10 p.m.

Public Session – No motions were made upon reconvening to public session.

Adjourn –Ms. Byrne moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry
Borough Secretary