

Lansdowne Borough Council

BUSINESS MEETING

March 1, 2023

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually and in person on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

President Hover opened the meeting, led by Mayor Byrne with the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence followed in reverence to Mr. Herre, a past Fire Chief who recently passed. Members Present: President Hover, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Mayor Byrne, Ms. James, and Ms. Young. Ms. Martsolf was present via Zoom. Mr. Curry arrived late at 7:35 p.m. Absent: Mr. Griffin was excused. Also Present: Borough Solicitor Robert Scott, Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford, Borough Engineer Kevin Matson, and Borough Treasurer Ms. Donna Lang.

Approval of Agenda Ms. James motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes Ms. James motioned to approve the minutes of the February 1st, 2023, meeting.
Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor
Vote: Unanimous

Presentations

Wardrobe Proclamation

- Mayor Byrne of the Borough of Lansdowne, and on behalf of its citizens, proclaims March 28-30, as "Smart and Sexy Week." The Wardrobe Celebrates Smart & Sexy Week to support women returning home with confidence and clothing. If there is work clothing that residents have and want to donate them to these women, please drop it off at Borough Hall.

811 Proclamation

- The Borough of Lansdowne, in support of the Pennsylvania Underground Utility Line Protection Law, PA Act 287 of 1974, as amended, we do proclaim April 2023 as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month," and encourage all Pennsylvanians to visit the Pennsylvania 811 website at www.pa1call.org for information about digging safely.

Reports

1. Solicitor Bob Scott
 - There was nothing to report this evening.
2. Manager Craig Totaro
 - The Callahan and Habitat for Humanity Projects are being moved to the permitting stage.
 - Our Senior Bookkeeper Mary Young and our treasurer, Donna Lang, are recognized for transferring information to the auditors.
 - Next week, Mr. Totaro will meet with the county regarding the parking study for the theatre.
3. Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford
 - The statistics for February:

- Responded to 530 police incident reports.
- 20 false burglar or hold up alarms.
- 35 motor vehicle accidents.
- 11 adults were arrested and 2 juveniles.
- 484 parking tickets were issued.
- 129 motor vehicle violations.
- 4 non traffic citations were issued.
- 41 domestic-related calls for service.
- There has been an increase of stolen videos, especially Hyundais and Kia's. It is suggested to get a club to protect your car from being stolen.
- Fire Chief Harry has passed away. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts.
- 4. Engineer Kevin Matson
 - In February we prepared and submitted chapter 94 reports regarding the general health of our sewars and flow volumes.
 - On Tuesday, we had the advertising for the 2023 Road Program. There are streets that are scheduled to be re-paved. The bid opening for this will take place on March 29th.
- 5. Fire Company Report
 - There was nothing to report this evening.

Mayor's Report

- Congratulations to Mr. Griffin and his wife on the birth of their son, Mason.
- The Mayor's cleanup will be moved to the last Sunday of the month in an effort to not conflict with the Park Clean ups. The first cleanup will be Sunday, March 26th at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at Pepper's Pharmacy. This cleanup will be focused on the peninsula on Marshall Road and Plumstead Avenue. This may change due to the construction schedule in Upper Darby.
- Mayor Byrne attended a Black History Month celebration hosted by State Representative, Gina Curry.
- There is a lot of planning going on for the Spring and Summer, so stay tuned for updates as time goes on.

President's Report

- All residents within the Lansdowne Community are invited to submit stories of inspirational women from Lansdowne's past on our social media and newsletter.

Public Safety

- This past Monday, representatives from Lansdowne Borough Council – Vice President Naji-Taylor, President Hover, Manager Craig Totaro, Solicitor Bob Scott, Fire President Mike Boyce, and Chief Russell and President Hover met with representatives from other Boroughs concerning the EMS situation. The Lansdowne Ambulance company was given a 30 day notice of termination. By county ordinance there is a requirement for 180 days' notice and public meetings for all communities effective.

Economic Development

- Lansdowne Borough Council is committed to the procurement of funds for the Lansdowne Landing and Veteran's Park areas to upgrade the parks as a community gathering space and upgrade the parking lots in Lansdowne Borough.

Facilities

- Over the next year, Lansdowne Borough will continue the housekeeping tasks to improve beautification in the Borough. Painting has been completed in Borough Hall in the hallways and Borough Chambers. Currently, the Centennial Room is being painted. In January, Borough Council voted for the acquisition of Borough furniture to upgrade all the current furniture in Borough Hall chambers.
- On March 29th, Council will have a special meeting for possible Facilities upgrades to the Library, Borough Hall, and the Police Department. This meeting will feature GKO architects to discuss the space planning of the Library, Borough Hall, Police Department, and possible transition of current facilities. We encourage all residents to attend.

Old Business

1. Arts Board
 - The current question on the table is whether or not the Arts Board can act as its own entity in the Borough instead of working with the Borough. This would allow the arts board to have more freedom to make certain decisions and would not have to necessarily follow the Borough's protocol.
2. EMS
 - There was a meeting this past Monday concerning the EMS situation. The Lansdowne Ambulance company was given a 30-day notice of termination. By county ordinance there is a requirement for 180 day notice and public meeting for all communities effective.
3. Comprehensive Plan
 - The Comprehensive Plan has been reviewed on a more technical level. The planning commission now has it and is reviewing it. The public meeting will be sometime after March 17th. There is a draft on the Borough's website for residents to view.
4. Social Media Policy
 - Now that the social media policy is in place we can put some order to it. Mr. Totaro met with Dandelions today to discuss the next steps.
5. Police Manual Policies (Batch #1)
 - The first batch was sent out to all of the council members. There was some feedback sent back.

New Business

1. Senator Kearney use of TCC
 - Senator Kearney's office would like to use the 20th Century Club on Thursday, March 18th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This includes light event set up and breakdown. This event will be relatively small and will operate as an informative town hall and gathering for folks to hear from Tim about this upcoming legislative year. 30 guests are expected, and they will bring their own light food and drinks. There is a conflict, however we could either request them to use a different date or location.

Public Comment

Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to move into Public Comment. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Suzanne McElroy from 200 Drexel Avenue commented on the noise level of the Borough Council meetings. She would like the council members to speak louder. She also commented on the DEI Resolution. She noted that she would like the DEI to keep in mind all the different groups of people.

Ms. James motioned to move from Public Comment to Action Items. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous

Action Items

1. Ms. James motioned to Authorize payment of bills for the period. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
2. Mr. Curry motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-03 regarding DEI and the appointment process of the Board and Commissions. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
3. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-04 adopting the 2023 Delaware County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous with an amendment
4. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to adopt batch #1 of the Police Manual Policies. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
5. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-05 in recognition of Saint Patrick's Day. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
6. President Hover motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-06 in recognition of Saint Patrick's Day. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
7. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to promote Officer Oulouhoian to Class B patrolman. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
8. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to executive the addendum to Seagrave's contract for the ladder firetruck. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Executive Session

Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to move into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to move from Executive Session into Action Items. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Ms. James motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Pavlo

Borough Secretary