

Lansdowne Borough Council

BUSINESS MEETING

April 6, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Present: President Hover, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English, Mr. Holt, Ms. James, Ms. Naji-Taylor, Mr. Schleigh and Jr. Council Member Ms. Lartey. Also present: Mayor Campuzano, Borough Manager Totaro, Borough Solicitor Scott, Borough Engineer Matson and Police Chief Rutherford. Absent: Borough Secretary Henry.

President Hover opened the meeting, led by Mayor Campuzano with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of agenda: Ms. Byrne moved to approve the agenda. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. English moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2021 Business meeting. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Scott will report under Old Business re: 41 W. Stewart Avenue.

Borough Manager's Report – Mr. Totaro provided updates as follows:

1. Milling has started on Baltimore Avenue between Oak and Wycombe. The full length of Lansdowne Avenue will be paved after this site is completed. Sidewalk along Borough Green has been removed for paving purposes.
2. The Borough audit has been completed.
3. Design work has started for McKinley Avenue tot lot. Bids are scheduled for September/October 2021.
4. Proposals were submitted for The Landing/Veterans Park for Phase I conceptual design.

Police Chief's Report – Chief Rutherford reported as follows:

March 2021 Police Report:

737 - responses to incidents
34 - false hold up or burglar alarms
38 - motor vehicle accidents
28 - adults arrested for a variety of infractions
0 - juveniles arrested
8 - vehicles towed

- 158 - traffic citations
- 11 - non traffic citations
- 26 - domestic calls for service with police response

Fire Company Report: Ms. Naji-Taylor had no report.

Borough Engineer: Mr. Matson provided the following updates:

- Sanitary sewer work project is almost completed.
- ADA ramps need to be installed on various corners.
- Will be meeting with the County re: grant funding. Three grants awarded at present.
- Gateway Slope project scheduled to begin April 12.
- Working with Penn Dot re: installation of crosswalk and paving on Lansdowne Avenue. Work to start next week.
- Bid openings held for building and property maintenance contract.

Mayor's Report – The Mayor reported as follows:

- May 15 – town wide yard sale. Rain date: May 16. Maps available after May 10 on borough web site.
- April 10, 9 a.m. – noon – Darby Creek Valley Association cleanup event for Hoffman, Marlyn and Pennock Woods.
- Sanitation department agreement was reached. The Mayor thanked the Borough Solicitor, Borough Manager and all borough personnel who helped resolve the issue.
- The Mayor thanked Chief Rutherford and the police officers for their donation of Easter dinners.
- Met with the owner of Shadeland Avenue apartment manager to discuss the parking problem. The manager sent flyers informing the residents that ticketing will start on Greenwood and Shadeland for overnight parking violations. The major problem is visitors to apartment residents are parking overnight without permission.
- Attended grand opening of new business: Crispy Chicken.
- The Mayor added his thoughts and prayers for Borough Secretary Henry on the death of her mother.
- Covid vaccinations are available. The Mayor urged residents to continue wearing masks and be safe.

President's Report – President Hover reported the following updates:

- Encouraged drivers to take heed of other pedestrians in borough.
- Penn Dot is in the midst of paving project and there may be some traffic delays.
- Dr. Monica Taylor of the County District has provided a sign-up sheet for getting vaccinated. To date 50 residents have signed.
- Discussions were held last month on the SEI union contract. There will be a vote later in the meeting.
- Will discuss later in meeting the impact of the American Rescue Plan on Lansdowne.
- Discussions continue re: Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) re: annual contract.
- Ground breaking for Gateway Slope project is April 16.

- A TCDI grant was received for the bicycle path paving project.
- April 10 – Earth Day.
- April 30 – redbud trees will be planted in various borough sites to mark celebration of Arbor Day.

Old Business:

1. **41 South Union Avenue** – Mr. Scott reported the owner previously applied for zoning relief from Upper Darby to have a recycling waste receiving station at this site. He is now seeking to store unfilled dumpsters at that site and be classified as a supplemental use relief for zoning. No date yet for this Zoning Hearing Board meeting. The Mayor mentioned that the neighboring pastor had no problem with this decision.
2. **Comprehensive Plan** – Mr. Totaro indicated this is an action item to obtain bids for a substantial update of this Plan. There will be a 4-5 week period before interviewing in the selection process. This update is for the consultants. Borough Council can look at the existing plan, goals and objectives and the activity for the past 15 years. The consultant will provide guidance to borough committees and commissions.
3. **LEDC Contract** – A meeting will be held tomorrow to discuss the contract that is near completion.
4. **American Rescue Plan** – Mr. Totaro commented the \$1.9 trillion Federal allocation to all municipalities was based on population. The School District's allocation is based on need as well. The borough's allocation was \$1 million, 50 thousand dollars. There is still a lot of information to be reviewed regarding what this money can and cannot be used for but the funds can be used for storm water, infrastructure and sewer projects. Time limit for spending funds is 2024. Solicitor Scott noted that these funds cannot be used for future tax decreases as its purpose is to flow into the community. The first round of funding will be received within 60 days, with further information on distribution guidelines.
5. **Zero Waste Resolution** – Carol Martsof, Chair of the Environment Advisory Committee (EAC), opened the discussion with the impact the Covanta plant in Chester is having on residents. The plant has one of the highest incineration rates in the country at 3,500 tons burned every day. This is a resolution to address the environmental injustices of this process and to implore the Delaware County Council and Waste Authority to currently use a landfill until a decision is made on the contract expiring in May 2022. Ms. Martsof had previously spoken about this issue at the Delaware County Sustainability Commission meeting, noting that Delaware County has only 27% of waste. The City of Chester has only 1% of waste sent to the plant. Mr. Schleigh asked if other municipalities had adopted the measure. Mr. Scott commented that Media and Nether Providence are considering it and Swarthmore has adopted the resolution. Mr. Schleigh asked where the waste would go if not using the Covanta plant. It will be sent to a landfill in Berks County until a study is conducted. Mr. Scott noted that incineration reduces the amount going to a landfill by 50% but it will be a county decision to come up with alternatives to burning.
6. **E-Waste Event** – The Mayor indicated Lansdowne will be partnering with East Lansdowne for this event. East Lansdowne will contribute one-third of the cost (\$1,000) with Lansdowne paying the remaining \$3,500. All electronics with plugs will be collected with the exception of TVs. That cost will be \$30 per TV. The Mayor indicated he would reach out to Representative Margot Davidson for help with funding.

7. **4th of July Parade** – Ms. Byrne reported the Community Relations Committee met last night to discuss whether or not to hold the event and if so, would it be held on July 3 or July 4 (Sunday). The Mayor commented that in prior years the UAA held it on Saturday if the 4th fell on a Sunday. He suggested having the parade later in the day on the 4th since there would be no fireworks but felt the 3rd was a better date. A discussion followed regarding having a stop and go date, cancellation process, safety measures for the crowd, uncertainty about rising Covid numbers and if any costs would be incurred for cancelling event. There arrived a consensus to further investigate these issues before voting

New Business:

1. **Delaware Black Caucus Meeting** – Ms. James noted this is a request for a fee waiver for their scheduled event at the 20th Century Club on May 22. Several legislative speakers are expected and Covid guidelines will be met regarding capacity. Using the outside space will also be considered.
2. **Thompson tract** – Mr. Hover indicated there will be a virtual Upper Darby Zoning Hearing Board meeting on April 22, 7 p.m. for a variance to develop a 230 unit apartment building. A portion of that site will affect Providence Road, and the Darby Creek up to Hoffman Park. Mr. Scott noted that only one unit can be classified as a conservation district and over 200 units are being proposed. After further discussion there arrived a consensus to oppose the project. Mr. Schleigh, Ms. Naji-Taylor and a representative from Mr. Scott's office will attend the meeting to present borough environmental concerns.
3. **Wine Vendor in Central Business District**- This is a request to use The Landing for a wine tasting event. Mr. Scott commented there was no problem with selling wine at the Farmers Market but it is a problem for a commercial enterprise to reserve space to sell their goods without paying rent for use of the Landing. There arrived a consensus to deny the request citing legality and equality concerns but renting a Pop Up space would be a good alternative.
4. **Statements of Financial Interest Forms.** – Deadline to submit is May 1st.
5. **Delco Business Solutions** – Mr. Totaro noted that Mike Diaz has submitted a proposal for ongoing services as a Human Resources consultant for various borough issues.
6. **Vaccination Site** – No information available at this time but Mr. Totaro will provide when received.
7. **Library Facility** – Mr. Hover commented he had met with the Library Board re: recommendations to upgrade the current facility or build a new facility. It was the recommendation of the Library Board, Borough Council and Mayor Campuzano to build a new facility. The Comprehensive Plan can address this as well in terms of cost and further discussions with the Finance Committee.
8. **Cambodian Week 2021 Resolution** – Mr. Hover noted this reinforces borough diversity inclusion and the resolution recognizes the Cambodian New Year in April. It also affirms the Cambodian genocide in 1970 by the Khmer Rouge taking over power.

9. **New Ladder Truck** – Mayor Campuzano and the Public Safety Committee recommended going forward with purchasing a new ladder truck. The Fire Company is looking into obtaining grants of \$200,000 to \$400,000 and will start the spec work.

Public Comment: Ms. English moved to Suspend Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Visitors:

1. Daniel Cosper – 17 Scottdale Road. Mr. Cosper commented the slow down signs installed on Scottdale have not stopped speeding and going through stop sign issues and he has not seen any police enforcement. It is very difficult to pull out of the driveways due to these issues. Chief Rutherford indicated that targeted enforcement has continued at two sites based on concerns and complaints. There are two officers for every shift at these locations and there has also been a lot of enforcement on Scottdale Road. The Chief commented he would increase enforcement efforts there.

Ms. English moved to Reinstate Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Action Items:

1. Ms. James moved to authorize payment of bills for the period. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Mr. Schleigh moved to ratify PENN DOT notice accepting bicycle striping maintenance on N. Lansdowne Avenue. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Mr. Hover moved to solicit proposals from planning consultants to update the Borough Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous.
4. Ms. James moved to ratify agreement with the SEIU. Ms. English seconded. **Discussion:** Mr. Hover commented it is a fair contract and he values greatly the efforts of the sanitation workers and borough staff who keep borough business running smoothly. Vote: unanimous.
5. Ms. James moved to enter to enter agreement with Delco Business Services. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
6. Mr. Schleigh moved to award Building & Properties Maintenance contract to Donald E. Reisinger. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
7. Ms. English moved to issue letter in support of a grant by Delaware County to extend the Darby Creek Trail. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
8. Mr. Hover moved to adopt Resolution 2021-09 in recognition of Cambodian Week 2021. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
9. Mr. Hover moved to execute agreement with H. Gilroy Damon Associates, Inc. for surveying services. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

10. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to authorize execution of Master Service Agreement, Equipment Purchase, and Software License Addendum with WatchGuard Video, Inc. for purchase of police body cameras. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
11. Ms. English moved to adopt Resolution 2021-10 re: zero waste. Ms. Byrne seconded.
Discussion: Mr. Schleigh moved to table the motion until further information is received, as there is some confusion as to whether this is a resolution or letter of support for County Council not to renew Covanta's contract. Mr. Schleigh added his concerns about the possible ramifications of this action and the health and economic impact on the surrounding communities, including Lansdowne. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded tabling this motion. President Hover asked for a roll call vote. The motion to table passed 6-1. Aye votes: Ms. Byrne, Ms. English, Ms. James, Ms. Naji-Taylor, Mr. Schleigh and Mr. Holt. Nay vote: Mr. Hover.
12. Ms. English moved to hold a recycling event for a cost not to exceed \$3,500. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
12. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to authorize a Request For Proposals for specs for ladder truck. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
13. Mr. Hover moved to waive facility rental fee for the Delaware County Black Caucus event on 5/22/221. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Executive Session - Ms. English moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:09 p.m. to discuss real estate and personnel issues. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

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

Adjourn – Ms. Byrne moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Schleigh seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry
Borough Secretary