

**Lansdowne Borough Council
General Meeting**

January 18, 2017

APPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council General Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Council members present: President Schleigh, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English, Mr. Radich and Ms. Williams and Junior Council Member Ray. Absent: Councilwoman James and the Fire Company representative. Councilman Aubrey arrived later in the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m. Also present: Mayor Campuzano, Borough Manager Totaro, Borough Secretary Henry, Borough Solicitor Scott and Police Chief Donegan.

The televised meeting will be aired at 6:00 p.m. the following Monday on RCN channel 52, Comcast channel 5 and Verizon channel 44.

Mayor Campuzano led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of agenda: Mr. Radich moved to approve the agenda with the following changes: (1) no Treasurer's report will be presented as it is the beginning of the fiscal year, (2) adding motion to reappoint Borough outside auditor, (3) PA One Call presentation postponed until next month. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Williams moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2016 Business Meeting of Council. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Mr. Radich moved to approve the December 21, 2016 General Meeting of Council. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Announcements and Presentations: Mayor Campuzano recognized Beth Harmer of the Lansdowne Business and Professional Association ("LBPA") with a Proclamation. Ms. Harmer manages Pepper's Pharmacy, has served on the LBPA since 2013, was elected LBPA President in 2014 and currently serves as its Director. Ms. Harmer has volunteered in a variety of ways and has promoted the LBPA by improving the tree lighting, coordinating the visit from Santa event, food pantry donations and Toys for Tots. She also collaborates with the LEDC with street lighting initiatives, Small Business Saturday programming, representing the LBPA at the Farmers Market and Arts on the Avenue festival, coordinating with the police department for the National Night Out event and continuing to co-sponsor the Memorial Day parade with the local American Legion Post.

The Mayor recognized this month's spotlighted business: Lansdowne Latin and Salsa Dance Studio at 211 West Baltimore Avenue. Owner Hilare Gurincha noted that he teaches dancing to all age groups and currently has three new group dance sessions each week that includes Tango and Salsa dancing. Individual sessions are available as well. His company also

provides dance presentations at a variety of public events. The studio is currently open weekdays, 5-10 p.m.

Treasurer/Manager's Report: No report to be given.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Scott had no formal report.

Mayor's Report: The Mayor commented as follows:

1. The new K-9 dog will be sworn in as a member of the Lansdowne police department at the February general meeting. The dog will specialize in narcotics detection. The Mayor will also recognize all the Borough businesses and individuals who contributed to the K-9 program.
2. The Mayor announced perfect attendance statistics as follows:

Police Chief Donegan	-	17 years
Police Clerk Bobbi Harris	-	18 years
Officer James McGowan	-	8 years
Officer Dave Schiazza	-	13 years
Officer Larry Albertoli	-	6 years
Officer Mike Hammon	-	1 year
Police Clerk Jocanda Pannell	-	21 years
3. The second Town Forum will be held at the 20th Century Club on February 9, 7-9 p.m. Topics will be Borough finances, Borough public works, update on the Lansdowne Theater and a question and answer period. Mr. Radich will present the Finance portion and Ms. Williams will present the Infrastructure portion.
4. February 12, 3:00 p.m. - Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra performance at Upper Darby Performing Arts Center.
5. April 7, 7:00 p.m. - Union AA Ladies Night Bingo fundraiser event at Marion Hall in St. Philomena's school.
6. Jingle Judge Awards will be presented at the February general meeting.
7. The Union AA will meet this Thursday, 7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall to discuss the July 4th parade event. Parade Grand Marshall will be Eleanor Irons.

The Mayor urged residents to shop the local businesses.

Council President's Report: President Schleigh commented that the K-9 dog is considered a full member of the police force and treated as a partner to the officer working with them. President Schleigh mentioned that the PA State Association of Boroughs will be holding their annual seminar in a few months and is looking for issues for possible consideration as resolutions. Ms. English commented that a state law is being changed that would allow wireless antennas to be non-compliant with zoning laws and felt the Borough should present this issue. Mr. Scott thought it was a good idea as well and we should encourage the state legislature to vote against this. He will draft a resolution to that effect.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Health and Safety: Ms. English reported the Committee met on January 11 to discuss Animal control issues, Animal Friends of Lansdowne ("AFOL") debut of the K-9 dog, the February 26 AFOL "Service Day" event, signage issues, Code book updates and recognizing all

the businesses and individuals who donated to the K-9 program. Some of the signs being replaced will be on Albemarle Avenue and Lansdowne and Wayne and Albemarle posted as "no commercial vehicles allowed".

Finance and Administration: Mr. Radich reported his Committee held no January meeting but the next meeting will be February 6. Mr. Radich commented he will be participating in the upcoming Town Forum to discuss Borough finances.

Economic Development and Code Enforcement: No report was given in Ms. James's absence.

Environment: Mr. Aubrey had no formal report.

Community Relations: Ms. Byrne reported the Committee did not meet in December but will meet on January 24. Topics for discussion to include Comcast Cares Day and the Borough's 125th anniversary. A muralist will be present at the meeting to discuss having a mural painted on the bridge over the Septa tracks.

Library Liaison Report: No report.

Infrastructure and Public Works: Ms. Williams reported there was no December meeting and the next meeting will be held on January 30. Ms. Williams gave updates as follows:

1. LED street light program - financing is complete and the loan will close at the end of the month.
2. The CDBG grant was submitted for the Highland Avenue parking lot repaving. President Schleigh noted that a letter of support for this grant was given by the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation.
3. The Growing Greener grant was submitted for remedial work in Reservoir Park.
4. The PECO Green Region application was submitted in December for some design money for the Gateway Slope project.

Communications: No items.

Public Comment: Ms. Byrne moved to suspend Roberts Rules of Order to hear visitor comment. Mr. Aubrey seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Visitors:

1. Richard Smalley - resident. Mr. Smalley attended last week's Plaza Project public meeting and complimented Ms. Williams for presenting a clear and informative timeline for each phase of the project.
2. Bill Brown - Owen Avenue. Mr. Brown congratulated Ms. Williams and Ms. Byrne for informing everyone about the project. Mr. Brown felt that in light of the budget constraints noted at the public meeting, Borough Council should consider using the budget while focusing on quality rather than quantity to make it a safe environment for pedestrians.

Veterans Housing Project Presentation - President Schleigh introduced Mr. Tim Williams, representative of the Veterans Multi-Service Center, who gave an overview of the Center's housing program for veterans. Mr. Williams commented the program started three years ago as a way to support housing for homeless veterans and their families. The only requirement for consideration to the program is serving one day of active duty and meeting the 30% average mean income limit. The program has expanded and now operates in central Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and all of Delaware. Mr. Williams noted that 35 veterans in Delaware County have been helped by this program in the past six months. More information can be found at www.VMCENTER.org.

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

Old Business:

1. **Union AA** - the UAA has requested a 20 CC rental fee waiver for their fundraiser event on March 10, 2018, 7-11 p.m. They are requesting use of the entire building for one day with set up to start in the afternoon and cleanup after the event. They will be out of the building by midnight. This event coincides with the 125th Borough Anniversary celebration.

MOTION: Ms. Byrne moved to waive the 20CC rental fee waiver for the UAA's 2018 Red, White and Bluesey fundraiser on March 10, 2018, 7-11 p.m. Mr. Radich seconded. Vote: unanimous.

2. **Union Avenue Property** - this is an action item. Mr. Scott noted that the Borough is in the process of trying to purchase a building and a portion of the property that the Fire Company currently owns at 76 S. Union Avenue. Involved is a utility building and two twin houses that is all one tax parcel. The property needs to be subdivided for purchase and the Borough Engineer has prepared subdivision plans for that property on behalf of the Fire Company as the owner but for the purposes of the Borough buying the utility building.

3. **Plaza Project** - Ms. Williams led the discussion about the public meeting held on January 12 to present an overview of the project and hear resident's questions and concerns. The current implementation plan is to pilot the plaza behind the Veterans Park in the municipal parking lot off Lansdowne Avenue. About 70 people attended and feedback was predominantly positive about trying something new to attract pedestrian traffic to the downtown area. Relatively new, younger residents were in attendance as well. There were comments about alternative measures, parking concerns, aesthetics of the plaza and maintaining the historic nature of the downtown area, programming for the plaza and metrics for success. One gentleman felt that the pilot program should not start until the metrics are identified upfront. There was also some perception that parking would be limited but Ms. Williams noted that ample parking is available for the day to day use of the downtown area. Some felt the Highland Avenue lot could be used but the major focus of the Plaza project is about visibility. Deborah Brodeur, Director of the LEDC, brought up an important point concerning incoming small businesses who want foot traffic, not car traffic. There was also some discussion about including the impact to residents in the metrics, signage for parking lots, using Sycamore Park and the Borough Green as alternative sites, advertising public transit access into the Borough and maintaining the integrity of the Veterans Memorial park.

Ms. Williams asked for Borough Council's observations about the meeting. Chief Donegan commented the presentation was very informative and well attended, with good feedback for the pros and cons. Ms. Byrne felt the feedback was positive and in spite of some apprehension about certain things, most of the residents were open-minded about the project. Ms. Byrne commented that since this is a pilot program, the Borough has the option of returning all back to the original orientation. The Mayor thanked Ms. Williams for a great job and was happy about the decision to put it in the middle of the lot to avoid potential safety issues. The Mayor wanted to know about the Borough's costs going forward if the pilot continues and who would handle the disposition of tables and chairs. Also, the Mayor felt it would be a good idea to present a drawing/blueprint for public inspection. Mr. Radich echoed the positive comments and felt that from a metrics perspective, this should not hold the Borough back because it is a relatively small scale project and the time could be better spent elsewhere. Mr. Radich commended Ms. Williams and Ms. Byrne for all their effort and time in this regard.

Ms. Williams commented that because it is a pilot, it will evolve over time and the design will depend upon how much funding can be raised. Ms. Byrne noted that Comcast is willing to consider it as one of their projects for Comcast Cares Day but needs Borough Council approval and a plan in place before funding it.

MOTION: Ms. Williams moved to have the pilot project move forward and direct that schematics be prepared for Borough Council's further review for the area of the parking lot behind Veterans Square. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

New Business: No items for New Business.

Action Items:

1. Mr. Radich moved to approve bills for the period. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Ms. Williams moved to approve subdivision plans for 76 South Union Avenue subject to resolution of any sewer issues to the satisfaction of the Borough Engineer. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Mr. Radich moved to reappoint Barbacane Thornton, LLP as the Borough's external auditor. Ms. Williams seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Executive Session: Mr. Radich moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel issues. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:05 p.m.

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

Adjourn – Mr. Aubrey moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry
Borough Secretary