

**Lansdowne Borough Council  
General Meeting**

**November 16, 2016**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

The Lansdowne Borough Council General Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Council members present: President Schleigh, Mr. Aubrey, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English, Ms. James, Mr. Radich, Ms. Williams and Junior Council Member Nila Ray. Absent: Fire Company representative. 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. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:**

1. Ms. English moved to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2016 General Meeting of Council. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Ms. Byrne moved to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2016 Special Meeting of Council. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Announcements and Presentations:** Mayor Campuzano introduced the owner of "Downtown Nutrition", this month's spotlighted business. Located at 12 N. Lansdowne Avenue, the store offers a variety of wellness products, primarily Herbal Life. Individual plans are available to address issues such as weight gain or loss, having more energy, etc. Owner Scott Santerelos offers a Fitness Camp on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. He also offers a free wellness profile for those wanting to participate in the health plans.

The Mayor introduced Peter Hall, Lansdowne Boys and Girls Club Board member, who gave a brief overview of the Club's community involvement. The Club will celebrate its 70 years of operation in Lansdowne next year and currently as many as 69 to over 100 children are involved in a variety of sports activities. Mr. Hall mentioned that the Club needs both volunteers and sponsors who can assist with various fundraising and community involvement projects and sharing their trade. In particular, coaches and anyone with expertise in a trade are needed to help refurbish buildings, coach the games, etc.

**Treasurer/Manager's Report:** Mr. Totaro read the October 31, 2016 Report as follows:  
General Fund beginning balance: \$534,010, ending balance \$1,717,022.  
Sewer Fund beginning balance: \$769,491, ending balance \$1,304,435.

Liquid Fuels Fund beginning balance: \$513,645, ending balance \$710,087.

Non-Uniform Pension Fund beginning balance: \$2,662,539, ending balance \$2,861,340.

Police Pension Fund beginning balance: \$7,891,017, ending balance \$7,875,920.

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

**Mayor's Report:** The Mayor commented as follows:

- Over 100 children and 150 adults participated in the Kids Halloween Party last month. The Mayor thanked a variety of individuals and businesses that helped make the event a huge success.
- The LBPA Tree Lighting ceremony will be held on November 26, 6:30 p.m. in Veterans Park.
- Small Business Day is November 26.
- Greater Gladstone Civic Association will hold its tree lighting ceremony on December 4 at the Gladstone island park at 4:30 p.m.
- There will be free metered parking in the business district from November 26, 2016 to January 2, 2017.
- The Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation ("LEDC") will present "A Bit of the Arts" at the 20th Century Club on November 25, 6-9 p.m. and November 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. This is a free event showcasing holiday vendors in a variety of venues.
- The Jingle Judges will soon be out to judge both residential and business properties.
- The 2016 Helms Award will be presented to Helen Marcarelli at the December general meeting of Council.
- A Town Forum will be held on February 9, 2017, 7-9 p.m. at the 20th Century Club ("20 CC"). One topic will involve the Borough Finance Committee led by Vice President and Finance Committee Chair Bob Radich, who will cover such items as Borough budgeting, finances, taxes, etc. The second topic will be led by Infrastructure Committee Chair Susan Williams who will address items such as trash pickup, snow plowing, highway repair and building repairs.
- The Borough newsletter articles submission deadline is December 1.
- The Mayor commended Chief Donegan and the Lansdowne Police Officers for their help in apprehending a bank robber who held up three other banks in the area.
- The Mayor congratulated Lansdowne Boy Scout Troop 63, who celebrated their 150 years of service in Lansdowne.

**Council President's Report:** President Schleigh commented that voter turnout was very good on Election Day with 70% or better in 11 precincts. President Schleigh congratulated all the poll volunteers and reminded residents to continue to stand up for what and represent each other as citizen volunteers. President Schleigh mentioned there are several volunteer opportunities available on a number of Borough Committees and Boards and any resident interested should send a letter of interest to him. Openings exist on the Planning Commission, Human Relations Commission, Library Board, Shade Tree Commission, Board of Health, Multi Unit Conversion Board, Civil Service Commission, Park and Recreation Committee, Arts Board, Redevelopment Authority, Code Appeals Board, Zoning Hearing Board and the Historic Architecture Review Board.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Public Health and Safety:** Ms. English reported that the discussion at the last Committee meeting centered on reviewing complaints by residents, the Youth Aid panel, Towing vendor issues, 2017 budget needs, animal control and Borough lighting.

**Finance and Administration:** Mr. Radich reported his Committee met on November 7 to discuss budget priorities for next year. Mr. Radich thanked Councilwomen Byrne, James and Williams and Mayor Campuzano for all their help in this regard. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on December 5.

**Economic Development and Code Enforcement:** Ms. James reported that her Committee did not meet this month. The 2020 House is showing Elizabeth Nichols' new work until November 27. Ms. James commented there will be a zoning hearing in Borough hall on December 7, 7:00 p.m. to determine whether the subdivision and use of 72 S. Union Avenue can be exempt from the new lot requirements. This involves the garage the Borough intends to use for storage of public works materials.

The next Economic Committee meeting will be held on November 21, 7:00 p.m. in Borough hall.

**Environment:** Mr. Aubrey had no formal report.

**Community Relations:** Ms. Byrne reported that at the last Community Relations Committee meeting, topics for discussion included Small Business Day, 2017 events plans and the upcoming 125th Borough anniversary. The next Community Relations Committee meeting will be held on November 22.

**Library Liaison Report:** A future Harry Potter event is being planned; no date set.

**Infrastructure and Public Works:** Ms. Williams reported the Infrastructure Committee last met on October 24. Topics for discussion were as follows:

- Septa train station repair work - some stairs have been replaced and plans for installing a key swipe parking payment system are being discussed.
- The LED street light replacement project is currently on hold until financing is approved.
- 2020 House campus work continues but major construction is completed.
- The new recycling truck is now in service.
- 2016 paving program is complete except for some street striping.
- Leaf collection is on target.

The next Infrastructure Committee meeting will be held on November 28.

**Junior Council:** Ms. Ray had no report.

**Communications:** No items.

**Old Business:**

**1. Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG")** - Jerry Jameson, Borough Planner, gave a presentation of the various potential projects being considered for this grant:

1. Sycamore Park - lighting; electric
2. Reservoir Park - ADA access; stream/floodplain restoration, Ardmore Avenue protection. This project will cost more than the grant pays but ADA access could be considered.
3. McKinley parking lot - repurposing this to convert to park.
4. Highland Avenue parking lot - resurfacing.

A lengthy discussion followed focusing primarily on the Sycamore Park and Highland Avenue lot projects. Mayor Campuzano commented that the Parks and Recreation Board was opposed to having lighting and electric in Sycamore Park because of potential damage to the historic tree and an increase in pedestrian traffic. However, the Mayor felt that safety lighting was needed in the back of the park. Mr. Aubrey concurred, adding that they want to keep it a "passive" park but would be amenable to hearing public comment about the proposed safety lighting along the back of the park. Mr. Aubrey also felt that all the Borough parks should have lighting. Ms. Byrne pointed out that the plan for Sycamore Park was to use it only for "adult" events, such as weddings, anniversary parties, etc. Mayor Campuzano felt that safety lighting in the park was important for safety reasons but the Highland Avenue lot resurfacing was more critical due to the impact from the theater use, the proposed Walk Shed program and the increasing number of Borough public events. Mr. Aubrey asked what happened if problems arose after the Highland lot project started. Mr. Jameson indicated the Borough would be responsible for any overage costs.

Mr. Jameson also contrasted park improvements with stream bank restoration. Indicating that an income survey would be necessary through the Growing Greening project for park improvements and the area would need to be changed in the grant application. He recommended doing this in 2017. President Schleigh asked what the largest grant amount was ever given. Mr. Totaro commented it was \$90,000-\$130,000. Ms. English commented it would be very expensive to do a survey and the Borough has been given only one CDBG grant in 20 years. After further discussion, it was decided that the Highland Avenue lot paving should be the priority project.

**2, 2017 Budget** - Mr. Radich presented the general highlights as follows:

- A small surplus in the General Fund is anticipated for 2016 year end.
- Real estate tax 1% increase = \$43,000 generated revenue.
- Through contractual obligation and increasing costs of health care to uniform and non-uniform employees, there is an increase of approximately \$132,000. Chief Donegan is requesting and will be approved for a new police officer effective October 1, 2016. This will minimize the cash impact of the 2017 budget.
- Fee schedule is being re-evaluated as no fees have increased in 10 years.
- Trash fee will increase 11% resulting in an additional \$30 per household to close the deficit.
- Transfer tax is increased \$10,000.
- Maintenance costs have decreased \$35,000.

**New Business:**

1. **LEDC Fee Waiver** - Request is for 20 CC fee waiver for the upcoming "A Bit of the Arts" event. This will be added as an action item.

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

**Visitors:**

1. Jamella Miller - Resident. Ms. Miller lives on E. Albemarle Avenue and commented that speeding traffic on that street is a real hazard, citing that a school bus crashed into a parked truck last week and some children were injured. She would like to see a crossing guard at Plumstead and Albemarle Avenues and "No through traffic" signs posted on Albemarle Avenue. Ms. Miller added that she had seen Upper Darby school buses traveling on Albemarle Avenue as well.

Ms. Miller commented the leaf pickup did not occur today as scheduled. Ms. Miller stated the Highland Avenue resurfacing project was "a great idea". Ms. English asked Ms. Miller to leave the sign information with Mr. Totaro and that a certain percentage of the neighbors on Albemarle would have to sign a petition to get the signs installed. Ms. English will also bring the matter to the Public Safety Committee. Ms. Williams pointed out that the leaf pickup schedule is different than the yard waste pickup and only the yard waste schedule is posted on the magnets recently distributed to residents. Ms. Williams indicated, however, that if leaves are bagged, they can be picked up with the yard waste.

2. Terry Steinberg - E. Albemarle Avenue. Ms. Steinberg also commented on the E. Albemarle Avenue speeding problem, indicating that it was occurring in the afternoon. Ms. Steinberg felt that no school children should be picked up on E. Albemarle and suggested adding a left turn signal on Lansdowne Avenue onto Plumstead Avenue. Mayor Campuzano suggested making Albemarle one way. President Schleigh commented that since this was a state highway, a traffic study would be needed and it had taken 7 years to get the Lansdowne and Baltimore Avenue intersection left turn light. The Public Safety Committee will look further into the issue.

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

**Action Items:**

1. Mr. Radich moved to approve bills for the period. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Mr. Radich moved to adopt Resolution 2016-18 regarding the solicitation of bids for a 2017 Tax Anticipation Note. Mr. Aubrey seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Mr. Radich moved to advertise preliminary Budget for a 30 day comment period. Ms. English seconded. Mr. Scott commented the motion should state it is a "10" day comment period. Mr. Radich amended his motion and Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

4. Ms. English moved to advertise public hearing related to the Borough's 2017 CDBG application for the Highland Avenue parking lot. Ms. Byrne seconded. Ms. English amended the motion to include sewers as the secondary project. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
5. Ms. Williams moved to adopt Resolution 2016-19 regarding the sale of traffic signals to Yeadon Borough. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
6. Mr. Radich moved to waive the 20 CC rental fee for the LEDC event, "A Bit of the Arts" on November 25 and 26. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Executive Session:** Mr. Radich moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss various issues. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:05 p.m.

**Public Session:** There were no motions made upon reconvening to Public Session.

**Adjourn** – Mr. Radich moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry  
Borough Secretary