

**Lansdowne Borough Council
General Meeting**

May 17, 2017

APPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council General Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Council members present: President Schleigh, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English and Ms. Williams. Absent: Mr. Aubrey, Ms. James, Mr. Radich, Junior Council members Hoard and Ray and the 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 7:00 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. The Mayor asked for a moment of silence in memory of Warren Thomas, official videographer for the Borough Council meetings for the past 20 years. Mr. Thomas was a dedicated, friendly and talented individual who will be greatly missed.

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

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Williams moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2017 Business Meeting of Council. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Announcements and Presentations: The Mayor presented the K-9 drawing awards to the winners of the K-9 art contest wherein students from three area schools submitted renditions of what K-9 officer Chapick means to them. There were 18 winners, seven of whom were present.

The Mayor introduced Professor Jeffrey Dashna of the Tyler School of Art who gave an overview of the proposed Tyler Project coming to Lansdowne. This is the beginning of a two year collaboration between two of Professor Dashna's graduate students who, as part of their final project, will be identifying ways to help the economic revitalization of the Borough. The Professor cited three components that served as the basis for the project: (1) Demographics; (2) Findings and (3) Where We Are Going. Regarding demographics, the 2015 estimates showed a downturn in population from 12,000 to 10,000 with increasing diversity. The largest group to leave was Gen X, born 1965-1980 (30%) and the focus now is how to attract the Millennials. Regarding findings, the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation ("LEDC") leads the plan with a variety of resources and abilities to gain a better perspective of possible detriments to economic growth in the Borough. Some of the biggest drawbacks include being a "dry town" and the perception that the schools are poor quality. The Professor noted that more than one anchor institution other than the Lansdowne Theater was needed, more opportunities for collaboration were necessary, concerns about the walk ability of the business district need addressing and more funding measures are needed to help energize the visual and performing arts here. As to where the project envisions the future of the Borough, the Professor commented

that we can leverage the Borough's assets and build our "creative place making", a concept that 2-3 million businesses engage in now to energize their economic development. Creative place making needs public participation, proactive organizations, government support and funding opportunities. The Professor ended by saying the new Borough logo could change from "Discover Lansdowne" to "Experience Lansdowne". LEDC Executive Director Debbie Brodeur introduced the two graduate students spearheading the project, both of whom felt that Lansdowne was a great community because of the people here and their strong sense of community. One visitor asked if this was a strategic plan. Professor Dashna noted it was instead an element to a Comprehensive Plan and meant to stand alone as a research project.

Treasurer's Report -

Mr. Totaro presented the Treasurer's report ended April 30, 2017.

General Fund: beginning balance \$675,523; ending balance \$4,294,752.

Sewer Fund: beginning balance \$1,036,805; ending balance \$2,008,056.

Liquid Fuels: beginning balance \$646,299; ending balance \$899,515.

Non-uniformed Pension: beginning balance \$2,959,093; ending balance \$2,975,319.

Police Pension: beginning balance \$8,378,827; ending balance \$8,753,908

President Schleigh asked if the Tax Anticipation Note had matured and what percentage of taxes is outstanding. Mr. Totaro commented the note has not matured and about 9.9% (\$430,000) of taxes remains uncollected.

Solicitor's Report - No report.

Mayor's Report - The Mayor thanked specific Borough Council members, Borough employees and Stephanie Strassel of the HLTC for their help during the recently held Town Forum. There were approximately 30 attendees. The Mayor commented he would like to hold two forums a year.

The Mayor will present the Sycamore Award to the Lansdowne Allied Youth group at the June general meeting. There was a mailing problem regarding many invitees not receiving notice of the dedication ceremony for the 20th Century Club held last weekend. There may be another event to recognize those who were instrumental in the 20CC renovations but were unaware of the dedication ceremony. The HLTC will hold their 90th anniversary fundraiser on May 20. The Philadelphia Flea Market will be held on May 20, rain date May 21. The Farmers Market opens on May 27 and runs to September 1. The 5K run is scheduled for May 29, 7:45 a.m. as the Lansdowne avenue lot with the parade starting at 9:00 a.m. The Arts Board is hosting a new show, "Weaving Longitudes" at 2020 House from May 6 to June 25, held on Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m.

President's Report - President Schleigh commented he had attended the memorial service for Warren Thomas and gave condolences to the family on behalf of the Borough.

President Schleigh commented that he, Ms. Byrne, Ms. Williams and Mr. Totaro recently attended a meeting with other local elected officials at the request of the school district, noting that local government and school districts affect each other and all have a mutual desire to rise up and support each other. The school taxes are collected separately from local taxes and some municipalities don't have the tools and resources to apply pressure to get non-payers to pay. President Schleigh commented that the Borough's existing ordinances and permit procedures

should be looked at to determine if the Borough can deny permits to those who do not pay their school taxes in an effort to decrease tax deficiencies in the school district. The Solicitor will check into the matter. The summer schedule for Borough Council meetings needs to be finalized before the next Council meeting. There have been no applications for the Junior Council person opening. President Schleigh commented he had received some Borough papers dating from 1977 and asked if they should be destroyed. The Solicitor suggested putting the papers in the Borough Property File.

Committee Reports:

Public Health and Safety - Ms. English reported no meeting was held this month due to scheduling conflicts but will meet the 2nd Wednesday in June. Plans for the National Night Out event on August 1 are underway.

Finance and Administration - No report was given in Mr. Radich's absence.

Economic Development and Code Enforcement - Ms. Williams reported the Committee met on May 15 to discuss how to take the Economic Development Committee in a different direction during her time as Chair. The major focus of this discussion concerned the Tyler project and the goal is to bring together the appropriate groups. Invitations have been sent to the LBPA Board, the Arts Board and the LEDC Board. The School Board will be invited to future meetings. The goal will be to discuss economic development for a town. Ms. Williams felt that a Comprehensive Plan should be done every 10 years and the Borough's Plan is due for review.

Community Relations Committee - Ms. Byrne reported that preliminary planning has started regarding the InsideOut event on September 10. Different areas to display the art are being considered. Ms. Byrne recently attended a Park and Rec Board meeting to discuss the water problem in Interboro Park and felt something should be done to treat the mosquito problem. Ms. Byrne also noted there are some properties with no clear delineation between their property line and the park. Mr. Scott commented an easement agreement has been entered into with one or two property owners but future owners should be put on notice that this will not apply to them and encroachments will not be permitted. Ms. Byrne noted some problems with "paper streets" in the area but Solicitor Scott noted that these types of streets are not the responsibility of the Borough. Ms. Byrne will be asking for a Parks Comprehensive Plan to better handle various problems the Board might encounter. The Comcast Cares Day grant recipients will be provided at next month's meeting.

Infrastructure Committee - Ms. Williams reported her committee met on April 24. Topics of discussion included:

- LED program - light replacement will start in early June.
- Paving bids open May 1.
- The Verizon building water overflow problem was resolved.
- Replacement trash cans will arrive in 1-2 weeks for the business district.

- Lansdowne Landing update - Jayne Young is contributing two rain barrels courtesy of her employer; liners for the 9 planters will be installed; Mayor Campuzano helped in getting lumber donations from Beatty Lumber used to build the frames for 4-5 wooden planters; donations of plants are coming from a landscaper and some were bought from GreenGrow; the website and events calendar have been launched; the Mayor will launch the grand opening on May 27 together with the opening of the Farmers Market.
- Marty Hackett of the LEDC will be submitting an art project for the "Strong Towns" program.
- The government liaison for the suburban Realtors Association has been contacted in connection with the creative place making grant through the national Association of Realtors and a grant of up to \$4,000 has been received to help finish the Landing space. The liaison will also be participating in the current economic development conversations with the Borough.

Mayor Campuzano asked if the trash can at Stewart and Lansdowne Avenues could be moved closer to the bus stop. Ms. Byrne asked if different cans could be used in the parks that would deter kids from using them to steal the basketball hoop nets.

Communications - (1) Letter from the Delco Planning Department - They are working on developing a master site plan for the newest park in the recently acquired Little Flower Manor property in Darby Township. There will be work session on May 31, 7:00 p.m. in Aldan. They are requesting up to five Borough representatives including one elected official to attend the meeting. Ms. Byrne volunteered.

(2) Letter from the Delaware County Office of Housing and Community Development regarding the Urban County Qualification for fiscal year 2018 through 2020. This concerns participation in CDBG requalification and whether or not to opt in or out. The deadline is June 12 to opt out. Mr. Scott noted that if opting out, the Borough would require staffing to administer the steps to acquire CDBG funding, which is difficult to receive. President Schleigh asked the Borough Engineer be present at the Public Works meeting later this month to make a recommendation by the next Council meeting. The Mayor commented that if we opt out, the Borough will have to spend money we don't currently spend and if the political climate changes in the future, that may have some impact as well.

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

Visitors:

1. Mary Ann Surla -Ms. Surla commented that the Mayors Town Forum was adequate but felt it was hurried at its conclusion and wondered why it ended at 8:30 p.m. Mayor Campuzano explained that the meeting ended at that time because there were no more questions from the audience and the speeding issues will continue to be discussed with Chief Donegan. Ms. Surla noted that the pedestrian crossing right of way in the school areas needs to be updated with extra color and demarcation lines. Regarding the upcoming 125th Borough anniversary next year and

in light of the growing arts movement in the Borough, Ms. Surla suggested engaging Lansdowne youth with a variety of art related projects such as painting a mural or painting ceramic planters with their view of growing up in an historic town. Ms. Byrne commented that the muralist who did the Lansdowne Landing mural will be doing a separate mural project with Borough kids for the 125th anniversary. Ms. Surla also noted she has seen painted exercise walls at some area schools with messages addressing social issues such as health matters, bullying, etc. and asked if the Borough could do something in a similar manner. Ms. Surla asked if the police were enforcing the "rolling stop sign" rules. Ms. Surla congratulated those running for a second term but felt that too much time is spent going over needless details. The signage also needs to be updated.

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

Old Business: No items.

New Business -

1. Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital - fee waiver request for Hoffman Park picnic event for the Community Care Program.

MOTION: Ms. English moved to waive the Hoffman Park permit fee for the Community Care Program's picnic on June 9 with alternate rain date of June 16. Ms. Williams seconded. Vote: unanimous.

2. Penn Wood Band - fee waiver request for banquet held at 20CC on June 2. No catering required. **Discussion:** More notice has to be given in the future if asking to waive fees. This event will not use up one of the Borough's reservation dates since the catering agreement has not yet been finalized.

MOTION: Ms. Byrne moved to waive the rental fee at 20th Century Club for the Penn Wood High School Band banquet on June 2, 4-10 p.m. Ms. Williams seconded. Vote: unanimous.

3. Boy Scouts - Wolf Pack, 3rd and 4th graders, bike safety seminar at Gateway Park parking lot on May 21, 1:30-3:00 p.m. 25-30 attendees. No permit is required since the park is not being used.

4. Parking Meters - LEDC request to bag four parking meters for vendors selling at the Philadelphia Flea Market. Ms. Williams noted that 25 additional vendors wanted to come but no extra space was available.

MOTION: Ms. Williams moved to bag four parking meters in municipal lot #1 from Friday evening to Saturday, 6:00 p.m. for the Philadelphia Flea Market vendors. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Action Items:

1. Ms. English moved to approve bills for the period. Ms. Williams seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Ms. Byrne moved to adopt Resolution 2017-05 regarding off-road trails in the.

Executive Session - Ms. English moved to adjourn to executive session. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:08 p.m.

Public Session - No motions were made upon reconvening to Public Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry
Borough Secretary