

**Lansdowne Borough Council
General Meeting**

May 18, 2016

APPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council General Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Council members present: President Schleigh, Mr. Aubrey, Ms. Byrne, Ms. James, Mr. Radich and Ms. Williams. Absent: Councilwoman English. Also present: Mayor Campuzano, Borough Manager Totaro, Borough Secretary Henry, Borough Solicitor Scott and Police Chief Donegan. The Fire Company representative was absent.

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. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Radich moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2016 General Meeting of Council. Ms. Williams seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Announcements and Presentations: Mayor Campuzano introduced Julia Primack of Pryme Design, a home based graphic art design business. Pryme Design has been operating since 2001 and moved its business to the Borough in 2009. Ms. Primack has done several projects for the Borough, including the insert for restaurants and events in the InsideOut program and the Lansdowne Business directory. Ms. Primack currently serves on the Board for the Lansdowne Business and Professional Association ("LBPA").

The Mayor presented the 1st annual Sycamore Award to the Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra ("LSO"), in recognition of their 70 years in operation. Elliot Borgman, Board Chair for the Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra ("LSO"), accept the award on behalf of the LSO and acknowledged the Board members and Musical Director and Conductor Rubin Blondell. The Mayor commented that the LSO enhances Lansdowne's image and serves the community with professionalism and character. Mr. Blondell commented that the LSO holds 5 Sunday performances a year at the Upper Darby Performing Arts Center in Upper Darby. The LSO is also active in the InsideOut program and is currently working on a Children's Program.

The Sycamore Award is given in appreciation to an organization, business or civic group that goes above and beyond what is expected and supports the community in different ways.

Announcements:

- May 30th - Memorial Day 5K Run, 7:45 a.m. at Veterans Park. Memorial Day parade follows.
- May 28th - Lansdowne Farmers Market opens and runs through October 29th.
- June 2nd - Lansdowne Folk Club - Jay Unger and Molly Mason.
- June 10th - Movie Night in Hoffman Park.
- Trolley Event - sold out for Friday. The Mayor thanked the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for holding this event.
- Flag Day - June 14th. Presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Borough Green.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Totaro read the April 30, 2016 Report as follows:

General Fund beginning balance: \$534,010, ending balance \$4,095,901.

Sewer Fund beginning balance: \$769,491, ending balance \$1,620,776.

Liquid Fuels Fund beginning balance: \$513,645, ending balance \$727,974.

Non-Uniformed Pension Fund beginning balance: \$2,662,539, ending balance \$2,656,583.

Police Pension Fund beginning balance: \$7,891,017, ending balance \$7,886,722.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Scott reported that an agreement has been reached regarding the appeal of the Zoning Hearing Board's decision on the MarWin property. A resident had opposed the proposed day care center at that site due to traffic concerns. The operator of the day care will obtain a traffic study and do the work that is recommended by that study.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Campuzano reported as follows:

- The Town Forum was attended with 40 residents providing great input. The Mayor thanked all the panel participants and residents, commenting that he hopes to hold another forum with different topics.
- The Mayor congratulated Chief Donegan, Officer Albertoli and Bobbi Harris for their help with the 2nd annual Police Academy.
- The Mayor gave a special thanks to Councilwoman Byrne for coordinating Comcast Cares Day. Six projects were completed with the help of about 140 volunteers. The Mayor thanked all the groups and volunteers who helped. Comcast grants were given to the LEDC, the Lansdowne Library, the Penn Wood Foundation, the Lansdowne Boys Club and the UAA.
- Debris and cement have been left on the site by the contractor who handled the sewer repair project for E. Greenwood and Wycombe Avenues. The contractor also removed 10 bushes from a private property at that site and won't replace them. The Mayor commented that the Borough did not hire this contractor and is seeking a remedy to the problem.

Council President's Report: President Schleigh reported that two applications have been received for the Junior Council position. Mr. Aubrey indicated he had one other applicant as well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Health and Safety: No formal report was given in Ms. English's absence. Ms. Byrne commented that all pertinent topics previously under discussion had been addressed during the Town Forum meeting.

Finance and Administration: Mr. Radich reported that the Finance Committee met on May 2nd to discuss the Capital Reserve Fund status and related projects. Stratford Park LLC will be receiving a property tax rebate for the period when the apartment building was not occupied due to a fire there last year. Mr. Scott noted that the School District Solicitor had been contacted regarding a pending higher tax assessment because the property is now fully operational and occupied. Also discussed was the status of the pension investment services. The RFP was due on May 6th and 13 responses were received.

Economic Development and Code Enforcement: Ms. James reported that the Committee met on May 16th to discuss the vacant property ordinance. The Committee met with Cynthia Ferguson of the City of Wilmington to discuss their property ordinance and Ms. James' Committee will not be writing a vacant property ordinance for residential properties. The Arts Board will holding their 'home grown' opening on June 18th. Another opening will be held on June 25th, curated by T.C. Campuzano and 50% sponsored by the Carpenter real estate team. President Schleigh appreciated Ms. Ferguson being there, commenting that Delaware's vacant property ordinance contains registration fees that rise exponentially for every year the property is vacant. The Borough has a much smaller population of vacant properties that would not require the scope of Wilmington's ordinance. President Schleigh asked that the EDandCE Committee look into whether there might be any economic development effect with respect to the fact that this registration also applies to commercial properties.

Environment: Mr. Aubrey commented that as a result of some concerns expressed at the Town Forum regarding Borough trees being cut down by unbonded and unlicensed contractors, the Environment Committee will be looking into the Borough ordinance in this regard. Dying and dead trees also pose a safety hazard and remedies to identify such trees will also be discussed. President Schleigh suggesting using the Shade Tree Commission's ordinance as a model for this issue.

Mr. Aubrey commented that Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital and the LBPA, both non-profit organizations, were requesting fee waivers for the use of Hoffman Park for two separate events.

MOTION: Mr. Aubrey moved to waive the Hoffman Park rental fee for Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital to host their June 3, 2016 picnic event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for 50 people. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.

MOTION: Mr. Aubrey moved to waive the Hoffman Park rental fee for the Lansdowne Business and Professional Association to host their event on June 14, 2016. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

The Environment Committee also discussed the debris (branches and leaves) in Marlyn Park and Mr. Aubrey will be meeting with the Park and Recreation Board to discuss removing the debris.

Mr. Aubrey commented that he recently spoke with NBC news about a recent incident in Upper Darby involving "up skirting" and the police are asking for help in identifying the man responsible.

Community Relations: Ms. Byrne reported that her Committee did not meet last month. The Philadelphia Museum of Art will be offering a free admission weekend this coming weekend for residents in the 19050 zip code.

Ms. Byrne recognized Lansdowne resident John Pronichek for his tremendous cleanup effort on Comcast Cares Day. Mr. Pronichek not only cleaned all of Belmont Park but also the Shadeland Avenue Park and all of Scottdale Road down to Burmont Road.

There will be a new InsideOut program, "Lansdowne Poetry Walk" on June 12th, 2:00 p.m. at the 20th Century Club.

The next Community Relations Committee will be held on May 23rd, 7 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Library Liaison Report:

- June 3rd - Fantasy Garden Club (all ages) - 10 a.m. to noon.
- June 13th - registration begins for the 2016 Summer Reading Program.
- June 20th - Noon to 1 p.m. - summer food service will start for those 18 and under.

Infrastructure and Public Works: Ms. Williams reported that the Infrastructure and Public Works Committee met on April 26th. Topics of discussion were as follows:

- Lansdowne has been chosen as a prototype site for the LEDC street light program.
- The 20th Century Club and 2020 House campus work continues. Renderings of the proposed completed project are on view in the Borough Hall lobby and the 20th Century Club lobby.
- The 20th Century Club basement renovation discussions are underway with contractors to remove the piping.
- The Hoffman Park railings will be replaced.
- Discussions will be held with Penn Dot regarding cleaning and painting the metal wall of the train station overpass bridge. Discussions will also be held with Septa regarding repairing and painting the metal railing around the train station.

The next Infrastructure Committee meeting will be held on May 24th. President Schleigh asked if the speed humps were out on Scottdale Road. Ms. Williams replied "no".

The Mayor commented that all the Hoffman Park picnic tables had been vandalized with spray paint. One was stolen last month. Chief Donegan will be looking into other surveillance measures for that site.

Ms. Williams commented there has been no date confirmed for when the left hand turn signal will be operating at Lansdowne and Baltimore Avenues.

Communications: No items for communications.

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

Visitors:

1. Richard Smalley - Mr. Smalley urged residents to attend forthcoming Town Forums because a lot of information is made available about various Borough issues. Mr. Smalley commented on the huge traffic backup that had been happening at Union and Baltimore Avenues and asked if any traffic signal coordination was being performed. Mr. Totaro indicated that the street light program had disrupted the normal cycle of the lights but Penn Dot's contractor is aware of it and is working on fixing the problem.
2. Larry Smalley - Mr. Smalley thanked Borough Council for the Albert Clinton Wunderlich portrait for the American Legion Post 65. Mr. Smalley noted that there will be a free 1950 Red Arrow bus at the back of the Memorial Day parade for anyone who can't walk in the parade. Mr. Smalley commented that the American Legion Post 65 needs volunteers as most of the members are now senior citizens. Chief Donegan thanked the Legion for their help with the Youth Police Academy and the cadets have been invited by the Legion to walk with them in the Memorial Day parade. The Legion also sponsors one cadet to attend a week long program held by the Pennsylvania State Police.
3. George Wadlin - resident. Mr. Wadlin thanked the Public Safety Committee for their help last year with issues concerning the legal cross over on Marshall Road to Plumstead. Mr. Wadlin commented that 80 tickets had been issued during the first week and thanked Chief Donegan for making the road safer. Mr. Wadlin commented that he had recently used the Vacation Away police program and highly recommended it. Mr. Wadlin asked if there was a timeline for when Lansdowne Avenue would be resurfaced where the gas valve work was performed. Mr. Totaro noted work started a week ago and it will take approximately 1-2 months for completion. Mr. Wadlin asked if residents could be informed of this. The Mayor commented that weather conditions had been one reason for the delay but once PECO confirms a date, notice will be put in the next Borough newsletter.

4. Terry Baraldi - 239 W. Plumstead Avenue. Mrs. Baraldi urged residents to visit the newly refurbished Veterans Memorial on West Chester Pike in Newtown Square, noting that tributes cover the Revolutionary War to the present.

5. Carmela Ligon - Mrs. Ligon thanked Borough Council for considering her niece for the Junior Council position.

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

Old Business:

1. Animal Control. Mayor Campuzano and Chief Donegan recently met with Dr. Weinberg regarding a cooperation strategy for handling stray dogs. The Mayor noted that Lansdowne does not have a huge problem with stray dogs and about 90% of them are returned to their owners within 24 hours. Dr. Weinberg's office is located at the former Emas Pet Hospital on Baltimore Avenue. Chief Donegan commented that the meeting was held due to the Delaware County Animal Protection Board terminating its agreement with the Chester County SPCA effective June 1st. More information in this regard will be presented at the June business meeting of Borough Council.

New Business:

1. Vacation Schedule. There was a brief discussion regarding cancellation of Council meetings during the summer months.

MOTION: Ms. Byrne moved to cancel the July and August Borough Council Business Meetings. Mr. Aubrey seconded. Vote: unanimous.

2. Grants - Mr. Totaro opened the discussion. There are currently two grants under consideration that need to be submitted soon. The first is a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources ("DCNR") grant and is essentially a clone of the original trails grant for the Gateway slope and is an addition to the original grant. This current grant is a 20% match and the Borough will be applying for \$200,000-\$300,000. President Schleigh commented that last month Resolution 2016-03 was adopted regarding the DCNR grant for the Gateway slope.

The other grant is a "multi modal" grant that is a companion piece for the original grant application. This grant would more formalize the crosswalk in front of the Lansdowne Theater with a raised speed bump and lighted crosswalk signage. It would also address some of the concerns of the LEDC in this regard. The Mayor suggested having the Borough reach out to elected officials for letters of support.

MOTION: Mr. Radich moved to authorize the Borough Manager to pursue the multi modal grant for the traffic crosswalk on Lansdowne Avenue and the Gateway Slope Trail grant. Ms. Williams seconded. Vote: unanimous.

3. Mercy Fitzgerald Hoffman Park - Discussion and motion already discussed under Mr. Aubrey's Committee report.

Action Items:

1. Mr. Radich moved to approve bills for the period. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Executive Session: Mr. Aubrey moved to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a real estate issue. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. Executive Session adjourned at 8:25 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 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry
Borough Secretary