

Lansdowne Borough Council

BUSINESS MEETING

June 1, 2016

APPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at borough hall. Members present: President Schleigh, Mr. Aubrey, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English, Mr. Radich and Ms. Williams. Absent: Councilwoman James and the Fire Company Representative. Also in attendance: Mayor Campuzano, Borough Manager Totaro, Borough Secretary Henry, Borough Solicitor Scott and Police Chief Donegan.

Mayor Campuzano opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Aubrey moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Aubrey moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2016 Business meeting. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

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

Public Comment:

1. James Jackson - resident. Mr. Jackson asked for the definition of the "Walkshed". President Schleigh explained that this program is part of the plan to redevelop some of the downtown area and make it more walkable. It will be further discussed under Old Business.

2. Mary Ann Surla - resident. Ms. Surla commented that the new stop sign at Marshall Road and Owen Avenue has been very effective but wondered if motorists were coming to a complete stop during rush hour. Ms. Surla asked if a "Lansdowne: Discover the Arts" banner on the east side of Marshall and Lansdowne as she felt it would have an impact. Ms. Surla expressed concern about some unwanted watchers while she works on her lawn. Ms. Surla commented that opening the Highland Avenue parking lot for a future family fun event would be a good way to promote a positive experience for "youth oriented and young at heart" families. Face painting, dancing and water ice treats were suggested. Along those lines, Ms. Surla mentioned Mayor Campuzano had requested she contact St. Philomena's Charter School director regarding holding a dance for teens and noted she had a drummer lined up.

Mr. Aubrey moved to resume Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

REPORTS

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

Treasurer's/Manager's Report: Mr. Totaro gave updates as follows:

1. Hoffman Park - project is complete except for a few items on the punch list.
2. 20th Century Club - renovations are progressing smoothly.
3. Scottdale Road Speed Bumps - this year the temporary speed bumps will not be put out because they damage the road. The Borough Engineer has been contacted and will be planning different speed bumps during the paving project. This funding is built into the Liquid Fuels Fund.

Mr. Aubrey asked about the staffing levels for the sanitation crew and lead time for requests for time off. Mr. Totaro explained that currently it is working very well but tenure determines how much time is taken off. Presently about 42 weeks are taken in total among the crew and overtime is significantly less than in past years. The Public Works Director determines the schedule for adequate coverage.

Chief of Police Report – Chief Donegan reported that Penn Dot, due to time constraints, now wants the Borough to paint the stop bar on the newly installed stop sign at Marshall Road and Owen Avenue. The Chief commented that motorists are adjusting to the new stop sign and police will continue to monitor for another week or so. The Chief reported that he will have the dollar amounts for handling stray dogs through the new veterinarian at the next Public Safety Committee meeting. Expected price is \$100 per dog versus the \$250 charged by the Chester County SPCA.

The Chief commented on the different financing options available through Tyco Integrated Security Co. for a new security system at the 2020 House. Actual cost to purchase system outright would be \$8655.84 and \$105 a month for monitoring for a 60 month term. Different financing options are also available to pay less up front but more per month. This system is for a fire and security alarm. Another company was contacted but did not respond with a more detailed quote.

Fire Company Representative Report – No formal report was given.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Campuzano reported as follows:

1. Blinking lights on the new Marshall Road stop sign are temporary. Chief Donegan is asking Penn Dot to extend usage for more than 30 days. The Mayor has spoken to Dan Lutz of Upper Darby regarding purchasing solar blinking lights and Mr. Lutz will speak with Tom Judge and Nick Micozzie to see if they will help pay for the other set of lights on the other side.
2. Flowers were purchased (\$30) for the American Legion Post 65's Memorial Day event.
3. Mike Boyce from the Lansdowne Fire Company has not heard back from the attorney regarding the Borough proposal.
4. The Mayor will be participating in a video blog produced by the representative who held the Classic Town Trolley Tour.
5. Mr. Totaro has contacted the East Lansdowne Borough Manager regarding holding a recycling event with them in the fall.

6. Flag Day will be held on June 14th, 7:00 a.m. at the Borough Green, followed by a small reception in the Centennial Room.
7. The Allied Youth Council will be presenting a check to the LEDC for the Arts Festival at the next televised Council meeting.

The Mayor commented that as part of his job, he announces important Borough topics/events that may overlap some Committee reports and did not appreciate comments from Committee Chairs indicating the Mayor had already discussed their business. The Mayor noted that the Committee Chairs are free to comment on relevant Committee topics, regardless of whether they have already been included under the Mayor's report. The Mayor commented that if a Committee Chair wants to mention an event, they can contact him beforehand and he will not comment on it. However, if the Mayor is directly involved with a Borough matter, he will make the announcement.

President's Report – President Schleigh reported that he and the Mayor attended the recent Classic Towns event. There was some discussion about the Lansdowne Theater and its impact on economic development. Matt Schultz, Executive Director of the HLTC, was very informative about historical facts regarding the Theater and bygone influential residents of Lansdowne. Mr. Totaro commented that the feedback was very positive.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Walkshed - Ms. Williams opened the discussion noting that the overall plan was developed in 2012 regarding ways to enhance the flow and ease of pedestrian traffic, uses of green space, land, new signage, etc. One component included the Market Plaza idea wherein the back end of the main municipal parking lot on Lansdowne Avenue would be turned into a plaza to become an intentional pedestrian only meeting place for special events, the Farmers Market and the like. The Borough Engineer has already researched grant funding options to see how they could influence the actual design. The Infrastructure Committee agreed that it wanted the Market Plaza as a town square gathering space and would be applying for a "park funding" grant. Ms. Williams asked if Borough Council was on board with the idea of a Market Plaza and moving forward with applying for a grant in 2017 with the expectation that implementation might start in 2017. Ms. Williams noted that the Plaza would encompass one half of the lot from Lansdowne Avenue to Owen Avenue.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding how this would impact the Theater's plans to use the lot during shows and prioritization of general improvements regarding the Highland Avenue parking lot. Ms. Williams commented there would be no issues with moving forward with the Market Plaza as opposed to the Highland Avenue usage and repairs, because a lot of negotiations will be necessary for the Highland lot. The Mayor expressed concerns with bad timing that might hinder the opening of the Theater if construction is ongoing in the municipal lot. The Mayor noted that the Highland lot is in bad shape and a safety concern. Ms. Williams commented that paving the parking lot has nothing to do with the Market Plaza and from a budget perspective, paving Highland would be a Capital Reserve Fund item and was part of the prioritization list that was discussed in the Infrastructure Committee.

President Schleigh suggested donating the Highland Avenue lot to a Redevelopment Authority ("RDA") and asking them to develop it. This could include subdividing in such a way that a mixed use plan could be utilized while providing access to the desired areas in the business

district. The RDA could also solicit private proposals for developing the proposed area. Ms. Williams commented that until the design plans are available, the budget impact is unknown. Ms. Williams noted that if the idea of a public gathering space is desired, Borough Council should go forward with proposed design plans but there is no commitment to actually implementing it. Mr. Aubrey and Mr. Radich added that the LBPA should weigh in on the issue given the potential impact to the Theater. The Mayor felt the design would definitely enhance the area but would take away too many parking spaces and cost is a factor that should be further discussed. Mr. Radich opined it should be better thought out with numbers and impact before committing to the plan.

Ms. Williams reiterated that the intent of the Infrastructure Committee was simply to see if the Plaza was a priority and ready to be packaged for grant writing and whether or not to move forward with it. President Schleigh polled Borough Council to see if applying for grant applications was a priority. There was a majority consensus to move forward. President Schleigh felt that a memo from the Solicitor regarding options for use of the Highland Avenue lot would be helpful. Solicitor Scott felt this decision should not be given to a RDA because they ultimately should be doing what Borough Council deems a priority.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Community Service Workers - Door Hangers. A request has been made to have these workers distribute door hangers advertising the upcoming 2020 House event on June 25th. Ms. Williams noted a similar promotion had been made by volunteers for the InsideOut program. Chief Donegan commented that community service workers were not allowed to go door to door. Ms. Williams commented she was unaware of that rule and will investigate other venues to advertise the event.

2. Main Line Today. There was a recent article published regarding the Garden Church in Lansdowne. Ms. Williams questioned the procedure for handling this type of problem, stating that "the article was factually incorrect and did not present an appropriate image of the Borough". The Mayor indicated he had spoken to the Managing Editor about the issue and would like to talk to the author about a retraction. Should there be no resolution, the Mayor will send a written response to Main Line Today in this regard.

President Schleigh asked for a brief recess to review the Tyco proposal for a security system at 2020 House. **Ms. Williams moved to have a five minute recess to read the report. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.**

Action Items:

1. Mr. Radich moved to authorize payment of bills for period. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Mr. Radich moved to adopt Resolution 2016-08 regarding recovered forfeiture funds checking account. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

3. Ms. English moved to accept the proposal for TYCO Integrated Security's lease agreement for 2020 House alarm system for a 60 month term at a \$244.70 per month leasing charge, conditioned upon the Borough Solicitor's review and satisfaction with legal documentation. Ms. Byrne seconded. **Discussion:** President Schleigh commented that he was aware that Tyco vigorously fights any claim of loss that is alleged to be the result of their system failing. Chief Donegan commented he felt comfortable with using Tyco and they had been very professional in their dealings with him. There was some discussion about the benefits of owning versus leasing and the consensus was to lease the equipment. Vote: unanimous.

Executive Session - Mw. Williams moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned to executive session at 8:40 p.m.

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

Adjourn – Ms. Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry
Borough Secretary