

**Lansdowne Borough Council
General Meeting**

June 15, 2016

APPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council General Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Council members present: President Schleigh, Mr. Aubrey, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English, Ms. James, Mr. Radich and Ms. Williams. 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.

Mayor Campuzano asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Lansdowne Mayor Jack Rankin. Mr. Rankin served as Mayor for two terms and as a Borough Council for several years.

Mayor Campuzano asked for a moment of silence in memory of the victims of last week's shooting at a gay club in Orlando, Florida.

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 18, 2016 General Meeting of Council. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Announcements and Presentations: Mayor Campuzano presented Certificates of Recognition for outstanding courage to Lansdowne Police Officer Michael Ammon and one-time volunteer firefighter Christopher Bordon for their help in containing a recent fire at 100 W. Baltimore Avenue. Officer Ammon, who was first on the scene and passerby Bordon entered the smoke and fire filled apartment to pull the sleeping resident to safety.

Announcements:

July 4th parade starts 9:00 a.m. in Highland Avenue parking lot. Theme: "Lansdowne Celebrates the Arts". Fireworks start at dusk at Penn Wood High School field.

June 25 - Walgreen's Open House - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free health screenings and refreshments provided.

August 2 - National Night Out. 6:00 p.m. in Highland Avenue parking lot.

July 30 - 12th annual Senior Center Art Show - 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Delaware County Community College

Patrone's Restaurant - new owner, James Reilly, will soon open Jamie's House of Music on the second floor.

Stefano's Service Center on Marshall Road is celebrating 35 years of service and has been a major donator to Borough events.

Farmers Market is now open every Saturday.

June 25 - July 30. Lansdowne Arts Board Show, curated by TC Campuzano at 2020 House.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Totaro read the May 31, 2016 Report as follows:

General Fund beginning balance: \$534,010, ending balance \$3,275,064.

Sewer Fund beginning balance: \$769,491, ending balance \$1,670,950.

Liquid Fuels Fund beginning balance: \$513,645, ending balance \$727,075.

Non-Uniformed Pension Fund beginning balance: \$2,662,539, ending balance \$2,718,108.

Police Pension Fund beginning balance: \$7,891,017, ending balance \$7,869,805.

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

Mayor's Report: Mayor Campuzano reported as follows:

- The new stop sign is now operating at Marshall Road and Owen Avenue. Penn Dot has asked the Borough to pain the street lines on Marshall Road. The blinking lights on the stop sign are temporary per Penn Dot and the Borough is looking into purchasing new ones.
- Animal Control - Dr. Weinberg is working with the Mayor and Borough in this regard and the Mayor expressed his thanks to Chief Donegan for his help in coordinating this effort.
- Officer John McGowan - presented his suggestion at a recent Public Safety Committee meeting regarding a K-9 program.
- The Mayor reminded residents to keep cars locked at all times due to recent thefts.
- The Mayor thanked Marie Campuzano and Andrea Kenya for their help in establishing the Library plantings.
- The Mayor asked residents to support to Fire Company Fund Drive.

Council President's Report: President Schleigh reported there will be no Borough Council Business Meetings on July 6th or August 3rd. The General Meetings, however, will be held. President Schleigh commented that two candidates have been interviewed for the Junior Council position. Also, the Liquid Fuels Fund audit has begun.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Health and Safety: Ms. English reported on some follow up items:

- Some missing overnight parking signs will be replaced.
- Blinking lights cannot be put up on Marshall Road as this is a state owned road.
- Dr. Weinberg and the SPCA contract were discussed.
- Road lines for Gladstone and Walsh Roads are to be painted.

Finance and Administration: Mr. Radich reported the Committee met on June 6th. Two respondents were interviewed and two are remaining for the pension management services. The RFP generated 13 responses in total.

Economic Development and Code Enforcement: Ms. James reported that the Committee met on May 17th. The Arts Board Show, "Beyond Cold Stones", will be held on June 25th at the 2020 House.

Environment: Mr. Aubrey had no formal report.

Community Relations: Ms. Byrne reported that the Community Day event will be held on June 25th in conjunction with other events happening the same day. Food trucks will be available from 2-8 p.m. at the Highland Avenue lot. Ms. Byrne mentioned that costs are being split with the LEDC for the door hangers to be used for advertising this event. Community workers will deliver the hangers. Mr. Totaro mentioned that the LEDC has a standing agreement for use of the lot from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A motion will be made later in the meeting for extending the time to 8:00 p.m.

Ms. Byrne mentioned the Diversity Project has requested use of the 20th Century Club for events on October 15, 2016 and December 3, 2016 and May 13, 2017. Motions were previously made and approved to waive the fee.

The Inside/Out paintings will be taken down on July 8th.

July 7th - 7 to 9 p.m. A "Painting with a Twist" event will be held at the 20th Century Club. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at door.

The next Community Relations Committee meeting will be held on June 27th, 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall.

Library Liaison Report:

- July 10th - Fiber Festival, 2 to 4 p.m.
- June 13 through August 12 - Summer Learning/Reading Challenge starts. Events include chess, board games, movies, etc.
- The Food Program has started and is available for those ages 18 and under.
- July is "Graphic Novel Month" and there will be a presentation on July 17th, 2:00 p.m. of a current graphic arts publication.

Infrastructure and Public Works: Ms. Williams reported the Committee met on May 24th. The light synchronization plan for Baltimore and Lansdowne Avenues has been delayed until July or August, according to Penn Dot. Ms. Williams commented that there are seven old, green metal trash cans throughout the business district that are decaying and options are being investigated for alternative containers. At their June meeting the Committee will be reviewing plans for this year's paving program as well as replacing street signs.

The next Infrastructure Committee meeting will be held on June 28th.

Communications: Comcast Cable Company sent a flyer regarding Governor Wolf's proposed cable TV tax. President Schleigh commented that Borough Council will not take a position as the material had not been reviewed. After a short discussion, Borough Council members unanimously decided not to support this tax.

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

Visitors:

1. **Emma Kirk** - 288 Wabash Avenue. Ms. Kirk expressed her objection to the Lansdowne Library holding a dance after the death of Michael Jackson, honoring his life achievements. Ms. Kirk felt that Mr. Jackson was not an exemplary model for this type of recognition.

Ms. Kirk objected to the Library's flyer advertising "for 18+" for their upcoming Graphic Novel event focusing on the book, "Nimona!". Ms. Kirk commented that in this instance, "graphic" means explicit, adult material and had voiced her objections to the Library Director, who explained that the flyer's objective was to draw in young adults, "millennials" ages 18 to 30. Ms. Kirk felt that these types of materials manipulate the reader, have objectionable language, is not artistic and is not necessary to have this one book as a focus to draw in a young audience.

2. **Dolores Corbin** - 87 Fairview Avenue. Ms. Corbin indicated she had spoken to Borough officials several years ago regarding the overgrown trees, weeds, etc. in back of the properties on Fairview Avenue. Ms. Corbin also mentioned that there is an ongoing water problem that backs up to the properties causing residents to move their cars; the overgrowth is so bad that the basketball court cannot be seen.

3. **Linda Clifton** - 89 Fairview Avenue. Ms. Clifton reiterated Ms. Corbin's concerns, adding that bugs and mosquitoes are also a danger because of the overgrowth. This has been a concern for residents since 1995 but no action had been taken even after the Codes Department checked it out. Councilman Aubrey supported this claim, commenting that before he was a Council member, complaints had been sent to former Mayor Jayne Young. The trail in question had been part of the Elm Street Program to provide access to Interboro Park but cleanup efforts stopped at some point. Mayor Campuzano commented that in prior years Interboro Park was redone to try and solve the water problem but after the play equipment was removed the trail was put in and in time overgrowth became a problem. Mr. Totaro indicated that the Gateway Slope grant for current submission could be used to correct the problem. He will provide an Interboro Park background report for next month's meeting.

4. **Richard Smalley** - North Rigby Avenue. Ms. Smalley thanked the residents for coming out to the Memorial Day Parade and also thanked the Mayor, Chief Donegan and Borough Council for their help in this regard. Mr. Smalley mentioned there are booklets regarding programs for women veterans available at Borough Hall.

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

Old Business:

1. **Walk shed/Market Plaza** - Ms. Williams noted that cost information is available for Borough Council review and will be discussed at the next Infrastructure Committee meeting. Mr. Totaro commented that the footprint of the current plan is the same that was used in the

Walk shed program. Mr. Aubrey expressed concern at the approximate \$300,000 amount for the gateway slope project because it puts the Borough well over \$300,000 as a match and would place a burden on taxpayers. President Schleigh commented that as this project develops, discussions will be held regarding all cost ramifications. The Mayor noted that this is only a preliminary proposal to look at a possible improvement for the Borough. Ms. Williams commented on Mr. Aubrey's taxpayer statement, noting that the crosswalk in front of the theater and the parking lot has been a public safety hazard for a long time and the grants would actually help reduce taxpayer money. The Mayor noted that if anyone got hurt in this regard, it would cost the Borough a lot of money in damages and it was critical to address safety issues.

2. Animal Control - Chief Donegan commented that the formal agreement is not ready for signing until the numbers are more complete. Another concern is what to do with the animals after hours at the Lansdowne Veterinary Hospital. After a brief discussion, it was decided to delete the agenda action item for this matter.

New Business:

1. K-9 - Ms. English noted that Officer McGowan had given a proposal regarding having a K-9 presence at the last Public Safety Committee meeting. The Committee was enthusiastic about the plan. The Mayor thought the publicity would be beneficial for the Borough. Officer McGowan was also quite enthusiastic, citing that drug detection, patrolmen safety, detection of missing children and enhancing the Junior Police Academy would be an important benefit. President Schleigh felt it was a good idea as well but noted that a recent article in the PA Association of Boroughs regarding K-9 programs had cited some negatives as well, e.g., the dogs are trained to take a bullet for the officer, the dog has to retire with the handler, specially equipped cars are needed, active duty for the dog is about 6-8 years and full training costs about \$12,000-\$15,000 per dog. There were also concerns with an officer's career continuity and any exposure risks that would affect insurance premiums. The Mayor commented that Officer McGowan was doing all the preliminary research on his own time. After some further discussion, there arrived a consensus to move ahead with planning.

MOTION: Mr. Aubrey moved to allow Officer McGowan to move forward with his research and develop a proposal for a K-9 unit in Lansdowne. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Action Items:

1. Mr. Radich moved to approve bills for the period. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Ms. English moved to adopt Resolution 2016-09 regarding grant application to the CFA for its greenways and trails grant cycle. Ms. Williams seconded. Mr. Aubrey asked for a roll call vote. The vote carried 6-1 with Mr. Aubrey voting "nay".
3. Mr. Radich moved to adopt Resolution 2016-10 regarding RACP financing. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
4. Ms. English moved to adopt Resolution 2016-11 regarding grant application to the CFA for its multi-modal crosswalk grant cycle. Mr. Radich seconded. Vote: unanimous.

5. Ms. Byrne moved to expend \$175 with the LEDC and Inside Out Program for promotional door hangers regarding the upcoming Art Show. Mr. Radich seconded. Vote: unanimous.
6. Ms. Byrne moved to allow the LEDC use of the municipal parking lot from 2 - 8 p.m. on the day of the Art Show opening, June 25th. Mr. Radich 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 8:15 p.m.

Public Session: Upon reconvening to public session, the following motions were made:

1. **Mr. Aubrey moved to appoint Brookelin P. Hoard and Niya Ray as Junior Council persons to Borough Council, effective during the school year 2016-2017. Mr. Radich seconded. Vote: unanimous.**
2. **Mr. Radich moved to offer part time employees the opportunity to buy into the Borough health insurance plan providing their compensation is 300% of the applicable monthly premium. Mr. Aubrey seconded. Vote: unanimous.**

Adjourn – Mr. Aubrey moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry
Borough Secretary