

Lansdowne Borough Council

BUSINESS MEETING

January 4, 2023

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually and in person on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

President Hover opened the meeting, lead by Mayor Byrne with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members Present: President Hover, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Mayor Byrne, Mr. Griffin, Ms. Martsolf, Mr. Curry, and Ms. Lartey. Absent: Ms. Young Ms. James came in at 7:05 p.m. Also Present: Borough Solicitor Robert Scott, Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford, Borough Engineer Kevin Matson, and Borough Treasurer Ms. Donna Lang.

Approval of Agenda – Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded: Mr. Griffin
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes – Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to approve the minutes of the December 7th, 2022, Borough Council meeting. Seconded: Mr. Griffin
Vote: Unanimous

Presentations –

- **Health Board**

A member of the Lansdowne Health Board was recognized with a certificate for her hard work and dedication.

Reports

1. **Solicitor Bob Scott**

- There was nothing to report.

2. **Manager Craig Totaro**

- There was nothing to report.

3. **Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford**

- There were 661 calls that the Lansdowne Police responded to in the month of December.

4. **Fire Company Report**

- There was nothing to report.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Byrne did some driving around with the help of some volunteers to do some jingle judging. Award winners will be notified by mail and awards will be given out at the January 18th meeting to those who would like to pick them up in person. It is important that your house number is easily displayed not only for jingle judging, but also if there is an emergency.

- Recently there was an incorrect story in the paper regarding a stabbing in Lansdowne. Many listen to the police scanner or see the reports of calls that come into 911. Please keep in mind that what you read is the caller's perspective of what happened and not necessarily what happened.

President's Report

- We are continuing the negotiations with the LEDC and are looking to complete the process in January.
- Council is at the point to have an ad hoc Committee meeting for Library Facilities planning on January 25th.
- An ad Hoc Committee for Community Day: Mayor Byrne, former Mayor Tony Campuzano, Councilmember Griffin, President Hover, and a representative from the Lansdowne Business Professional Association, a representative from the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation.
- We wish all residents to join Council meetings in public or virtually.

Old Business

1. Back Yard Bird Counts

- The Great Backyard Bird Count is an event taking place on February 17-20. The GBBC creates a real-time assessment of bird populations that scientists can use in research. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. All are welcome to take part in this event. The EAC proposes Lansdowne to post an article in the Borough e-newsletter; a GBBC event at some point; promotion of the HGBBC at the "Steps into Nature" family library program; and request that Dandelion Digital creates a flyer for distribution by EAC members; setting up a banner around February 3rd on Borough Green that has a QR code to the Borough Calendar; weekly posts in the Borough Facebook page, through Dandelion Digital, about the GBBC, starting in January; and placement of lawn signs about the GBBC at strategic places around town.

2. Borough Events 2023 – Earth Day, STEAM, Community Day, Juneteenth, 4th of July

- These events will be taking place this year, 2023. There has been talk about planning these events already including dates, finances, and working with boards and commissions to plan activities for these events.

3. Ad Hoc Committee – Community Day

- It was confirmed for the record that Mayor Byrne, former Mayor Tony Campuzano, Councilmember Griffin, and to take things into community relations committee, President Hover, a representative from the Lansdowne Business Professional Association, a representative from the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation are to build this community day as recognition of the anniversary of Lansdowne's establishment as a Borough.

4. Advertise Positions (Assistant, Deputy)

- We are advertising and adopting an assistant borough manager and a deputy police chief position.

5. Facilities Plan

- The final plan is being drafted. There are not many significant changes from the original plan. On January 25th there will be a meeting at 7:00 p.m. to further discuss this.

New Business

1. MLK Day Event

- The Community Relations committee is looking to use the 20th Century Club for a day of remembrance of Martin Luther King. This will take place from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on January 16th. There will be snacks included.

2. Union Avenue RR Crossing

- SEPTA is suggesting a two-month road closure of Union Avenue. They provided us with a plan by setting up detour signs and getting a flagger to help with traffic issues. If there is an approval for this, then the barricades will be set up as early as January 5th.

Public Comment

Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to move into Public Comment. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

- Harry Kalish, 6 Harford Place Yeadon; came to speak on his mission to get events and activities of Darby Creek Valley Association on the Lansdowne Borough Calendar.
- Suzanne McElroy, 200 Drexel Avenue Lansdowne; wished council a Happy New Year and shows support.

Vice President motioned to move from Public Comment into Action Items. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Action Items:

1. Ms. James motioned to Authorize payment of bills for the period. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
2. Ms. James motioned to adopt Ordinance 2023-01 establishing a financial fund balance policy. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
3. Ms. James motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-01 regarding a financial fund balance policy. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
4. Ms. James motioned to advertise for candidates for Assistant Manager. Seconded: Mr. Curry Vote: Unanimous
5. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to advertise for candidates for Deputy Police Chief. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
6. President Hover motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-02 regarding the Lunar New Year. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
7. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to enter agreement with Brandywine SPCA, Seconded; and tabled
8. Ms. Martsolf motioned to conditionally approve Lansdowne's participation in the Backyard Bird Count. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
9. Mr. Griffin motioned to approve MLK sharing agreement at the 20th Century Club on January 16th. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
10. Mr. Griffin motioned to approve Borough events including: – Earth Day, STEAM, Community Day, Juneteenth, and 4th of July; Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous

11. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to approve traffic rerouting plan starting January 5th through the completion of work. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Executive Session – Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to move into Executive Session at 8:06 p.m. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Adjourn – Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Pavlo

Borough Secretary