

**Lansdowne Borough Council
General Meeting**

January 20, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council held a virtual General Meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

President Hover opened the meeting, led by Mayor Campuzano with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present: President Hover, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English, Mr. Holt, Ms. James, Mr. Schleigh, Ms. Naji-Taylor. Absent: Fire Company representative. Also present: Mayor Campuzano, Borough Manager Totaro, Borough Secretary Henry, Borough Solicitor Scott and Acting Police Chief Rutherford.

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

Approval of Minutes: Ms. English moved to approve the December 16, 2020 general meeting. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote:

Announcements and Presentations: The Mayor presented the 2020 Helms Award to long time resident James Klingler. The Mayor commented Mr. Klingler fits the category for what the Helms Award means, i.e., someone who goes above and beyond to volunteer and help make Lansdowne the great town that it is. Some of Mr. Klingler's accomplishments follow:

1. Coached Boys and Girls Club (baseball, soccer, softball).
2. Served on Borough Council for six years.
3. Machine operator at polls in the second for two years.
4. Zoning Board - longest serving member.
5. Volunteer for Lansdowne Folk Club since inception.
6. Performed at the Folk Club with Bob Beach, DC Fitzpatrick and the Philadelphia Jug Band.
7. Sits on Executive Committee that produced and organized the first three Lansdowne Art Festivals and was a performer in four festivals.
8. Served as assistant scout master for Troop 63 for five years and Cub Pack 63 for three years.
9. Is an Elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Lansdowne.
10. Volunteers to perform music at the Farmers Market on multiple occasions.
11. Volunteer for Union Athletic Association in charge of the July 4 parade for four years.
12. Introduced use of radios for parade coordination.

Former Helms Award recipients were present to honor Jim: Jayne Young, Tony Campuzano, Al Them, Jennifer Hoff and Joe Stevenson.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Totaro deferred reading the report until February, 2021 due to the year-end closing of the books occurring in January.

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Scott reported a court order had been entered in action against The Cigar Lounge and is now a public record. The lounge is shut down and owner agrees to vacate and not seek to reopen a similar establishment in the borough for one year.

Mayor's Report – The Mayor reported on a few police items: (1) second interviews for Police Chief were completed this week. The Mayor thanked Ms. Naji-Taylor and all of Borough Council for taking part in this endeavor and Sgt. Rutherford for stepping up the last four months and keeping everything running smoothly; (2) putting together policies and costs for body cameras and hopes to have in place in a few months; and (3) received some complaints regarding speeding on Marshall from baseball field to Lansdown Avenue. The Mayor is also looking into purchasing “slow down” lawn signs. Penn Dot approval is needed for any remedies. Mr. Scott confirmed this can be done administratively without Council vote.

The Fire and Police Chiefs have informed the Mayor that all their force should begin to receive the Covid 19 vaccine in the next few weeks. Residents should continue to follow CDC guidelines and wear masks.

The Jingle Judge awards will be hand delivered this week and thanked the residents for decorating and helping to make the borough a lot brighter.

Fire Company Report – No report was given.

President's Report – President Hover gave an overview of the special projects currently underway:

1. Through receiving TCDI grants and realizing past Council goals, improvements are currently underway, such as the start of the sewer improvement project throughout the borough. Grant money received for this project was \$990,000.
2. Construction will soon begin on Gateway Slope.
3. Moving forward with body cams and changes to police policies.
4. On January 19 he attended the Delaware County municipal government meeting regarding distribution of the Covid 19 vaccine.
5. Last week he and Mr. Totaro met with the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) to move forward with contract negotiations.
6. Design proposals for the Lansdowne Landing and Veterans Park improvements as well as parking lot changes are still being reviewed.
7. In light of today's events at the Capitol, President Hover publicly stated that government officials took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the State and the United States adding that Lansdowne officials also took the same oath and view all as equals regardless of political party affiliation. He will continue to work with the Mayor and all Council members to provide the needed services with this new government in power. The threat or use of violence against officials or private citizens is rejected.

Committee Reports:

Public Health and Safety – Ms. Naji-Taylor was excused from the last Committee meeting and appreciated everyone's show of gratitude re: police chief search. She stated that “this is a group effort by all of Borough Council and the work and effort is not by one nor could it be sustained by one person. It shows the teamwork demonstrated by Borough Council in creating an environment where we can proceed and move forward for the benefit of everyone in the community”.

President Hover presented the Public Safety report:

1. The Mayor delivered his report on the overnight ordinance parking issue and asked what actions had been taken. It was suggested to create an ordinance to limit permits to five per household. The Mayor also asked if any funds were available for another fire truck and how to find grants. The Mayor also mentioned that one of the borough's EMTs was highlighted on the local news for her work.
2. Acting Chief Rutherford discussed new signage on Plumstead indicating the one way sign, on line parking permits, implementation of new online scheduling software and the new cell phones and back up radios from the County with no cost to borough. Chief Rutherford also discussed the vaccination schedule.
3. There was some public comment regarding Lansdowne working with Upper Darby to slow down traffic on Marshall Road.
4. The emergency preparedness plan was also discussed with no public comment.
5. Purchase of and policy for the body cams was discussed and Chief Rutherford provided updated costs. Three body cam policies were presented to the Chief and updates to the police manual were also discussed.
6. There was a brief discussion of school re-openings and Covid protocols.
7. Discussed traffic enforcement and targeting areas where speeding continues to be a problem.
8. Update given on major crimes that had occurred.
9. Safety cam per Mr. Holt's research from the Technology Committee.

More public comment followed re: (1) speeding on Scottdale Road and volume of traffic; (2) concerns about the bike lanes coming to Scottdale Road; and (3) the Fire Company personnel did not wear masks in public while appearing at borough and private events

Finance and Administration – Ms. James reported the committee met to go over goals for next year. She will submit the report before month is over. Next F&A Committee meeting will be held on February 1 at 7 PM to discuss the pension plan with PNC group from 2020.

Economic Development - President Hover reported as follows:

1. Committee met on January 20, 6:00 p.m. with Mr. Totaro, the Mayor, Ms. Byrne, Mr. Schleigh and President Hover in attendance. Discussed were the updates to the LEDC contract, the proposed schedule of LEDC activities and other substantive issues. Also discussed:
 - Status of the 2020 CDBG grants,
 - Lansdowne Avenue crosswalk.
 - Mckinley tot lot; now ready to engage with designer.
 - 2021 CDBG grants.
 - One way bike facilities on Scottdale Road recently voiced by residents.
 - Eastern Delco planning initiative working with other communities to market the borough and do a possible common buy in measure to save money.
 - Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation next steps with the land use agreement and their movement into HARB. HARB met with Callahan Ward for with technical assistance.
 - Proactive code enforcement.
 - Signage for 12 N. Lansdowne Avenue boutique.

- Lansdowne/Clifton pedestrian bridge update: County did not grant permission to sell the bridge and will assume ownership and maintenance.
- Marketing strategies by other communities, sidewalk ordinance and proactive enforcement, paving program by other communities.
- Recognizing the upcoming Chinese New Year, St. Patrick's Day and the Sikh and Hindu holidays.

President Hover introduced the new Junior Council Person, Nhaomi Lartey, a sophomore at Penn Wood High School.

Environment, Parks and Recreation – Ms. English reported there was no quorum at last month's meeting and no recommendations were forthcoming. The Committee reviewed their schedule of expiring Board and Commission terms for next year. The Committee will now be meeting on Monday at 7 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m.

Library Board Liaison: Ms. English reported that the library budget was primarily discussed. They received a large amount of PPE and Ms. English will have to investigate the Covid phases for vaccine distribution, as the priority determination is vague. The Environment Advisory Council (EAC) will coordinate with the library on getting this information out to the public.

2. Discussed newsletter articles regarding vaccination priorities and getting the information out to the public. Additional newsletter items include revisiting recycling process this year and the clean energy plan.

3. The Keystone grant is coming up and in the past the library was given a report on how to optimize current space, purchase new space, etc. Before taking any action, they want to know Borough Council's thoughts specifically on knocking down the old building and building a new one. Mr. Scott noted that the scale of the project may be larger than expected, citing that Media Borough had a similar plan that cost thousands more than expected. President Hover suggested having a task force for this proposal. The Mayor and Ms. Naji-Taylor commented they would like to be part of the task force.

Community Relations Committee - Ms. Byrne reported no meeting was held this month. The next Community Relations Committee meeting will be held on February 2 at 6:30 PM.

Lansdowne Arts Board – No meeting was held this month.

Infrastructure and Public Works – Mr. Schleigh reported that most of the issues previously raised in Council meetings were discussed: the sewer repair work going forward, the Gateway Slope project going forward and what the various surfacing options will be used (stamped asphalt or concrete). Continued discussion of paving projects and how they affect completion of replacement of sidewalk paving.

Technology – Mr. Holt reported two new items were discussed:

1. Safety Cams Program – Philadelphia has a program where residents and business owners can voluntarily agree that if they have a video camera outside their property, it can be put on a private register with police department in case of an incident to show what areas are covered. In discussions with Acting Chief Rutherford, the borough has a similar plan but needs a formal process for setting up the data base with no additional cost or time involved.

2. Municipal WIFI rules – there are many laws about what is permissible and who can or cannot provide it and more research will follow.

Communications:

1. Letter from William Penn School District Director re: Covid vaccinations. The letter indicates that teachers are not in the next round to be vaccinated. Vaccination is scheduled to start February 13, 2021 but cannot commence because vaccinations have not been distributed. President Hover asked Council members and the Mayor if there was any support for the teachers going back to be moved up in the vaccination timeline. After some discussion, there was unanimous agreement for supporting the teachers as long as they are vaccinated.
2. Petition from resident re: Upper Darby zoning hearing board meeting on January 21, 2021 re: request for special exemption application to build a solid waste management facility behind Yeadon Park at 41 S. Lansdowne Avenue. Residents feel this will greatly negatively impact both Upper Darby and Lansdowne residents. Mr. Scott noted that Carl Ewald, Esq. will attend this meeting in his place, as well as the Mayor and President Hover.
3. Villanova Reach Out program where students can reach out to individuals who are isolated and also to seniors to build connection during this time of Covid. All Council members and the Mayor were in agreement and the Community Relations Committee will investigate whether to use borough resources.

Old Business:

1. **Council Committee Procedures, etc.** – Standard Operating Procedures were adopted at last meeting to provide a standing agenda for each Committee and to provide continuity of information to the public in case a member cannot attend a meeting. Each Committee Chair, in consultation with Mr. Totaro, will provide their specific agenda. Zoom meetings can also be set up through the borough instead of using private passwords. The procedure will be the same as used last year in signing it as a contract. All interviews for Board positions will be held in Executive Session.
2. **Body Camera Policy** – President Hover noted that at the last Public Safety Committee meeting, Acting Chief Rutherford presented three policies for consideration. Sgt. Rutherford presented the three alternatives as follows with the choice of either Watchguard or Axiom.

Watchguard quotes per 12 cameras - does not include each officer having their own camera. The estimates are:

- (1) \$ 30,393.25 initial cost; annual cost: \$2,340.00. - estimate if borough has own server and maintains it. The total responsibility would fall to the borough alone. Includes 12 cameras, new server, installation and training.
- (2) \$26,398 initial cost; annual cost: \$5,940 – estimate if Watchguard hosts and maintains video in a Cloud based service that the borough can access.

- (3) \$54,780 initial cost for a 5 year lease; annual cost: \$10,596. Includes WatchGuard hosting the cameras and upgrades to cameras after 3 years.

Mr. Holt noted that the Technology Committee recommended the third lease option with the upgrade and having it in the Cloud. This would provide up to date equipment when needed, no hidden costs and better security options. Acting Chief Rutherford noted the grant process may be available in the next few months with most grants being a 50/50 arrangement and a one-time grant with half the initial cost if leasing. After further discussion, there arrived a consensus to have the lease option, have video in the Cloud with upgrades available in three years. It would also eliminate the need to have borough personnel handle the process. Ms. Naji-Taylor expressed concerns with future Councils and safeguards and felt leasing was the better option. Mr. Schleigh asked how this information would be used legally, noting that adverse inference could happen if information is lost in both civil and criminal litigation. Mr. Scott felt that having a competent, on-site net based contractor is preferable for this reason. The Council unanimously agreed that action should be taken now.

Turnaround time for Watchguard is 120 days.

- 3. Parking Permit Ordinance** – The Mayor recommended limiting it to five permits with exceptions. Ms. English expressed concern that an ordinance was changed due to one block having the problem. The Mayor commented that it could be a concern in the future and the problem should have been addressed years ago. Ms. Naji-Taylor asked if public comment would be available. Mr. Scott concurred it would be advertised for public comment. Mr. Scott confirmed that this would be grandfathered in for those who already purchased the permits.

New Business:

- 1. Sidewalks and Paving** – President Hover commented that under the new administration, Pete Buttigieg is the new Department of Transportation Secretary. In his prior capacity as Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Mr. Buttigieg implemented a “complete streets” program in South Bend that moved toward having modalities for protecting all users of the transportation system. Hopefully, some Federal money might be available to utilize this program in Lansdowne. Ms. Byrne asked for clarification on the meaning of “Complete Streets”. President Hover believed it was an advocacy group that provides different ideas and strategies on how to implement these programs and already have pilot programs in three cities.

Sidewalks and Paving – President Hover opened the discussion by noting that Montgomery County, specifically Jenkintown, has a 10 year paving project that improves the town’s sidewalks and streets, thereby improving the economic development and quality of life for residents. There was also a timeline that provided residents time to correct sidewalk issues and get financing. Ms. English was against the project due to financial hardships resulting from Covid and repairing sidewalks with tree root issues costs thousands, not hundreds of dollars. Ms. Naji-Taylor asked how this impacts residents who live on a private street without sidewalks and how this can be equally and fairly implemented in Lansdowne. All Borough Council members felt it was a great plan but would present too much a financial burden at this time due to the high taxes and should not be mandatory. The Mayor felt it was a good program but something would have to be in place to help residents, even though it lessens the risk

of getting sued if the sidewalk is repaired. Mr. Schleigh added that by waiting, the utility companies typically do the paving after repairs and he would support it only if economic assistance was in place.

2. **Marketing Strategy** – this is similar to Jenkintown’s complete street program as noted above, wherein they produced videos highlighting real estate, education, community services, housing, etc. This will continue to be discussed in the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Schleigh asked if this would be partnered with the LEDC. President Hover noted it certainly could be implemented with them.
3. **Upper Darby Zoning Hearing Board** – This was previously discussed and involves putting in a waste dumping facility in the Yeadon Park area. The Mayor commented it is in a private area and there are major concerns with water runoff, smell, air and dust and the noise. He felt the borough has to aggressively raise these issues that he will be talking about at tomorrow’s meeting. There was consensus that President Hover, Mayor Campuzano and Carl Ewald attend the meeting. Mr. Scott pointed out that Lansdowne would be appearing in opposition for both the borough and East Lansdowne borough.
4. **Safe Cams** - Mr. Holt previously discussed and asked if Borough Council would want to start a pilot program wherein residents could voluntarily register their security cameras with the police department. There is no expense for now and would only involve creating a spreadsheet of the location of the cameras. Mr. Schleigh supported the plan, commenting he was again the victim of vandalism to his car and this information would be invaluable in ending this violence against his family. All Council members and the Mayor were in favor of it. Acting Chief Rutherford commented the police already has a data base where officers know who has the cameras. Mr. Holt requested advertising it via the Community Relations Committee once plan is completed.
5. **Chinese New Year Resolution** – This is planned for February and there will be more detail and advertising on the borough web site.
6. **Junior Council Person** – President Hover commented she was interviewed at the last Economic Development Committee meeting and he recommends appointing her. Ms. Lartey commented she was undecided on a career path but hopes to hold public office in the future and was grateful for this opportunity. She was particularly interested in how Council members compromise on various issues. The Mayor and Council members welcomed her.

Public Comment: Ms. Byrne moved to Suspend Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Visitors: There were no visitor comments.

Ms. Byrne moved to Reinstate Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Action Items:

1. Ms. James moved to pay the bills for the period. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

2. Mr. Hover moved to approve amendment to Resolution 2021-02 regarding Council Committee decorum. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Mr. Hover moved to reappoint Gene Wayne to the HARB for a term ending 1/20/2014. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
4. Mr. Hover moved to appoint Nhaomi Lartey as Junior Council Person for a term ending 1/20/2022. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
5. Mr. Hover moved to adopt Resolution 2021-04 in recognition of the Lunar New Year. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
6. Ms. Byrne moved to send letter of support to officials charged with Covid vaccination priority criteria to include teachers. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
7. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to draft and advertise revision to parking ordinance limiting parking permits to five per household. Ms. Byrne seconded. **Discussion:** Mr. Schleigh questioned the lack of a date for advertising. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to amend the motion as follows: “moved to draft and advertise for the second meeting in March revisions to parking ordinance, limiting parking permits to five per household.” Ms. Byrne seconded the amended motion. Vote: unanimous.
8. Mr. Holt moved to authorize promoting and facilitating a voluntary Safe Camp program in the borough of Lansdowne. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Executive Session – No items for executive session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry
Borough Secretary