

Lansdowne Borough Council

BUSINESS MEETING

February 1, 2023

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually and in person on Wednesday, February 1, 2023.

President Hover opened the meeting, led by Mayor Byrne with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members Present: President Hover, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Mayor Byrne, Ms. Young, Mr. Curry, Ms. Martsof, and Mr. Griffin. Ms. James came in at 7:05 p.m. Absent: Ms. Lartey. 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. Curry
Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Griffin motioned to approve the minutes of the January 4th, 2023, Borough Council Meeting. Seconded: Ms. Martsof
Vote: Ms. Young abstained

Presentations –

- Jingle Judge Awards – Many people showed up in the audience for the awards. Mayor Byrne distributed the awards for those who participated in the contest.

Reports –

1. Solicitor Bob Scott
 - There was nothing to report.
2. Manager Craig Totaro
 - Union Avenue will be opened on Monday, February 6th in the morning. This is a month before it was expected to be opened. SEPTA thanked us for the cooperation and apologized for the disrupted traffic.
 - This is the first month, three weeks, that we transitioned to Republic for our recycling. This has gone smoothly so far and without any interruptions.
 - Mr. Totaro met with the consultants who are doing the feasibility study for the pedestrian grid between Clifton Heights, Aldan and Lansdowne. The next stage of the project will be interviews.
 - Engineer Kevin Matson and Mr. Totaro met with the consultants who are doing the Veteran's Parkway project. We still need information on percolation testing.
3. Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford
 - The statistics for January –
 - 596 police incident reports
 - 26 false burglar or hold up alarms
 - 48 motor vehicle accidents
 - 9 adults were arrested and 13 juveniles
 - 656 parking tickets were issues

- 138 motor vehicle violations
- 11 cars were towed
- Sergeant Kester had an arrest over the weekend with a juvenile with a firearm. The juvenile was pointing the gun at people. The gun was recovered and the juvenile was arrested. Sergeant Miller was also involved with a similar situation. Both officers are recognized of doing a great job while at work.
- 4. Engineer Kevin Matson
 - Aqua wants to begin their project in late February. They are going to be replacing Lansdowne's water mains. They have begun to let those in the borough know.
- 5. Fire Company Report
 - There is nothing to report.

Mayor's Report

- On January 20th Mayor Byrne attended the second in a series of meetings known as the Safe Corridor meetings. These meetings are hosted by State Representative Gina Curry. The purpose of these meetings is to work with business owners, mayors, the police, and the school district to help create a safer environment for students and residents.
- On January 25th Mayor Byrne attended the Facility Plan meeting. There will be other Facility Plan meetings as plans progress. The public is encouraged to participate.
- This is a reminder to everyone that social media is not a replacement for 911. If there is a safety issue or vandalism call 911.
- Mayor Byrne will not be at the next council meeting but looks forward to seeing everyone around town and at the March 1st meeting.

President's Report

- African American History month is this month. Today is National Freedom Day created through the efforts of the prominent African American educator and businessman and formerly enslaved Richard Wright Sr. who sought to recognition of the day that Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation thus calling for the end of slavery.
- All students within the Lansdowne Community are encouraged to submit art, essays or poetry to be highlighted in the newsletter and on our social media. The theme for the art, essays or poetry is "black resistance" as established by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History established by CG Woodson, the father of Black History.

Public Safety

- Last Monday on January 23rd, representatives from Lansdowne Borough Council- Councilmember Will Griffin from Public Safety, Mayor Magda Byrne, Craig Totaro, Carl Ewald. Fire Chief Mike Boyce, and President Hover attended a meeting in Clifton Heights on January 23rd with representatives from multiple boroughs to address the ambulance service issues with Trinity Health and Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital. At the meeting, representatives from several municipalities discussed their concerns and status. The next steps are to meet, and President Hover is attempting to arrange a meeting with Trinity with the same delegation.

Economic Development

- Lansdowne Borough Council continues to work with community partners and Lansdowne businesses to build downtown Lansdowne. On Wednesday, January 25th Mr. Totaro and President Hover met with Deb Brodeur and William Brown to negotiate the LEDC Contract. At this time, we have a core contract that will be discussed at the Economic Development in February.
 - In this Contract, Lansdowne Borough Council and the LEDC are committed to developing a marketing strategy to advertise the arts community and the many arts assets in the Borough.
- On January 28th, Vinyl Revival will reopen at their new space at 26 North Lansdowne Avenue and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 18th at 11:00 a.m.
- Lansdowne Borough Council is committed to the procurement of funds for the Lansdowne Landing and Veteran's Park areas to upgrade the parks as a community gathering space and upgrade the parking lots in Lansdowne Borough.

Comprehensive Plan

- The Ad Hoc Committee is nearing completion of a revised draft for public discussion and a second larger town hall discussion to review the plan.
- The Ad Hoc Steering Committee met on January 24th at 6:30 p.m. at Borough Hall and we will be moving forward with a public meeting in March.

Facilities

- Over the next year, Lansdowne Borough will continue the housekeeping tasks to improve beautification in the Borough. We apologize for the painting being worked on in Borough Hall in the hallways and Borough Chambers. At the last Borough Council meeting, Borough Council voted for the acquisition of Borough furniture to upgrade all of the current furniture in Borough Hall.
- On January 25th, the Library Facilities ad hoc meeting had a public meeting for possible Facilities upgrades to the Library, Borough Hall, and the Police Department. This meeting was the first public meeting to discuss a possible new building for the Library or transition of a current facilities and we encourage all residents to attend. President Hover recommends that we have another public meeting for the community to view plans.
- On Saturday, February 4th President Hover will be attending trails summit at the Haverford Western Suburbs Trail Summit hosted by the Haverford Parks and Recreation and Friends of Haverford Trails. At the summit, President Hover will be joining other representatives from County Council, other municipalities, and the Planning department to discuss the work Lansdowne has been doing.

Boards and Commissions

- On February 22nd at 6:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of all the Borough Boards and Commissions to review the necessary Borough laws and procedures.
- As we have done in the past, President Hover is proposing that we use the last Wednesday of February to conduct a review with the Boards and Commissions the necessary Borough laws and procedures that are applicable to the Boards and Commissions. President Hover asks that we as the Borough provide refreshments as a thank you for the service on the Boards and

Commissions. Please communicate to the various chairs of the Boards and Commissions to support

- Code Appeals Board – 2 members
- Environmental advisory council – 1 member
- Parks and Recreation Board – 3 members
- Human Relations Commission – 5 members
- Planning Commission – 1 member
- Zoning Hearing Board – 3 members

Old Business

1. Comprehensive Plan
 - We are now working on the final draft that is to be circulated to various entities including adjacent municipalities, the school district and county and borough planning commissions. They all have a 45 day review comment period.
2. Facilities Plan
 - It was updated in the reports. There will be another public meeting in March, and it is suggested that it should be advertised more to the public. To pay for the plan, we would use grant money and some type of debt.
3. Social Media Policy
 - The issue under concern was whether you can prevent borough department heads from making comments on social media about local borough political campaigns. Public employees have the right to make comments on items of public concern. Items of public concern are not clear.
4. EMS – Ambulance
 - President Hover setup a time to meet with Trinity Hospital either next Tuesday or the following Tuesday. At this point we are still in the fact-finding stage.
5. DEI Proposal
 - We met with Ms. Gilbert and agreed that the first step is to adopt a resolution that can be brought to the next meeting. It is about \$11,000. The terms of the contract have not changed.
6. Boards and Commissions Meeting
 - The board and commissions meeting are February 22nd at 6:0 p.m. at the 20th Century Club. There will be a letter constructed for the council to distribute.
7. Vacancies
 - Each liaison person needs to remind Mr. Totaro to turn on or off the vacancies. It is listed on the website.

New Business

1. Financial Disclosure Forms
 - They are due May 1st, and you disclose information from the prior year. It can be completed online and if it is completed as a hard copy it goes to Mr. Totaro.
2. LEDC Contract
 - Currently what we have is a replica of the current contract that the LEDC has with some adjustments in it. We give \$50,000 to the LEDC for support of programming.
3. RAISE grant program

- There is a Federal Grant program used for many projects. We are currently looking into this grant program. The deadline is February 28th, so it is unlikely we will be able to fill out an application by this time.

Public Comment

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

- Christina Jackson from 275 Windermere Avenue has been living in Lansdowne for five years and wanted to introduce herself to the Council.
- Tina Gilbert from North Lansdowne wanted to introduce herself from the DEI.

Vice President Naji-Taylor 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. Mr. Griffin motioned to accept social media policy with amendments. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: All in favor but for Ms. Young voted no
3. Mr. Curry motioned to adopt the DEI Contract with Tina Gilbert for DEI Services. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Pavlo

Borough Secretary