

**Lansdowne Borough Council**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**February 3, 2021**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Present: Mr. Hover, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English, Mr. Holt, Ms. James, Ms. Naji-Taylor and Mr. Schleigh. Also present: Jr. Council Person: Ms. Larte.

Also present: Mayor Campuzano, Borough Solicitor Scott, Borough Manager Totaro, Borough Engineer Matson, Borough Secretary Henry and Police Chief Rutherford.

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

**Approval of agenda:** Mr. Holt moved to approve the agenda. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. English moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2021 Business meeting. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Solicitor's Report** – Mr. Scott reported that Upper Darby's zoning application for 11 S. Union was withdrawn by applicant.

**Borough Manager's Report** – Mr. Totaro provided updates as follows:

1. Meeting tomorrow with Yeadon, East Lansdowne and Upper Darby re: TCDI proposals. Two interviews are to be held.
2. Proposals for the Mckinley lot project are due by February 5, 2021.
3. The borough 2020 audit is just beginning with Barbacane Thornton and there is no expectation of anything material at present.
4. The storm cleanup was successful. The regular collection schedule will resume tomorrow.

**Police Chief's Report** – Acting Chief Rutherford reported as follows:

**January 2021 Police Report:**

643 responses to incidents  
18 false hold up or burglar alarms  
25 motor vehicle accidents  
16 adults arrested for a variety of infractions  
0 juveniles arrested

402 parking tickets issued  
99 traffic tickets for motor vehicle violations  
2 non traffic citations  
40 domestic calls for service with police response

1. The Chief is currently working with a web hosting company to design a forum so that residents can share their home surveillance cameras with police on a voluntary basis. The Chief spoke with a representative from Axion to rework the initial quote for purchasing body cameras. He hopes to have a quote by tomorrow to present to the Public Safety Committee next week. The Chief will be meeting next week with Devoe Associates re: repairing parking meters and options for an app to allow paying fees by phone.

The Chief also reported there had been two major incidents in January involving arson that resulted in two arrests of individuals with some associated mental health issues. There was an attempted robbery reported the following day. The suspect is a juvenile but no arrest has been made. Some vehicles were stolen due to unlocked doors and keys left in ignition.

**Borough Engineer's Report** – Mr. Matson reported the following updates:

1. Capital projects – sewer project repairs have been dramatic with the contractor working quickly and professionally. The contractor, Act Construction One, has submitted a potential for a change order due to potential restoration work on West Stratford Avenue that will first be reviewed by the Infrastructure Committee. It primarily concerns the design work on that road.
2. Final contracts have been compiled and sent out for the Gateway Slope project. A pre-con meeting will be held in a few weeks to discuss terms and conditions and any borough concerns and questions. Final signatures will be handled electronically.
3. The Moore Construction Co. is doing some work for the Scottdale Road drainage improvements.

**Fire Company Report** – Ms. Naji-Taylor presented the Fire Company report for January:

Fire responses – 63 alarms  
Ambulance responses – 157  
Major incident types: Fire – 15; Rescue or EMS – 5; Hazardous conditions – 8; Service calls – 2;  
Good intention calls – 19; False alarms – 14.

All vehicles have been checked with no major issues.

**Mayor's Report** – The Mayor reported as follows:

1. In honor of Black History Month, the Mayor mentioned two past events that happened on this date: (1) In 1870 - the 15<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S Constitution was ratified that prohibits each U.S. government from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's color, race or previous condition of servitude e.g., slavery; and (2) In 2007 Senator Obama announced his presidential intentions at the Old State Capitol in Illinois, where Lincoln served his fourth and final term as a state representative. Lincoln also presented his "house divided" speech there in 1858. Senator Obama became the 44<sup>th</sup> President and served two terms.

2. The Mayor expressed gratitude that the proposal for Union Avenue was withdrawn and thanked Carl Ewald, Esq. and President Hover for representing the borough. In his argument, the applicant kept referring to the borough yard. The Mayor would like to improve that area by repairing the fence covers that are torn and covered with graffiti.
3. The Mayor looks forward to getting the police body cams issue resolved at the next Public Safety Committee meeting. At that last Committee meeting, a resident of Upper Darby asked what could be done about the speeding on Marshall Road. The Mayor reached out to Penn Dot by phone and talked with their traffic control specialist in Delaware County, Richard Francisco, about what could or could not be done to solve this issue. Penn Dot will have to perform a safety analysis on that stretch of road. One feasible solution would be to have one lane only on Marshall Road from Lansdowne to Plumstead Avenue. This analysis is expected to be completed by fall, 2021.
4. Starting with the February general meeting, the Mayor plans to resume spotlighting new businesses in Lansdowne.
5. State Senator Anthony Williams wants to tour the Lansdowne downtown area on January 9<sup>th</sup> between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. The Senator would also like to take a tour of the Lansdowne Theater, confirmed by Matt Schultz.
6. The Mayor thanked the borough crew for doing a great job on snow removal this past week.
7. The Mayor reminded residents to keep social distancing and wear masks.

**President's Report** – President Hover reported as follows:

1. Mr. Hover commented why Lansdowne was such a great place to live, citing neighbors who helped others to remove the snow, kids sledding, etc. Mr. Hover thanked Mr. Matson for the updates on the sanitary sewer system and Gateway Slope.
2. The borough is moving forward with its intent to purchase body cams and review the policy. Last week a special meeting was held whereby Borough Council offered the Police Chief position to Sgt. Ken Rutherford. Mr. Hover thanked Ms. Naji-Taylor and others on the committee for their work.
3. Next week several items will be discussed in the Economic Development Committee meeting. Lansdowne Borough Council continues to work with community partners and Lansdowne businesses to build a downtown in the borough. The LEDC contract was reviewed last week and hopefully a finalized contract will be ready by the next Economic Development Committee meeting.
4. Borough Council is also committed to developing a marketing strategy to advertise the community and its many assets to the borough. Signage for the downtown area will also be discussed in Economic Development Committee next week.
5. Borough Council is also working on developing plans for the upgrades to The Landing, Veterans Park and the Highland and Owen Avenue parking lots.

6. Mr. Hover welcomed HLTC Director Matt Schultz, who will provide updates on the HLTC and talk about the extension on grant money.
7. The creation of a task force to work with the Library Board was discussed regarding future plans. Ms. English, Ms. Naji-Taylor, the Mayor and Mr. Hover will be on that task force.
8. Borough Council and the Mayor are working together to use all the resources to build in 2021 and continue to develop the town.

### Old Business:

1. **HLTC extension letter** – Matt Shultz presented updates on the project. A long term lease was signed by a concert promoter who will operate the theater with nationally known acts that have appeared at the Kimmel Center, the Mann Center, Wells Fargo Center, etc. Lansdowne Theater will be the home base. The lease allows the borough to secure senior debt, subordinated debt and a third party who will invest in Federal tax credits for the property.

In December the architectural drawings were 100% complete and will be put out to bid. Depending on the bids, cost engineering might be done. A grant for \$70,000 was received for restoration of historical lighting in the building. The project has risen from \$13 million to \$15 million due to increased labor costs and extending the runoff water system. Mr. Schultz is awaiting a Delcora decision regarding the planning module for the sewer; they have capacity but are unsure if the connections have been approved. He is waiting for the DCED decision about blight funding as well as a decision from the County about the terracotta roof. The HLTC will be requesting County Council to consider creating a HUD Section 108 loan program, which is a long term debt, low interest rate funded by future payments to the CDBG program. The County is also adopting a Pennsylvania Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy program.

Once funding is approved, it will take about nine months for construction completion and three months for the asbestos abatement. The Theater opening is anticipated for the fall of 2022. Ms. English asked if the library's intended RCAP would be disallowed with the extension of the Theater RCAP. Mr. Schultz commented it would not negate the library RCAP. RCAPs have to be matched with non-state money and the budget has to be significant enough for a match. Solicitor Scott concurred that the library would not be affected.

Ms. Byrne asked how close the Theater is for a match. Mr. Schultz noted the state grant has already been matched but the Theater has to meet the \$15 million requirement for a second grant. Mr. Schultz questioned the length of time to procure building permits. Mr. Matson indicated the Codes Director should be contacted in this regard as the process varies. Mr. Scott added that the statutory deadline to respond to an application for a commercial project is about 20-30 days.

2. **Scottdale Road Project** – bicycle lane. Mr. Totaro indicated there had been discussions in Committee regarding concerns with the planned one way direction. The project engineers indicated discussion regarding resident concerns about the planned one way direction. The project engineers indicated this change would allow The Knoll residents access both ways and alleviate the concerns about the direction for those residents of the single family houses near the courts. It would allow for the alignment of the trail to be along the water vs. the other side of street. Change order cost is \$6500 and recommended by Mr. Totaro. President Hover asked if Mr. Schleigh would make the motion to approve this change order. Mr. Schleigh commented he felt uncomfortable making this motion as he had seen no further information from the engineers and asked if this was part of the supplemental information provided today at 3:30 p.m. for tonight's meeting. Mr. Totaro indicated it was just a communication, not

a design transaction, from the engineers confirming the trail alignment and change order could be accomplished. After further discussion, Ms. Byrne offered to make the motion.

**New Business:**

1. **98 McKinley Avenue** – President Hover commented there had been interest in the past with the County repository to own this. Mr. Scott provided background information on this property, indicating that the borough had received demolition funding for this twin that left a vacant lot up for tax sale. Properties that twice are unclaimed go to the County repository where it will be sold the municipality for \$60. Upon receiving borough consent, a developer would construct a detached single family house. There was some discussion about adequate setback between the houses (5’6” on both sides) and resident feelings about the house being aesthetically different. President Hover asked that this be tabled until further discussion with the Economic Development Committee.
2. **Gateway Slope construction signage** – Mr. Matson reported this concerns signage that would present an overall layout of the project and provide residents with a link to the web site about updates on the project. All Council members felt it was a good idea and indicates Lansdowne is keeping up with newer technology. Cost is nominal, under \$100.
3. **Gateway Slope letter to residents – Walsh Rd.** This issue concerns encroachments on Gateway Slope behind Walsh Road and making residents aware of construction and possible encroachments. The most affected area would be closer to Eldon Road. Ms. Naji-Taylor asked if there had been any resident feedback. Mr. Totaro commented the letter has not yet been sent out and there is no request at present to move resident property. Mr. Scott indicated he had no concerns about the letter.
4. **Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA) and Crum/Ridley/Chester Watershed (CRC).** Mr. Schleigh commented that Lansdowne has been a member of these organizations for some time and they provide the educational aspects of the borough’s environmental impact plans. It was recommended to renew membership. The cleanup will be held on April 10 with the DCVA.
5. **Black History Month Resolution** – President Hover noted this is to solicit the community about writing essays or sharing photographs that support the theme of black history. Ms. Byrne indicated that the Community Relations Committee had reviewed and recommended this proposal.

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

**Visitors:** No comments.

Ms. Byrne moved to Reinstate Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Action Items:**

1. Ms. James moved to authorize payment of bills for the period. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Mr. Schleigh moved to reappoint Gene Wayne to the Darby Creek Joint Authority for a term expiring 2/3/2025. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Mr. Schleigh moved to extend donations to the DCVA and CrumRidleyChester (CRC) watershed associations in the amount of \$250 each. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
4. Ms. English moved to appoint Charlene Bennett to the Environmental Advisory Council for a term expiring 02/03/2024. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
5. Ms. English moved to reappoint Jack Kelly to the Parks/Recreation Board for a 3 year term expiring 02/03/2024. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
6. Ms. English moved to reappoint Ron Bailey Ford to the Parks/ Recreation Board for a 3 year term expiring 02/03/2024. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
7. Ms. English moved to reappoint Michael Mills to the Parks/Recreation Board for a 3 year term expiring 02/03/2024. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
8. Mr. Hover moved to request one-year RCAP grant extension of the Office of the Budget (for sub-recipient HLTC). Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
9. Mr. Hover moved to adopt Resolution 2021-05 in recognition of February 2021 as Black History Month. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
10. Ms. Byrne moved to approve change order to direction of one way on Scottdale Rd bicycle facilities plan (from Baltimore to Lansdowne Avenue). Mr. Holt seconded. **Discussion:** Mr. Schleigh asked if Council was prepared to vote on this tonight, as it was based on information received today. Based on residents' former complaints about not receiving adequate notice of parts of this plan and subsequent changes, Mr. Schleigh commented he "would not want to be in the position where we are constantly making change orders because we are responding to different constituents' demands". The motion carried 6-1 with a nay vote from Mr. Schleigh.
11. Mr. Schleigh moved to post project sign associated with the Scottdale Road project. Ms. English seconded. **Discussion:** Mr. Hover noted this sign is actually associated with the Gateway Slope Project. Mr. Schleigh withdrew his original motion.
12. Mr. Schleigh moved to post project sign associated with the Gateway Slope Project. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Executive Session** - Mr. Holt moved to adjourn to executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss litigation and real estate issues. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

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

**Adjourn** – Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry  
Borough Secretary