

The special meeting of Borough Council was called order at 7:00pm on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 12 East Baltimore Avenue.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mr. Totaro called roll and Borough Council members in attendance included: Ms. Martsof, Ms. Young, Mr. Hover, Mayor Byrne, Mr. Griffin, and Mr. Curry.

Mr. Hover introduced and summarized the purpose and background of the meeting in stating the following: "Tonight, we will hear from GKO Architects concerning the possible scenarios presented to the Borough of Lansdowne. Before GKO Architects begins, I want to provide background and historical information for those who are coming new to the conversation to understand the timeline of Council actions and to assure the residents of Lansdowne that we are at the beginning of the decision-making process about moving forward with any scenarios. Prior to 2020, the Library approached Council on several occasions about the needs for expansion of the space in the Library to accommodate very needs. In a moment, Mr. Totaro will speak to the actions prior to 2020. In 2020, COVID hit and any planning or discussion about took a backseat to ensuring the stability of the Borough and dealing with emergency protocols in the Borough. In 2021, Lansdowne Borough council received requests again from the Library concerning space needs and also from the police chief about needs for expansion of the police department. After some discussion in committees and Council about the possibilities of expansion of the library space and finding space for the police department, the need became apparent that Council needed the expert opinion to assess the space needs and to ascertain our current space needs. At the end of 2021, Council passed a request for proposals from architecture firms for a facilities plan. In the spring of 2022, I created a working committee of Councilmembers—Kellie Bowker, Carol Martsof, myself to work with representatives of the Library Board—Chair Marie Campuzano, Bill Patterson, Library Director, Board member Kimberly Hernandez, and former Mayor Tony Campuzano to discuss the needs and goals of the Library and to provide any updates about the planning. In April of 2022, I created an ad hoc committee of Councilmember Robert Curry, Councilmember Carol Martsof, and myself to review the applicants. Two firms applied: the committee unanimously chose GKO Architects. In May of Of 2022, Council voted to engage in the contract with GKO architects to ascertain the space currently occupied and the space desired. From May to September, GKO interviewed Craig Totaro, Chief Rutherford, and Bill Patterson and delivered a preliminary plan in September of 2022, which included incorporation of private property into the design. Council directed in executive session Craig Totaro to get an appraisal of the property. Council discussed the possible purchase of the property in December and decided to move forward with continuing the discussion in public because of the possible need of purchase and eminent domain of property. In January, the ad hoc committee met to review and tonight this meeting was called as a special meeting to answer any questions about the facilities.

Mr. Hover called on Library Directory Bill Patterson to provide a profile of existing space and space needs in the library. This was followed by the police chief's profile of space needs both existing and need in the Department. The Police chief's summary was followed by Manager Totaro's summary of the history of borough activity and actions leading up to the March 29<sup>th</sup> meeting including activity in 2018 and prior.

Mr. Hover introduced Susan Feenan and Kevin Godshall of GKO architects who presented the space planning information and analysis [Presentation](#).

Upon conclusion of the presentation questions/comments from Borough Council included one from Councilmember Young asked a question about if the projects are scalable, in phases. Vice President Naji-Taylor questions/comment regarding greenspacing, increase our initiative to be more planet friendly. Incorporate green technology; Councilmember Griffin—source contractors.

Mr. Griffin called for a motion to open the meeting to public comment and unanimous vote followed.

Public comments notes:

[Full video](#)

Mary Catherine Berner of Violet Lane

Discussed the current uses of the 20th Century club: retain uses of 20th century club or retrofit

Joe Parsio

157 Bryn Mawr Avenue

Asked if the 2020 House involved in the plans and/or incorporated

Ryan Berley

111 Owen Avenue

Speak for historic buildings involved; Against demolition; switch to library

Wallace Randall

105b Lansdowne Court

Feasibility of parking; street parking on Lansdowne Court limited parking

Molly Olshefsky

59 west Greenwood Avenue

2nd library outdated 2 stories.

Hardscaping by 20th Century club

Police accreditation

Historic nature of surrounding buildings

Coffee station

Parking

Wendy Chmielewski

34 Pennock Terrace

Expansion of the library; special collections at Swarthmore

Designed a renovation of libraries before

Cost for new equipment—costs included

Not good for materials

Barbara Fedirici  
80 Price Avenue  
Bank Building

Jonathan Britt  
54 West Greenwood Avenue  
Current location—Librarian  
Chief—Happy updated location

Molly Connors  
85 East Stewart Avenue  
New library campus—raze 2020 house; how are we paying  
Time frame for to Years

Sean Gallagher  
105 Lansdowne Ct.  
Next steps

Jennifer Hoff  
Windermere Avenue  
Housekeeping Plan

Maria Thomson  
119 Lansdowne Court  
Problem with parking  
Cannot get on or off the court.

Carol Coster  
250 Plumstead Avenue  
Question about the switch  
Would people not like having the police nearby.

Leigh Jackson  
104 Lansdown Court  
Community Center

Josh Moorhead  
78 Price Ave.  
Question for the plans: environmentalist, Communications

Jerry Brown  
Lansdowne Court  
Which plan  
Inflation rate.

Kimberli Hernandez  
Noted the location will requires ownership of property

Andrea Kenyon  
39 East Greenwood Avenue  
Library Needs  
Strategic planning  
Importance of needing parking

Hanne Weedon  
37 West Greenwood Avenue Transparency  
Finances

Tiara Orange  
269 Ardmore Avenue  
Funding for multiple projects

Diane Brown  
225 Scottdale Rd.  
Traffic

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM