

Lansdowne Borough Council

BUSINESS MEETING

April 5, 2023

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually and in person on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

President Hover opened the meeting, led by Mayor Byrne with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members Present: President Hover, Mayor Byrne, Ms. Young, Mr. Griffin, and Ms. Martsof. Absent: Vice President Naji-Taylor and Mr. Curry. Ms. James came in at 7:30 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 Mr. Griffin motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes Mr. Griffin motioned to approve the minutes of the March 1st and 29th, 2023 Borough Business Council Meetings. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous with friendly amendment.

Reports

Solicitor Bob Scott

- No information to report.

Manager Craig Totaro

- We have been meeting and coordinating with the Delaware County Transportation Management Association around the regional Bike to Workday. There will be tables with information at the library and at the SEPTA stations. This will take place on May 19th.
- Today we submitted the DCNR application, the grant for the state's park and recreation for Veteran's Park. We will not know until the Fall of 2023 if we will receive this grant.
- Our audit was complete. There were no findings.
- We have repaid the TAN as of March 25th. Today we deposited a significant sum of money.

Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford

- The statistics for March:
 - Police responded to 494 incident reports.
 - 19 false burglar or hold up alarms.
 - 26 motor vehicle accidents
 - 14 adults were arrested; 8 juveniles were arrested.
 - 652 parking tickets were issued.
 - 176 motor vehicle violations were issued.
 - 8 non-traffic citations were issued.
 - 7 abandoned vehicles were towed.

- 37 domestic related incident calls
- The full-time police test was given on March 16th. There was a total of ten applications received. One of them was not eligible because they did not have the academy. One did not show up, two showed up late, six took the test, and four passed the test. The physical agility was given on March 28th. All four applicants passed. The four interviews are scheduled on April 13th.

Engineer Kevin Matson

- We have been coordinating with Aqua to finalize the restoration of the southwestern subdivision. We should have a response and the time table relatively soon about what the plan moving forward is.
- We did have the bid opening for the Road Program earlier this week. The scope of the Road Program includes paving on Berkley Avenue from Wyndemere to Owen, includes paving Plumsted Avenue from Lansdowne Avenue to Holland.

Fire Company Report

- There was nothing to report.

Mayor's Report

- The next Mayor's Cleanup is Sunday, April 23rd at 10:00 a.m. at the Landing. We are hoping to cleanup the Landing in time for the first Farmer's Market of the regular season.
- May 20th is the proposed date for the town wide yard sale. In the past the town wide yard sale has been on the weekend closest to Mother's Day and on the same day as the Animal Friends of Lansdowne Yard Sale that will be taking place at the Twentieth Century Club this year.
- This Wednesday, Mayor Byrne, President Hover, Vice President Naji-Taylor, and Council Member Griffin will be heading to Harrisburg to receive an excellence in governance award.
- The Lansdowne Fire Company and Police are recognized for all that they do to keep us safe.

President's Report

- This is the beginning of the Fair Housing Month. The Fair Housing Act of 1968, otherwise known as the Civil Rights Act, was passed, and signed into law on April 11th of 1968. A week after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis during his work with the Memphis Sanitation workers unionization drive. Locally, Lansdowne Borough was the site of the civil rights and housing activists – at the Lansdowne Friends Meeting and Presbyterian Church who fought against segregation in the Lansdowne and Greater Lansdowne area.

Public Safety

- As many residents may have read in the Delaware County Times, the Lansdowne Fire Company and many other municipalities have been asked by Mercy Fitzgerald and their parent company Trinity for a renegotiation of the contract and a threat to end ambulance services. By Delaware County Health Department Ordinance, the provider must give 180 days' notice and hold hearings in all the municipalities. Representatives from Lansdowne Borough Council – Vice President Naji-Taylor, Chair of Public Safety, Will Griffin member of the Public Safety committee, Mayor Byrne, Craig Totaro, Solicitor Bob Scott, and President of the Fire Company Mike Boyce

have been meeting with representatives from several municipalities to address the issue. At this time, we can state they are working closely with the Lansdowne Fire Company to ensure the public safety needs in Lansdowne are being met. Currently, we are working on a solution for Lansdowne and plan to have the President of the Fire Company speak at Council in May to address the issue.

Economic/Community Development

- Lansdowne Borough Council continues to work with community partners and Lansdowne businesses to build downtown Lansdowne. At the last Economic Development meeting, it was reported that the Callahan Ward, the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation, and Habitat for Humanity have all worked towards their permits for their work in the Borough. Expect a lot of construction in Lansdowne this summer. Note, Lansdowne is on the move and good things are happening in our community.
- 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. The day after Council, on Thursday, March 16th, Lansdowne Borough learned from Senator Tim Kearney's office that two of Lansdowne Borough's grant applications were successful at the Pennsylvania State Level.
- The Borough of Lansdowne will receive \$500,000 to cover construction costs to transform a municipal parking lot located in the Borough's Central Business into a multipurpose space. The grant is from the Local Share Account. The the Borough of Lansdowne was also the recipient of a Multimodal grant in the amount of \$400,000.
\$400,000 for the construction of pedestrian walkways for Veterans Parkway. With these two grants, we are much closer to having the necessary funding to turn this great plan into a reality.

Comprehensive Plan

- The review process for the County, adjacent municipal government is nearing completion of a revised draft for public discussion and a second larger town hall discussion to review the plan.
- We will be moving forward with another special meeting on May 25th at 7:00 p.m. to have a community forum to solicit public feedback. After this, Council will consider the feedback and recommend changes and to vote for adoption at a future meeting.

Facilities

- Over the next year, Lansdowne Borough will continue the housekeeping tasks to improve beautification in the Borough. Painting has been completed in Borough Hall in the hallways and Borough Chambers. In January, Borough Council voted for the acquisition of Borough furniture to upgrade all the current furniture in Borough Hall chambers, which should be installed soon.
- As a result of that meeting, our Bicycle Facilities will be featured in a blog by the Delco Bike Coalition, and as we will be discussing tonight the Delaware County Transportation Management Association will be featuring Lansdowne for the Bike to Workday in May. Lansdowne is leading the way!
- On March 29th, Council held a special meeting for possible Facilities upgrades to the Library, Borough Hall, and the Police Department. The meeting feature GKO architects to discuss the space planning of the Library, Borough Hall, and Police Department and possible transition of current facilities and we encourage all residents to attend.

- We want to thank all the residents who attended to provide feedback on the plan. I want to emphasize that work on all Lansdowne Borough business occurs at Council meetings, Council committee meetings, and community forums and everyone in the Borough has a right to provide comment and have their comments considered and we look forward to having residents come to meetings.
- In addition to the announcement of the meetings with the posting of agendas, if there are no objections from Council, I would recommend that the banner function on the website be used to advertise the meetings.

Boards and Commissions

Save the Date for the upcoming events:

- April 8th Spring Egg Hunt
- April 21st Press Conference at 5:00 p.m. for receipt of grants
- April 21st Reception for Governor's Award 6-8
- April 22nd Earth Day from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at Interboro Park
- May 13th Shredding Event 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Highland Avenue Lot
- May 13th Steam Festival 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- June 1st Pride Flag Raising
- June 3rd-5th Lansdowne Founders Weekend
- June 17th-19th Juneteenth events
- June 17th Borough Flag Raising 1:00 p.m. on Borough Greene

Communications – Senior Community Services and DCED

- The DCED sent a letter to President Hover congratulating him for being selected for Health & Wellness Initiatives for the 2023 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence. There will be an in-person ceremony on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at The State Museum of Pennsylvania. Winners and guests should arrive by 10:30 a.m., with the ceremony to begin at 11:00 a.m.

Old Business

HLTC Parking

- Mr. Schultz presented that the zoning order item associated with HLTC Parking is an open item on the HLTC loan settlement sheet. They are working on getting through the loan settlement. They are requesting a letter from Lansdowne to address the parking issue so that they can get through loan settlement and start working on the project. There was discussion and an action item added regarding this.

Lansdowne Community Weekend sign-up web-form

- This is just to let council know that as we are moving forward that different Lansdowne community groups should be allowed to sign up for Lansdowne Community Weekend on the web-form.

New Business

HLTC RCAP Grant Extension

- This will be the final extension that will be needed from Borough Council. Our current grant will expire on June 30th of this year. Lansdowne needs to send a letter to ask for permission to extend the grant.

HLTC Blight Grant Extension

- This grant has been delayed. Mr. Schultz made an error regarding what these funds were used for. We need to have this letter in by April 15th. The extension needs to be requested for September 2023.

Volunteer Waiver

- There is a waiver that all Borough volunteers must sign.

PSAB Conference Voting Delegates

- The PSAB Conference is coming up and the Borough will have representatives present and will identify voting delegates to take action as may be called on to do so.

Scott Arboretum Tour

- There is no update on this. We will start advertisement.

DCJA Board Term

- DCJA intends to run all board memberships on a calendar year schedule, beginning January 1st and ending December 31st. As such, the term for any member appointments, regardless of the date of appointment, will end December 31st.

Habitat Contribution – Earth Day

- Habitat for Humanity is donating \$500 for shirts for Earth Day. They are requesting that we contribute \$500 as well.

Governors Award

- Mayor Byrne and Lansdowne Borough Council are delighted to announce that the PA Department of Community and Economic Development has invited Council President Benjamin Hover to receive the 2023 Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence on behalf of Lansdowne Borough.

Press Conference

- This is regarding the Governor's Award. This is on April 21st.

Reception

- This is regarding the Governor's Award. This is on April 21st.

Earth Day Flyer

- Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22nd from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 112 Bartram Avenue. There will be special guest speakers, free food, music, build a bird box for our parks, story time led by the Lansdowne Public Library, plant a redbud seedling or pollinator plant, park clean up, and Earth Day Celebration.

Public Comment

Ms. James motioned to move into Public Comment. Seconded: Ms. Martsolf Vote: Unanimous

- Victoria Garpeh from 142 Drexel Avenue spoke on how she would like to see more trees and nature in Lansdowne. She is excited to see what Lansdowne is going to do for Earth Day.
- Hanna Weedon from 37 West Greenwood would love to understand how Owen is added to the conversation about what parts of town get speed bumps.

Ms. James motioned to move from Public Comment to Action Items. Seconded: Mr. Griffin Vote: Unanimous

Action Items

1. Ms. James motioned to Authorize payment of bills for the period. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous
2. Ms. Young motioned to award the 2023 road paving program to Innovative Construction. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
3. President Hover motioned to issue letter to the Office of the Budget requesting extension of the RCAP grant. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
4. President Hover motioned to issue letter to the HLTC regarding continuing discussions regarding parking and the operation of the Lansdowne Theatre. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous with a friendly amendment.
5. President Hover motioned to issue letter to CFA to request an extension and a reallocation of the HLTC blight remediation grant. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
6. Mr. Griffin motioned to enter agreements for 2023 Summer Movie Nights on June 23rd, July 21st, and August 18th. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
7. Mr. Griffin motioned to approve park clean-up events for May 6th at Veterans Park from and June 3rd at Hoffman Park. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous
8. President Hover motioned to nominate Magda Byrne to be voting delegate at 2023 PSAB Conference. Seconded: Mr. Griffin Vote: Unanimous with friendly amendment
9. Ms. Martsolf motioned to accept Habitat for Humanity contribution for Earth Day shirts. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous with friendly amendment
10. Mr. Griffin motioned to approve up to \$2,000 for reception on April 21st. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Adjournment.

Ms. James motioned to Adjourn the meeting at P.M. Seconded: 8:30 p.m. Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Pavlo

Borough Secretary