

Lansdowne Borough Council

BUSINESS MEETING

April 6, 2022

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually and in person on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Mayor Byrne, President Hover, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Ms. Bowker, and Ms. Young. Mr. Curry and Ms. Martsolf entered the meeting virtually at approximately 8 pm. Absent: Ms. James. Also present: Borough Manager Totaro, Borough Solicitor Scott, Borough Engineer Matson. The Police, Chief Rutherford was not present. No public attended in person or virtually.

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

Approval of agenda – President Hover called for a motion to approve the agenda, and a motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

Solicitor’s report – President Hover recognized Robert Scott and called for a report from the Solicitor, Mr. Robert Scott did not have information to report.

Borough Manager’s report: – President Hover recognized Craig Totaro called for a report from the Borough Manager.

Borough Manager Report: President Hover recognized Borough Manager Mr. Craig Totaro who proceeded with a brief report including: a recent grant application to the County for Community Development Block Grant funds to support sewer rehabilitation work was not awarded. Also, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was agreeable to and approved increasing the amount of grant support for McKinley Tot Lot in the amount of \$56,000. Earlier in the day the Borough received an Environmental Phase 1 report from Acer Environmental reflecting no findings related to contamination of 20 East Baltimore Avenue. Mr. Totaro reported that the Borough executed a revised agreement with the State of PA (DCED) to redirect a previously awarded grant for blight remediation at 21 North Lansdowne Avenue. The County Health Department is now operational and actively performing inspections. Mr. Totaro also reported that the demolition of 43 South Lansdowne Avenue began earlier in the week and is expected to conclude later in the week or by early next week.

The president recognized the Borough Engineer for a report from Mr. Kevin Matson. Mr. Matson provided a brief report noting that bids for the paving of Borough streets was currently on PennBid, the gateway slope railing has been secured and other items outstanding are protected within a security bod covering the project.

Fire Company report – Vice President Naji-Taylor reported as follows:

March Fire Company Report:

31 total alarms

167 year-to-date

37 hours 3 minutes man hours

Firefighter response on apparatus - 2.9

Response not on apparatus - .5

3 minutes and 58 seconds average enroute time

6 minutes 9 seconds average arrival time

23 minutes 52 seconds average time on scene

Ambulance

445 ambulance response year-to-date

Major Incident Types

Fire – 4

EMS response - 4

Hazardous conditions - 4

Service calls - 1

Good intention – 10

False alarms – 8

Apparatus report- weekly checks complete, no major defects found

Poles and ground ladders received annual testing.

Engine 19 will receive annual pump testing and certification on March 23, 2022.

Truck 19 is out for service and expected to be back in service the week of April 4th.

Mayor's report – Mayor Byrne reported as follows:

1. On Friday, April 8, 2022, there will be a ribbon cutting of Gateway Slope at 4 o'clock on the corner of Baltimore Avenue and Scottsdale Road. There will be ice cream from the Sweet Shack.

President's report – President Hover reported as follows:

1. Many events are occurring locally to celebrate different openings within the community, grant money coming into the community, as well as the different events.
2. On April 2, 2022, Lansdowne Borough Council and Mayor Byrne did raise the flag for Autism awareness month.

3. April will be a very busy month due to the many activities coming up, including the celebration of the Gateway Slope opening.
4. There are going to be Darby Creek Valley clean up events the next few weekends at Hoffman Park, Marlyn Park and Pennock Woods.
5. On April 23, 2022 Lansdowne Borough and several boards and commissions will be celebrating with community partners including Habitat for Humanity, Nile Swim Club, Bethel AME, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts, Lansdowne Public Library, by planting trees and plants, making bird boxes, and creating a pollinated friendly area.
6. Within the past two weeks, Council member Ms. Bowker, President Hover, and Vice President Naji-Taylor met with individuals from the library board, the add hoc committee discussing the options of the eventual creation of either the updated space or the creation of a new library.

Old Business:

1. **20 Lansdowne Court ADA Ramp** – Mr. Totaro reported that the Borough received two valid bids for the installation of an ADA ramp at the south entrance of 20 Lansdowne Court at \$24,000 and one at \$22,452. Mr. Totaro recommends the lower and noted an action item to follow later in the meeting.
2. **Facilities RFP** – Mr. Totaro referenced the draft documents “two pager” circulated in advance of the meeting as the RFP for facilities planning. Clarification that any proposals would be due on May 9th, 2022. This project will analyze borough facility space and operations with the intent of developing a plan that would optimize the use of Borough space.
3. **Juneteenth Event** – This is an event that will take place on June 18th from 4-7 p.m. There will be a budget of \$1,500 to cover a line dancing instructor, storytelling, a DJ, and advertisement.
4. **Town Wide Yard Sale – May 14th** – There was a break taken from the Town Wide Yard Sale due to Covid, but it will be back on May 14th with a rain date of May 15th.
5. **Website updates** – Ms. Young requested for some improvements to be made to the website such as solely relying on the website instead of being sent straight to Facebook and adding the minutes from 2021. There have been some improvements with the website.
6. **Newsletter** – It was suggested to print out more newsletters to place them in the libraries, Borough Hall, and other hot spots where the community goes for people to pick up. The quarterly newsletter is what is going to be mailed out and will also be available in PDF format for people to print it out online.
7. **Comprehensive Plan Update** – The monthly from January was met. Charlie Schmehl of urban research design, is going through areas, examining the zoning land use, and making some recommendations that put together the chapters, which will be up for public review. There is another meeting coming up at the end of the month.
8. **Fair Housing Training** – The Housing Quality Center will provide training on April 28th and April 29th to all the municipalities in eastern Delaware County. There is an option on the 28th for evening and the 29th for daytime for a virtual meeting.

9. **Fourth of July Parade** – The Fourth of July Parade will be held; however, it will be much smaller due to Covid. It will be held on Monday July 4th at 9 a.m. Mayor Byrne suggested that people decorate their cars patriotically to make the parade more festive and even having a competition on who can decorate their car the best.
10. **HARB** – Next Wednesday’s meeting the Borough Economic Development Committee will discuss what items can be taken up in conjunction with zoning and how we can move forward with that.
11. **Certified Local Government** – This was discussed at the comprehensive plan meeting. At that meeting there was no real opposition to move forward with it. Next Wednesday, we will discuss a few items regarding resolutions and some determination on if we become a certified local government what in terms of grant money and DCDE money we can apply for.
12. **Lansdowne Votes Banner** – As a final item under Old Business, President Hover introduced Lansdowne Votes Banner and the item was briefly discussed. It was noted the past practice of permitting the organization “Lansdowne Votes” to set a banner in Borough Green for the time in the weeks leading up to the May election. Also noted was the presence of a motion in action items approving the placement of the banner on April 15th later in the meeting.

New Business:

There were no items for new business.

Public Comment: President Hover motioned to suspend the meeting to allow for public comment. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Visitors: There were no comments from the public.

Action Items:

1. Ms. James motioned to authorize payment of bills for the period. Ms. Bowker seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Ms. Young motioned to appoint Dale Harris to the EAC for a term expiring 4/06/2025. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Ms. Young motioned to appoint Mary Catherine Brener to the Parks and Recreation Board for a term expiring 04/06/2025. Ms. Bowker seconded. Vote: unanimous.
4. Ms. Young motioned to award contract to Patriot Mobility for installation of ADA ramp at 20 Lansdowne Court. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
5. Mr. Hover motioned to solicit proposals for facilities planning. Ms. Bowker seconded. Vote: unanimous.
6. Ms. Bowker motioned to conduct a fourth of July Parade at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
7. Ms. Bowker motioned to authorize Lansdowne Votes to erect banner on Borough Green beginning April 15th, 2022. Ms. Young seconded. Vote: unanimous.

8. Ms. Bowker motioned to authorize Dandelion Digital to begin advertising Juneteenth 2 o'clock flag raising and 4 o'clock public event on the 18th of June. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
9. Ms. Bowker motioned that we have the town wide yard sale on May 14, 2022. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Executive Session – N/A

Public Session – N/A

Adjourn – President Hover moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Maureen Pavlo

Borough Secretary