

Lansdowne Borough Council

BUSINESS MEETING

April 19, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council meeting was held in person and virtually on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

President Hover opened the meeting and Mayor Byrne lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Members Present: President Hover, Mayor Byrne, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Ms. Young, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Curry, and Ms. Martsof. Ms. James arrived at 7:01 p.m. Also Present: Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford, Borough Engineer Kevin Matson, Borough Treasurer Ms. Donna Lang, and Solicitor Robert Scott.

Approval of Agenda Mr. Griffin motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded: Mr. Curry Vote: Unanimous with a friendly amendment

Approval of Minutes Ms. James motioned to approve the minutes of the March 15th Business Council Meeting. Seconded: Mr. Griffin Vote: Unanimous

Announcements and Presentations

TS Custom Design

- Mr. Tyree Barnwell presented his business T&S Custom Uniform and Apparel. They specialize in custom uniforms and apparel from football, basketball, baseball, soccer, hockey tack, custom logos, cleats, sports accessories, banners, 3D and 2D imagery tee shirts, hoodies, socks, varsity jackets, satin jackets, etc. They are located at 144 Beverly Avenue, Lansdowne. The store hours are from Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. A good phone number to reach Tyree is 484-724-9769.

Arbor Day Proclamation

- The Shade Tree Commission will celebrate Arbor Day next Friday at 10:00 a.m. at Sycamore Park.

Treasurer's Report

- General Fund Beginning Balance \$1,698,925; Ending Balance \$4,603,168
- Sewer Fund Beginning Balance \$424,019; Ending Balance \$1,090,419
- Liquid Fuels Fund Beginning Balance \$877,047; Ending Balance \$1,125,391
- Non-Uniformed Pension Fund Beginning Balance \$3,868,562; Ending Balance \$4,121,775
- Police Pension Fund Beginning Balance \$10,120,049; Ending Balance \$10,424,139
- Total All Funds Beginning Balance \$16,988,602; Ending Balance \$21,364, 892

Solicitor's Report

- There is nothing to report this evening.

Mayor's Report

- On Friday, we hope to celebrate with all of you the many great things that have been happening in town so I hope all of you can stop by the Twentieth Century Club beginning at 6:00 p.m. for some music and snacks.
- This Sunday was supposed to be the mayor's clean up at the Landing but unfortunately, I double booked myself in error so I will be rescheduling it to Sunday May 7th at 10:00 a.m. I apologize for this error in scheduling. If you have some time to spare please stop by to help clean up the Landing.

Council President's Report

Community Events/Recognition

- The many residents highlighting on a daily level unsung women who are our local heroes working on boards and commissions and leadership in the many institutions within the Lansdowne community are recognized.
- The April, the flowers of Lansdowne seemed to reflect the great news of Lansdowne Borough's revitalization and growth.
- On April 12th, representatives from Lansdowne Borough including Mayor Byrne, Council President Hover, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Councilmembers Will Griffin, and Borough Manager Mr. Totaro received, on behalf of the Borough, the Governor's Award for Excellence in Local Government from the Department of Community and Economic Development. Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis, State Representative Gina Hackett Curry and State Senator Tim Kearney joined the ceremony to celebrate with Lansdowne Borough.
- Lansdowne Borough celebrated the receipt of close to \$1,000,000 in investment in our downtown plan for Veteran's Parkway from grants from Pennsylvania. On April 21st, Lansdowne Borough officials joined with Legion Post 65 to receive honorary checks from Senator Tim Kearney and Representative Gina Hackett Curry. With these checks, Lansdowne Borough moves one step closer to bringing this vision into reality.

Earth Day

- On April 22nd, the Borough of Lansdowne honored Earth Day with educational activities, tree planting, pollinator plant plantings, and pollinator plant gardening with many community partners. Thank you to all the Board and Commission members from the Shade Tree Commission, Parks and Recreation Board, and Environmental Advisory Council who helped to make the event a success. Special thanks to our community partners: the Lansdowne Public Library, the Nile Swim Club, Habitat for Humanity, YMWIC, and Representative Gina Hackett Curry.

Upcoming Events

- Lansdowne Borough is hosting or will see several events for the upcoming Spring and encourage residents to join in the planning and enjoyment of the community coming together for these events.
 - April 28th Arbor Day Event
 - May 14th Cancelled.

- May 16th Primary Elections. Vote!!
- May 29th Memorial Day Parade
- June 1st Pride Flag Raising Borough Greene 6:00 p.m.
- June 2nd, 3rd, 4th Lansdowne Founder's Weekend
- June 17th and 18th Juneteenth Events

Comprehensive Plan

- Lansdowne Borough draft Comprehensive Plan received feedback from Lansdowne Planning Commission, the Delaware County Planning Commission, and surrounding communities on its draft comprehensive plan Lansdowne Borough will host a public meeting for all residents to submit comments on May 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Facilities/Infrastructure

- On May 31st at 7:00 p.m., Borough Council will hold another special meeting to discuss the scenarios plan for Facilities upgrades to the Library, Borough Hall, and the Police Department. This meeting will continue the presentation of the scenarios developed by GKO Architects to allow for potential upgrades to Borough facilities. The special meeting will provide a presentation to Lansdowne Borough Council and allow time for residents to ask questions about the scenarios. Currently, the scenarios presented do not include detailed architectural plans. Also, the Special meeting will focus specifically on the pros and cons of each of the facilities scenarios. We encourage all residents to attend to be informed about the process and provide input about the scenarios. Lansdowne Borough Council voted to upgrade the road signs throughout the Borough with signs that have reflective paint and the Lansdowne Borough Sycamore Tree within the coming months.

Committee Reports

1. Public Health and Safety
 - We discussed the updated police manual.
 - No report from the fire marshal submitted
 - There were two visitors who attended the Public Safety Committee. A question regarding speed bumps was addressed. This tends to be a controversial issue. The criteria on speed bumps will be uploaded to the website.
 - The deputy chief of police interviews were discussed.
2. Finance and Administration
 - The audit was completed and there were no findings.
 - The grants were discussed that we applied for. We are still waiting to hear back on these grants.
 - We discussed the jobs that we are interviewing people for that included a Children's Programming Director, a Parks and Recreation assistant, Assistant Borough Manager, and a Deputy Chief Police.
 - We discussed the Tax Anticipation Note pay off.
 - We discussed the employee handbook, and we are going to start working on that in two months.
3. Economic Development

- We discussed the updates on what is happening with the contract with the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation and the Lansdowne Arts and Cultural Council. There is work towards a new arts committee and Juneteenth activities.
 - There were updates on the American Rescue Plan funds, our community development and building grant, our Lansdowne Business and Professional Association, and work towards community day.
 - Fundraising for Veteran's Parkway project was also discussed.
4. Environment
- We discussed the vacancies on the EAC. Currently there are no vacancies on the Shade Tree Commission, vacancies are present on the Parks and Recreation Board as well as the Environmental Advisory Council. We have had some interviews for these vacancies.
 - Earth Day and the banner was discussed.
 - The Comprehensive Plan and the Facilities Plan were discussed.
 - Arbor Day was discussed. It is April 28th at Sycamore Park.
 - The EAC's meeting schedule was discussed.
5. Community Relations
- We discussed the 4th of July. Mary K and Mayor Byrne were a huge help in getting this event together for us. We have the funds from donations for this event. We are purchasing flags for all the people who come out to help us celebrate.
 - Community Day was discussed. There is a mock schedule that was put together.
 - Juneteenth was also discussed.
 - Earth Day on the 22nd of April from 1:00-3:00 was discussed.
 - Summer Movie Night is June 23rd, July 21st, and August 18th. The movie for June 23rd is Encanto, the movie for July 21st is Sing, and the movie for August 18th is The Goonies. We have a backup movie just in case.
 - The GKO meeting on the facilities upgrade was discussed.
6. Infrastructure and Public Works

Sanitation

- There was some confusion on yard waste pickup around Easter, because the Borough was closed on Good Friday. On the Borough's calendar when the Borough is closed it will indicate a sanitation change.

Recycling

- We pay slightly less per ton for recycling than we do for solid waste. It does benefit us financially and the environment if we recycle.

Stormwater

- Representatives from the Borough met with the team assembled by The Environmental Policy Innovation Center to survey a Lansdowne neighborhood that lacks stormwater infrastructure to help develop alternatives.

Highway

- There are Spring paving projects.
- The street signs are coming soon.

Facilities

- A lot of the work has been completed. The painting project is being continued.
- 7. Diversity and Inclusion
- We discussed the survey results. Ms. Gilbert conducted a survey to the Boards and Commissions to get their feedback.
- The next step is survey analysis and develop committee profile.

Communications

- There are no communications this evening.

Old Business

1. Emergency Management Services-Ambulance-Lansdowne Fire Company
 - We are working towards the issue with the contract. It is being re-negotiated. There is some discussion about possible solutions.
2. Comprehensive Plan (schedule, BC, feedback, etc.)
 - There is a final draft of the Comprehensive Plan. The next meeting is on May 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Borough Hall and via Zoom. There is a portal on the Comprehensive Plan to submit comments
3. Facilities Plan (schedule, BC priorities, etc.)
 - May 31st in Borough Hall is a continuation of the scenario evaluation. This is a document that is online. It is important to get feedback from stakeholders and residents.
4. Earth Day Promotion
 - There is a banner that the EAC helped create. It says community event soon and has a QR code on it. They would like to request that the banner be put on Borough Green as soon as possible. It is promoting the Earth Day celebration. There have been two people who volunteered to put it up and take it down. There is also a flyer that will be distributed. There is a motion added.
5. Diversity Awareness Month
 - April is celebrating Diversity Awareness. This is a month to recognize the differences and similarities when it comes to diversity. The country is hoping that people gain a better understanding of each other.
6. STEAM Festival
 - The STEAM Festival is being cancelled for this year because a lot of the community groups are unable to participate due to other events taking place this Spring.
7. Police Policy Manual – Batch #3 was provided in the material circulated.

New Business

1. Distracted Driving Awareness Month
 - April is national Distracted Driving Awareness Month. This is a good time to regroup and take responsibility for the choices we make when we are on the road. There is an action item added.
2. No Mow May
 - The goal of No Mow May is to pause mowing during the month of May, allowing flowers to bloom in your lawn to help early season pollinators.
3. Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra – Fee Waiver (4/19 12-6 p.m.)

- The Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra is looking to have a reception at the 20th Century Club to thank their members on June 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. They would like a fee waiver for the 20th Century Club.
- 4. AFL Banner
- Animal Friends of Lansdowne are going to be having their yard sale on May 13th. They have a banner that they would like to display the week beforehand from May 6th to May 13th.

Public Comment

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

- Ms. Yarbough from Lansdowne has a comment on No Mow May. She is worried about the grass being so high that it brings field mice. She feels as if we need to hire more people to clean the streets and cut the lawns.
- Ms. Alexander from 186 East Plumsted Avenue commented on the signs not preventing dangerous drivers.
- Ms. Hoff from Wyndemere Avenue asked three questions regarding Police Policy Manual – Batch #3, the Diversity statement, and Resolution 2023-03. She also wanted to know when the basketball nets will be replaced at Interboro Park.
- Mr. Robertson from 4 Knoll wanted to thank us for the upkeep of Interboro Park. He also commented on promoting Earth Day earlier so that word gets out regarding this event. He asked a question about the flooding on Union Avenue.
- Ms. Campuzano from 40 West Albemarle Avenue came to advocate the plan for the library. She believes that expanding the library will be great for the community.
- Ms. Hernandez from Lansdowne commented on her concerns about the costs of a new building.

Vice President Naji-Taylor 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: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
2. Ms. Young motioned to approve lot line revision for 140 North Lansdowne – 129 Owen Avenue. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous with friendly amendment
3. President Hover motioned to ratify grant agreement with DCED Multi-Modal supporting implementation of Veterans Parkway. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
4. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to execute amendment #1 to an existing employment agreement with Chief Rutherford. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
5. Ms. Martsolf motioned to hire Mr. Noah Lewis to present at the 2023 Arbor Day Celebration. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
6. Ms. Martsolf motioned to appoint Mary Catherine Berner to the EAC for a term expiring 4/19/2026. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

7. Ms. Martsolf motioned to allow the EAC to promote from a table in the Landing area on All farmers market days in 2023. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
8. Mr. Griffin motioned to appoint Tim Emmett-Rardin to the Parks and Recreation Board for a term expiring 04/19/2026. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
9. Mr. Curry motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-09 celebrating Diversity Awareness Month. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
10. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to adopt Batch #3 of the Police Policy Month. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
11. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to hire Police Chief Lucas Murray. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous with a friendly amendment
12. Ms. Young motioned to issue a COA for signage at 36 East Baltimore Avenue. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
13. Ms. Martsolf motioned to erect the Earth Day banner on Borough Green on April 20th through April 24th. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous with friendly amendment
14. Ms. Martsolf motioned to recognize April as Distracted Driver Awareness Month. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
15. Ms. Martsolf motioned to encourage a No Mow May and to suspend the enforcement of ordinance of high grass in front lawns and not the rear lawns from May 1st to June 12th. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: President Hover friendly amendment - Vote 4 to 3 (4 no's and 3 yes's)
16. Ms. Young motioned to waive the fee for the use of the 20th Century Club for the Lansdowne Symphony on June 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
17. Mr. Griffin motioned to approve the erection of the AFL banner from May 6th to May 13th. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Adjournment Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Pavlo

Borough Secretary