

Lansdowne Borough Council

General Meeting

April 20, 2022

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council held an in person/virtual General Meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Mayor Byrne, President Hover, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Ms. Bowker, Mr. Curry, Ms. James, Ms. Martsoff, and Ms. Young.

Also Present: Solicitor Tiffany Griffin, Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford; Borough Engineer Mr. Kevin Matson; Borough Treasurer Ms. Donna Lang

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

Approval of Agenda: Ms. James moved to approve the agenda. Vice President, Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Announcements Presentations:

1. Kristoffer's Advocacy Corner – Sharon P. Coleman presented Kristoffer's Advocacy Corner. Kristoffer is Sharon's son who has Asperger Syndrome. Kristoffer's Advocacy Corner offers resources and services to parents of school age and adult children who are on the Autistic Spectrum or have Asperger Syndrome.
2. Autsome Brushes- Alexis Wood presented Autsome Brushes. At Autsome Brushes they provide high end painting tools, merchandise, and clothing for those with Autism, Parents, teachers, and family members who support and want to help raise autism awareness. This organization was designed to raise Autism awareness and help give back to the nonprofits who support individuals with Autism.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Donna Lang presented the Treasurer's Report that ended March 31, 2022, as follows:

General Fund beginning balance \$1,449,587; ending balance \$5,709,315

Sewer Fund beginning balance \$528,501; ending balance \$1,393,462

Liquid Fuels Fund beginning balance \$1,147,223; ending balance \$1,186,666

Non-Uniform Police Pension beginning balance \$4,394,030; ending balance \$4,151,350

Police Pension Fund beginning balance \$12,622,676; ending balance \$11,446,442

Total All Funds beginning balance \$20,12,017, ending balance \$23,887,236

Solicitor's Report: Ms. Griffin filled in for Mr. Scott. There was nothing to report.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Byrne reported as follows:

Redevelopment Authority: Lansdowne adopted the use of a redevelopment authority over ten years ago. Their purpose is to help guide and move forward the redevelopment of blighted areas and urban communities. Tangela James was reappointed, and President Hover and Wardell Holt were newly appointed to the redevelopment authority.

Chaplin: The Chaplin serves as a resource to the police as well as victims and their families at crime scenes. This position is a volunteer position, and the service is free for the borough to use. Mayor Byrne plans on swearing in a new Chaplin at the May 4th Council meeting.

Memorial Day Parade: The Memorial Day Parade is going to take place on May 30th at 9 a.m. All the community is encouraged to come out and show support to the Veterans. It has been two years since we have had a Memorial Day Parade. There is a new route that will be discussed shortly.

Arbor Day: Arbor Day will be taking place at Sycamore Park on Friday, April 29th at 10 a.m. Lansdowne is a tree town, and all the community is welcomed to come down to help celebrate.

Clean Up: There will be a cleanup between Fairview Avenue and Nyack Avenue, Union Avenue and Lansdowne Avenue from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone will meet at Hayes Park. The goal is to have a cleanup once a month in different areas in town.

Council President's Report: President Hover reported as follows:

1. Mayor Byrne, Vice President Naji-Taylor, and council members Ms. Bowker, Ms. Young, and Ms. Martsoff were thanked for taking part in the opening of Gateway Slope on April 8th.
2. In May there will be another celebratory event taking place for the tot lot that is currently being installed on McKinley Avenue.
3. On April 23rd at 11 a.m. there will be an event held at Interboro park with different organizations to celebrate Earth Day.
4. President Hover met with the American Legion to discuss the NV5 design for Veterans Park that will be in the Lansdowne Parking lot. The members of the American Legion seemed to be very supportive of the plan.
5. On Tuesday, April 26th at 6:30, there will be a continuance of our comprehensive plan meetings with Urban Research Design. There will also be a meeting on April 28th at 7 p.m. and April 29th at 3 p.m. for council members.
6. There was an email sent out to all council members to turn in their Statement of financial interest, which is due May 1st.

Committee Reports:

Public Health and Safety: Ms. Naji-Taylor reported as follows:

- The police truck has been ordered. Although a hybrid was considered, it was at an additional cost of \$3,700 and the maintenance on hybrids take longer, so the decision was to forgo a standard vehicle.
- The conversion for handheld ticketing has begun.
- Any Lansdowne resident is welcome to come to the fire department any Tuesday or Thursday between 7 and 9 p.m. to get a new smoke detector. If a resident is unable to get to the fire department, you can have one brought to your house by calling (610) 623- 1709.
- Body cameras are working great, although there are some minor issues that can be worked out.
- There was a concern regarding the appropriate process when Animal Control should be called. Animal Control is the entity that needs to be utilized by borough staff.
- The closest hospital to us is Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital. The ambulatory clinic is located at 1503 Lansdowne Avenue on the second floor.
- Pepperidge Pharmacy is still giving out Covid-19 vaccinations and boosters.
- The idea of newer street signs was brought up to infrastructure because it is sometimes difficult to see these signs at night.
- There is a new route being discussed for the Memorial Day Parade to engage a different section of the town.

Finance & Administration: Ms. James reported as follows:

- The next meeting will be May 10th.

Economic Development: President Hover reported his committee met on April 12th at 6 p.m. Topics discussed included:

- Lansdowne art and culture
- The current community development and voting grants
- The American Rescue Plan update
- The new tot lot
- Updates from our communications with Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation
- Lansdowne Business and Professional Association have an event May 7th on Shadeland Avenue.
- We've recently employed new code enforcement officer and they are looking to move forward with more code enforcement with rental properties.
- Updates on the Comprehensive Plan
- The status of the NV5 design
- The Historic Lansdowne Theatre status and a parking plan
- Updates of Gateway Slope
- Certified local government

- The items brought from council on the HARB and use of historic preservation as a driver for economic development and what that means for the community
- Fair housing training

Environment: Ms. Martsoff reported that they met April 11th.

Topics discussed included:

- Someone was interviewed for the EAC.
- The Gateway Slope Park ribbon cutting
- Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 23rd
- EAC Meatless Monday Resolution
- Event at Hayes Park called Food and the Planet it Comes From
- Openings on the Park and Recreation Board

Community Relations: Ms. Bowker reported as follows:

- Ms. Bowker reported that there are many people that need to be reappointed to the library board.
- Juneteenth plans continue to come along.
- Lansdowne arts board had their first meeting on Thursday April 7th. Although this was during a terrible rainstorm, six people had still shown up for this meeting. The meetings will take place every other month.

Infrastructure and Public Works: Ms. Young reported as follows:

- The sewer projects are on hold, but there is no emergency about to happen in that area of town.
- The crosswalk project is complete. There is some concern about the storm water near the curb, however the borough engineer is reviewing some solutions.
- Paving bids were opened on April 19th.
- We are currently receiving \$33 per ton for recycling, which will be reported to encourage people to recycle.
- The MS4 permit has been approved by the DEP. The permit requires Lansdowne to provide evidence of the use of best management practices. It is important for residents to move their cars from the streets on street sweeping days to reduce the sediment loads.
- The Borough Hall is still waiting for insurance money to purchase the new generator. The HVAC review is complete, and a new rooftop heat pump will be installed with a boiler backup.
- The ramp at the new 202 House was approved for installation and an inspection should be completed before re-opening the building for public use.

- The 20th Century Club building is open again for rentals.
- Items on the maintenance list at the library are being addressed.
- The borough engineer is inspecting the Borough Yard for the façade and bay openings.
- 43 South Lansdowne demolition is complete and the area where the house sat is leveled.
- The HARB has no new applications for this month.

Diversity and Inclusion: Mr. Curry reported that meeting was April 12th at 6 p.m. The next meeting is May 10th at 6 p.m.

Topics discussed as follows:

- Cultural Competency Training for hiring staff, employee handbook provisions, event calendar, etc. Mr. Curry reached out to companies that deal with cultural equity inclusion and plan on having two or three come to the next meeting on May 10th.
- The newsletter is available on the website. However, there was a meeting to discuss a way to distribute the letter in public places for those in the community that do not have access to the internet.
- Meatless Mondays

Communications:

- **Habitat for Humanity:** Habitat for Humanity reminds us of the event, Rock the Block. Individuals can show up on Earth Day as volunteers for a small fee that covers the event cost. Those individuals that come out to support this event will receive t-shirts, lunch, and snacks.

Old Business:

1. **Juneteenth Budget Items:** Ms. Bowker reported that there is a motion to approve a \$1,500 budget for this event. The money will go to the vendors involved, food, DJ, and the line dance instructor.
2. **Solicitation of Volunteers (Boards and Commissions/Events):** Ms. Bowker reported that the website is being improved. One improvement is having a place on the website to recruit volunteers for the board.
3. **BLM Mural WPSD:** President Hover reported that council approved for a BLM mural to be created on the road on Green Avenue of Penn Wood High School. They are looking to have this as a fantastic event for the school district, along with the entire community in the creation of the mural. This event will take place on June 13th at graduation.
4. **Arts and Culture Council:** President Hover reported that it is important to use arts and culture as an economic drive in Lansdowne. There are many community members that have nonprofits in arts and culture to work together and create a complete advertisement for this town.

5. **STEAM festival:** President Hover reported that there is a STEAM festival on May 21st from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the 20th Century Club. This event is open to the community, especially children to take part in and bring the borough of Lansdowne together.
6. **Inspi – her Health Event – Hoffman Park – May 14th 11-4:** President Hover reported that on May 14th from 11 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Hoffman Park there is an event taking place called Inspi-her Health Event. Different organizations that work with girls will be present. There will be vendors, workshops, activities, and more.

New Business:

1. **Meatless Monday Resolution:** Ms. Martsoff reported that the Borough of Lansdowne recognizes the environmental, sustainability and public health benefits of “Meatless Mondays” and wants the community to participate in this event to better their health and use fewer resources.
2. **Human Relations Commission:** Ms. Naji-Taylor reported that with one member moving out of Lansdowne and some members not wanting to participate in this commission any longer the Human Relations Commission has opened recruitment opportunities.
3. **LAB Call for Artists:** Ms. Bowker reported that they would like to have a call for haikus for people who have written and not written them before, they would also like to feature on the second half of May some of the artists that work at utility works, and then in June they would like to have a call for artists to represent Pride Month.
4. **Food and Impact Event – Hays Park:** Ms. Martsoff reported that the proposal date for this event will be June 25th at Hays Park. Picnic lunches will be provided with choices of meatless dishes and vegetarian options.

Public Comment: Ms. Young moved to Suspend Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Action Items:

1. Ms. James moved to authorize payment of bills for the period. Ms. Bowker seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Ms. Young moved to award 2022 paving contract to Albert Cipolloni & Sons, Inc. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Ms. Young moved to adopt Resolution 2022-18 setting a sewer tapping fee. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.
4. Ms. Martsoff moved to adopt Resolution 2022-19 establishing Meatless Mondays. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.
5. Ms. Bowker moved to approve a \$1,500 budget for Juneteenth. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.
6. Mr. Hover moved to apply for Certified Local Government status. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous.

7. Ms. Martsolf moved to hire seasonal park maintenance staff person. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous
8. Mr. Hover moved to enter organizational agreement with the LEDC. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous
9. Mr. Hover moved to enter farmers market agreement with the LEDC. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous
10. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to advertise for Hero Bowl. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous
11. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to approve Patrol Rifle Policy (police). Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous
12. Ms. Martsolf moved to approve use of TCC and \$1,500 for STEAM festival for May 21/2025. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous
13. Ms. Bowker moved to reappoint Marine Campuzano to the Library Board for a term expiring 4/20/2025. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous
14. Ms. Bowker moved to reappoint Kymberly Hernandez to the Library Board for a term expiring 4/20/2025. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous
15. Ms. Bowker moved to reappoint Kate Schleigh to the Library Board for a term expiring 4/20/2025. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous
16. Ms. Bowker moved to reappoint Donald Fry to the Library Board for a term expiring 4/20/2025. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous
17. Ms. Bowker moved to reappoint Andrea Kenyon to the Library Board for a term expiring 4/20/2025. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous
18. Ms. Martsolf moved to appoint Eula Davis to the EAC for a term expiring 4/20/2025. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous
19. Ms. Bowker moved to solicit submissions for online Haiku focused exhibits. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous
20. Ms. Bowker moved to solicit submissions for online exhibits from Utility Works members. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous
21. Ms. Bowker moved to solicit submissions for online exhibits focused on Pride Month. Ms. Young seconded. Vote: unanimous
22. Mr. Hover moved to appoint Tangela James to the Redevelopment Authority. Ms. Bowker seconded. Vote: Unanimous but Ms. James abstained
23. Mr. Hover moved to appoint Benjamin Hover to the Redevelopment Authority. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous but Mr. Hover abstained
24. Mr. Hover moved to appoint Wardell Holt to the Redevelopment Authority. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous

Executive Session – President Hover moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous

Ms. Young moved to return to regular session. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous

Adjournment – President Hover moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. James seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Pavlo

Borough Secretary