

**.Lansdowne Borough Council  
General Meeting**

**April 21, 2021**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

The Lansdowne Borough Council held a virtual General Meeting on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Campuzano asked for a moment of silence in memory of Kathleen J. Henry, mother of long time Borough Secretary Barbara Henry.

Council members present: President Hover, Vice President Byrne, Ms. English, Mr. Holt, Mr. Schleigh and Jr. Council Member Lartey. Absent: Councilwoman Naji-Taylor, Borough Secretary Henry and Fire Company representative. Also in attendance: Mayor Campuzano, Borough Manager Totaro, Borough Solicitor Scott, Police Chief Rutherford and Borough Engineer Matson.

**Approval of agenda:** Ms. English moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. English moved to approve the March 17 general meeting of Borough council. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Announcements and Presentations:** The Mayor introduced the newest spotlighted borough business: Crispy Chicken at 27 North Lansdowne Avenue. The owner and his three brothers recently opened to eatery that provides lunch and dinner. It is not vegan. Hours are 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Totaro presented the Treasurer's Report ended March 31, 2021.

**Solicitor's Report** – Mr. Scott reported that tomorrow night is the Upper Darby zoning hearing Board meeting for the Thompson tract proposal.

**Mayor's Report** – The Mayor reported as follows:

1. May 10 is the deadline to register for the town wide yard sale.

**Fire Company Report** – No report was given.

**President's Report** – President Hover reported as follows:

- Reminded drivers to heed pedestrian rights of way in the borough.
- Continuing design work for McKinley lot and continuing design work for the Veterans Park at The Landing.

- Thanked all volunteers who supported the Darby Creek Valley Association clean up.
- Arbor Day will be celebrated on April 30. Redbud trees will be distributed throughout the borough as requested.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Public Health and Safety** – Ms. English reported in Ms. Naji-Taylor’s absence. Topics discussed as follows:

- Where and when to get Covid vaccines.
- No report received from Fire Company but the Police Department provided one.
- New signage at Shadeland Avenue.
- Parking issues at Shadeland and Greenwood Avenues.
- Fire Company is looking for grants for their new fire truck.
- National Night Out - determining if it will be on August 3, depending on Covid case numbers. Event may need to be rescheduled with the Fire Prevention Week event if cancelled due to Covid.
- Discussed resident telephone scams. Call the Police Department with any concerns.

The Mayor and Chief Rutherford met with the Head of Friends School to discuss parking issues in that area. The school will put in place some safety measures

**Finance and Administration** – Ms. James reported the Finance Committee met on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Discussion topics included:

- Grant applications will be tracked and determination of awards noted.
- Newsletter costs are acceptable with Dandelion Digital.
- PNC management of Police Pension Fund.
- SEI contract.

The next Committee meeting will be held on May 3 via Zoom, 7 p.m.

**Economic Development** - President Hover reported as follows:

- Met April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Topics for discussion included:
- LEDC contract and the variables.
- Status of CDBG grants re: McKinley lot, sanitary sewer reports and current solar panel request.
- Revisions to and marketing of bicycle facilities plan and developing necessary signage for Scottdale Rd.
- Code enforcement report by Mike Jozwiak regarding real estate sales.
- Current status of Callahan Ward project and HARB.
- Banner design and purchase for downtown area.
- Status of HLTC project.
- LEDC reported on some dates for community re: economic development.
- April 29 event on South Lansdowne Avenue, 4-7 p.m. Businesses will be open.
- New businesses openings.
- LEDC design committee re: process with Historic Architecture Review Board (HARB).

- Comprehensive plan and town marketing.
- Will be attending the Upper Darby Zoning Hearing Board meeting tomorrow night.
- Will be attending the HARB mtg. re: Callahan Ward Project Certificate of Appropriateness (COA).

**Environment, Parks and Recreation** – Ms. English reported on topics discussed as follows:

- Will be putting information out for McKinley tot lot on web site. Park & Rec also discussed as well and will be coordinating consistencies with other borough parks, e.g., hours of operation, type of lighting, etc.
- Repairs at various parks will start when weather gets better.
- Did not attend Environment Advisory Committee (EAC) meeting but will provide a report at next meeting.

**Library Board Liaison:** Ms. English met with the Library Board last night. The library will hold a book sale on the same date as town wide yard sale. Time: 10:30 – 3 p.m. Currently getting feedback that Saturday hours are needed. Recommending bringing in 2 part timers for Saturday from 10-2.

**Community Relations Committee** - Ms. Byrne reported discussion topics as follows:

- Met on April 6.
- Cambodian Heritage week resolution.
- New app called Literati that challenge community to keep trash picked up. Hopefully can roll out in May.
- Updates from Union Athletic Association (UAA): all the bands will give a refund in cancelling within 10 days of July 4<sup>th</sup>. One band is not requiring a deposit. Decision on fireworks will be made in May depending on Covid numbers.
- Farmers Market opens May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- William Penn School District having outside graduation ceremony in June. Also moving forward with proms and all teachers are vaccinated.
- Lansdowne Arts Board: met and are moving forward with mural. Parks and Rec Director Erica Sollberger will be painting the mural and volunteers are needed for installation. Bob Scott will check on what Septa approvals are needed for this project.
- February art show was delayed and they hope to have a virtual show in March at 2020 House. Art Space will also be looked at as a site if 2020 House is not available.

The next Community Relations Committee will be held on May 10.

**Infrastructure and Public Works** – Mr. Schleigh reported on topics discussed:

- Groundbreaking of Gateway Slope.
- The Lansdowne Avenue crosswalk project continues.
- Status of various sewer projects and expectation of road work.
- Restoration issues in Reservoir Park.

The next Infrastructure Committee meeting will be held on April 26.

**Technology** – Mr. Holt reporting as follows:

1. Finishing up social media policy.
2. Working on getting ability to pay parking tickets online.

**Jr. Council Report:** Ms. Lartey reported that the William Penn School District has partnered with the Southeast Delaware County School District, the Delco Intermediate Unit and Springfield Pharmacy to provide Pfizer vaccines for ages 16 and older. On April 30 redbud trees will be planted in front of the Penn Wood School. The annual Awards celebration will be held virtually on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Communications:**

1. Arbor Day Foundation – letter congratulating Lansdowne on once again earning a 2021 Tree City USA designation.
2. The Mayor read a thank you note from Borough Secretary Henry thanking Council for their donation of three trees in her mother's memory.

**Old Business:**

1. **Environment Advisory Council (EAC) Clean Energy Plan/EAC Requests** – EAC Chair Carol Martsolf noted that in 2019 the Ready For 100 Resolution was passed as an initiative toward 100% renewable energy in Lansdowne. There is currently a team working on this plan's development. Team member Dana Robinson presented updates for Borough Council including community wide engagement for 100% renewables. The EAC is asking for advice and guidance from Council and the Mayor on the direction moving forward while keeping aligned with Council's vision. The EAC is also asking for letter of support to stakeholders to be approved by state representatives. The EAC would also like to get a proposal from Dandelion Digital for providing digital support on social media. More volunteers are needed for the priorities projects listed by residents on the recently distributed environmental survey and asked Borough Council members to complete the survey and forward to the appropriate contacts.

Per Mr. Scott, matters of signatures, votes, meeting requests, directing staff and the budgeting process should be finalized. There was consensus by Borough Council to proceed with the various requests.

2. **Covanta Resolution** – Carol Martsolf provided more information on this resolution. It refers to Covanta's operating the incinerator in Chester and generating 3,510 tons of burned waste every day. About 79% of these facilities throughout the country operate in environmental injustice communities. The resolution would also show the borough being a good steward of the environment and a good neighbor to Chester. The EAC is requesting that future trash be sent to a landfill until a study can be completed on the best methods for handling waste management in Delaware County. This was discussed at length last week at the Delco Sustainability Commission meeting along with the contract renewal for next year. The EAC was informed that a Request For Proposal had been issued for environment engineering firms to analyze and investigate all options. Ms. English asked the length of the renewed contract. In the past it had been multiple five year extensions but due to the importance of environment justice, a shorter

contract would be considered. Mike Ewall, Executive Director of Energy Justice Network in Philadelphia was present to advocate for the quality of living in Chester, indicating that approximately five other municipalities are considering passing the resolution. Swarthmore and Media boroughs have already passed zero waste resolutions. Ms. English questioned the cost of sending trash to a landfill. Ms. Martsolf was unsure of a total cost but indicated it would be higher due to increased waste in the landfill.

Mr. Schleigh noted that both sides of the argument for burning vs. using a landfill was recently posted in the Delaware County Times and he felt a study is critical to assess the financial and health impact on Chester. He also felt that Chester is quite capable of self-government, to which Mr. Holt agreed. Opinion was divided among other Council members as to whether or not to support the resolution. The Mayor was in favor of it, as was President Hover.

3. **LEDC Agreement** – President Hover opened the discussion with the status of the agreement. The LEDC Board was hesitant about some contract items regarding grant processes and providing disbursement information to Council if a grant is approved. Mr. Totaro indicated there was no significant difference from the prior contract but with the imminent opening of the Theater, there is some urgency for the LEDC to demonstrably improve the business district and attending housekeeping issues. The Mayor reminded Council members of the LEDC’s importance in bringing new business into the borough. President Hover indicated that three Borough Council members will meet with the Board to communicate Council’s expectations and insure all are in agreement with the terms. The Mayor, Ms. Byrne, Mr. Totaro and President Hover will attend that meeting.
4. **Lansdowne Votes** – Request to present information in borough newsletter and have a sign on borough green supporting Lansdowne Votes.
5. **Redbud Project** – President Hover mentioned that many redbud trees will be distributed first to various schools and then to residents who requested them.
6. **4<sup>th</sup> of July parade discussion** – Ms. Byrne reported that the borough will get a refund if cancelling event up to 10 days before the parade, but felt it would be safe to hold the parade without fireworks or field activities.

#### **New Business:**

1. **Early Settlers** – President Hover noted an organization is looking to do a related celebration that would involve all municipalities working together and holding marketing events for this particular anniversary. Different strategies will be further discussed in the Economic Development and Community Relations Committees.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Byrne moved to Suspend Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. English seconded.  
Vote: Unanimous.

**Visitors:**

1. Carol Martsof – 19 Mansfield Road. Ms. Martsof addressed Mr. Schleigh’s concerns about the Covanta plant by noting that Delaware County’s trash is only 30% of the plant’s capacity and would not cause financial harm for Chester. The resolution is only for Lansdowne to take a stand on not sending any more trash there so as not to become part of the environmental injustice occurring in Chester.
2. Ms. Dale Harris – 79 Ardmore Ave. – Ms. Harris commented the contract does not expire until 2022 and clarified the last paragraph of the resolution asking for a study.

Mr. Schleigh moved to Reinstate Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Action Items:**

1. Ms. James moved to authorize payment of bills for the period. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Ms. James moved to appoint Craig Totaro borough Representative to the Delaware County Tax Collection Committee. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Ms. James moved to appoint Mary Young as deputy Representative to the Delaware County Tax Collection Committee. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
4. Ms. Byrne moved to adopt the Covanta Resolution. Mr. Hover seconded. Mr. Schleigh moved to amend the motion by stating that County officials should only conduct a study. Ms. English seconded the amended motion. **Discussion:** Mr. Schleigh felt Lansdowne should not become “patriarchal” by telling other governments who self-rule what they should do. The resolution is only a compromise to advance environmental issues that allows a municipality to self-govern. Mr. Matson clarified the resolution’s intent is to not send waste to the plant until a study is conducted in addition to not renewing the contract. Ms. English felt the study should first be completed before any decisions are made during this hard financial time. Ms. Byrne asked about the financial impact if Lansdowne changes how its waste is treated. Mr. Schleigh reiterated that there would still be an economic impact to Chester and an environmental impact on other municipalities if using a landfill.

After further discussion President Hover asked for a roll call vote. The motion not to adopt the Resolution passed 4-2. Aye votes: Ms. English, Ms. James, Mr. Holt and Mr. Schleigh. Nay votes: Ms. Byrne and President Hover.

5. Mr. Schleigh moved to allow Lansdowne Vote’s sign on Borough Green. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
6. Ms. Byrne moved to close streets on July 3<sup>rd</sup> for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Route (July 5<sup>th</sup> rain date). Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Executive Session** –Mr. Holt moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:23 PM to discuss a real estate and litigation issue. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Public Session** –No motions were made upon reconvening to public session.

**Adjourn** – Mr. Holt moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry  
Borough Secretary