

Lansdowne Borough Council

BUSINESS MEETING

May 3rd 2023

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

President Hover opened the meeting and we stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Members Present: President Hover, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Ms. Young, Mr. Griffin, and Ms. James. Mayor Byrne, Ms. Martsof, and Mr. Curry were absent. 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 Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to approve the minutes of the April 5th Borough Council meeting. Seconded: Mr. Griffin Vote: Unanimous Mr. Griffin motioned to revise the minutes by spelling out the acronyms. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous Ms. Young motioned to add the words settlement sheets for the loan. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous

Announcements and Presentations

Boy Scouts – The local Boy Scout troupe was present as part of their civics engagement exercises.

Reports

1. Solicitor Bob Scott - Nothing to report this evening.
2. Manager Craig Totaro – the Marshall Road road-diet work will commence later in the year after PECO gas main and lateral work is completed. Bike-to-work day is May 19th and the seasonal parks employee recently began work. Samples for chairs are forthcoming.
3. Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford – Police statistics were read. Officer Murray was sworn in on Friday.
4. Engineer Kevin Matson - nothing to report.
5. Fire Company Report - nothing to report.

Mayor's Report

- Mayor Byrne was not present. There was nothing to report.

President's Report

President Hover thanked the many elected officials who work in the polling stations to ensure fair elections in Lansdowne. Discussions continue appropriations for emergency services. Recently President of the Fire Company Mike Boyce addressed Borough Council about the ambulance services. 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 with the threat to end ambulance services. As we move forward, President Boyce will provide important details to give us more insight in which our next steps will be in helping to keep Lansdowne safe.

Lansdowne Borough Council continues to work with community partners and Lansdowne businesses to build the downtown in Lansdowne. Callahan Ward has begun the interior demolition of their first

project and is beginning the building process. At the last Economic Development meeting, it was reported that the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation reports that they have secured funding and are working towards the historic tax credits portion, which may take a month or two.

The review process has occurred for the Comprehensive Plan from the neighboring jurisdictions. We have received no feedback from the neighboring local governments. The Delaware County Planning Commission provided feedback on the current draft of the Comprehensive Plan and our own Planning Commission has also provided feedback. We are 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 meeting of the Steering Committee on May 25th at 7:00 to have a community forum to solicit public feedback. After this, the Committee will consider the feedback and recommend changes and have future meetings for adoption of the feedback. There will be future meetings before the final adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

Lansdowne Borough continues the housekeeping tasks to improve beautification in the Borough. Painting has been completed in Borough Hall in the hallways and Borough Chambers. As residents can see, the new Borough Council furniture upgrades have occurred, which was installed in April. Tonight, we will discuss the new furniture for the audience to sit in.

As Mr. Totaro reported last meeting, our Bicycle Facilities will be completed in the next few months with the completion of the bike lanes on Greenwood Avenue and installation on Plumstead Avenue. The facilities were featured in a blog by the Delco Bike Coalition, who will be joining with the Greater Philadelphia Bike Coalition and the Delaware County Transportation Management Association will be featuring Lansdowne for the Bike-to-Work Day this Friday on May 19th.

On May 31st, Council will hold a special meeting to continue discussion on the possible Facilities upgrades to the Library, Borough Hall, and the Police Department. The meeting will 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. In the meeting, we will review the pros and cons of each plan. We want to thank all of the residents who have attended the past meetings 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.

Notable dates/events

June 1st—Pride Flag Raising

June 2nd-4th- Lansdowne Founders Weekend;

June 17th-19th—Juneteenth events

June 17th—Borough Flag Raising—1:30 on Borough Greene

Communications

There are some communications, but they are under “Old Business.”

Old Business

1. Movie Night Titles

- On June 23rd Encanto; July 21st Sing; and August 18th the Goonies are going to be played for the Summer Movie Night.
2. EMS Service
 - Mike Boyce spoke on how the fire company had an agreement with Trinity Health. We have had this agreement over ten years. This agreement has recently been terminated. The issue is the staffing issue that requires a cost to pay. This will cost several hundred thousand dollars. The fire company takes about half of that. The fire company does not have the funds to staff the ambulances. Other providers have been looked at in order to come to a solution to this problem that will be discussed with council confidentially.

New Business

1. Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day Parade falls on May 29th this year. The American Legion is requesting the approval to hold a Memorial Day parade, and the assistance of the Lansdowne Police Department in controlling traffic along the route. Post 65 would handle all the details aside from the traffic issues a parade always causes. It would begin at 9:00 a.m. on West Essex Avenue next to the grade school, and end at Penn Wood High. There will be yard signs posted along the route the week before to limit the number of parked cars.
2. Environmental Town Hall

There will be a free community event on Saturday, May 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Beverly Hills Middle School Auditorium in Upper Darby. Those who attend will learn how to handle bad weather such as storms, flooding, heat waves, tornadoes, and air pollution. There will be free childcare provided for up to 25 children, free refreshments, and door prizes. Special invited guests include Representative Gina H. Curry, Senator Tim Kearney, and Upper Darby Township Officials.
3. Girl Scouts Flyer and Collection Box

The Girl Scouts have requested permission to put a flyer for the Girl Scouts on the first floor of Borough Hall, along with a medium sized box. The Girl Scouts are doing a product drive from May 7th to May 13th that supports the Girl Scout Silver Award Project. They are collecting items such as pads, flushable wipes, tampons, mini hand sanitizers, and any other menstrual/period products you find helpful.

Public Comment

Ms. Young motioned to move into Public Comment. Ms. Naji Taylor Seconded: Vote: unanimous

Mary Catherine Berner of Violet Lane commented on laws controlling the trapping, treatment, and handling of wild animals, Delaware County Animal Control practices and polices, animal stressors; transmission of disease; local controls and permitting around the capture and treatment of wild animals.

President Hover opened the public comment for any comments from the Boy Scouts attending. Howard Chapman of Philadelphia introduced the troupe.

Motioned to move from Public Comment into Action Items. Seconded: Vote:

Action Items

1. Ms. James motioned to Authorize payment of bills for the period. Ms. Young Seconded: Vote: unanimous

2. Mr. Griffin motioned to authorize the use of the Landing for a Lansdowne Library summer kick-off party, seconded: Ms. Naji-Taylor Vote: unanimous
3. Mr. Griffin Motion to adopt Resolution 2023-10 Honoring Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month; seconded Ms. James vote unanimous.
4. Motion to approve movie in the park as Encanto on June 6/23, Sing on July 21st and the Goonies on August 18th; Ms. James seconded and vote unanimous
5. Ms. Naji-Taylor motioned to approve Memorial Day parade route and associated wreaths Mr. Griffin seconded and vote unanimous
6. Ms. Young motioned to approve Environmental Advisory Council to set a table at the environmental town hall seconded Ms. James vote unanimous
7. Ms. Young motioned to place a collection box for the girls scouts crimson wave drive in Borough Hall and advertise same Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded and vote unanimous.
8. Ms. Naji-Taylor motioned to draft letter of support for Tracy Bio Breast Cancer Event Ms. Young seconded and vote unanimous.

Borough Council took action to adjourn at 8:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Pavlo

Borough Secretary