

## Lansdowne Borough Council

### BUSINESS MEETING

May 4, 2022

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually and in person on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

President Hover opened the meeting, led by Mayor Byrne with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: Mayor Byrne, President Hover, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Ms. Bowker, Ms. Martsolf, and Ms. Young. MS. James entered the meeting at approximately 7:30 pm. Absent: Mr. Curry. Also Present: Borough Solicitor Scott, Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford, Borough Engineer Mr. Kevin Matson, Borough Treasurer Ms. Donna Lang.

**Approval of Agenda** - Ms. Byrne moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous

**Approval of Minutes** - Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to approve the minutes. Seconded: Ms. Bowker Vote: unanimous. Ms. Young noted report number six that had a spelling error. Also, number five under the Old Business section there was some information that needed to be corrected.

**Swearing in of Police Chaplain** Mayor Byrne swore in Police Chaplain Reverend Carl Everett. It is the Chaplain's duty to serve 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.

**WPSD-Facilities Plan** Members from the William Penn School District came to discuss the "Master Plan," for the school district for 2025. The three main goals are to provide analysis and recommendations for facility maintenance and long-term planning; analyze educational environments for optimal student performance; and prioritize future improvement initiatives, including athletic facility upgrades.

#### Reports:

**Solicitor Bob Scott** – Solicitor Bob Scott had nothing to report this evening.

#### **Manager Craig Totaro** –

- The Borough will release four bids for the blight remediation. The bids will be for oil tank remediation, exterior fire doors, retaining wall, and window restoration. The blight remediation grant will be dispersed to those four parts and the work will be completed in the upcoming months.
- We received proposals for the next phase from the designer who completed the conceptual work for Veteran's Parkway. The next phase is a final design that is technical in nature.
- There was an RFP put out for design services for the facilities planning work. We received two proposals to do that work from GKO (Godshall Kane O'Rourke Architects, LLC) architects and another entity called Seiler + Drury. The next step is to have them in for interviews.

### **Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford -**

- The Lansdowne Police responded to 1,986 calls for service for the month of April.
  - There were 29 false hold ups or burglar alarms.
  - There were 22 motor vehicle accidents.
  - Six adults were arrest and three juveniles.
  - There were 557 parking tickets issued.
  - There were 205 motor vehicle violations or traffic citations.
  - There were three non-traffic citations.
- There are still thefts taking place in our town. Recently there was one theft of a Cadillac converter. There are groups going around stealing these expensive pieces. The Prius has been the targeted car. Residents should be mindful of any sawing noises and report this to the police immediately for investigation.
- The Chief of Police is going around town looking for areas that do not have proper signage. He is working with the highway department on getting these signs put up.
- There was an issue where two students were trespassing from another high school at William Penn High School. This issue has been addressed with both schools and they were arrested.
- The bear was located and safely relocated to his proper habitat.
- Sergeant Craig was recognized for issuing 128 citations regarding speeding and stop signs which will help deter people from disobeying these traffic laws.
- There is a Cops Grant out that will cover 75 percent of the police officer's salary for the next three years. This grant will be granted to a new officer willing to join the force permanently. This will help bring another officer to the team which will in turn help the department out due to two police officer's being out on injury. The grant is due by June 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Engineer Kevin Matson -**

- We are coordinating with PENNDOT to implement the Road Program that was awarded at the last meeting. As soon as we have the clearance from PENNDOT we will schedule the Pre-construction Meeting.
- The Pre-construction meeting was held for the McKinley Park Tot Lot with the officials from the Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD). We are anticipating one clearance letter from them prior to construction, but other than that this project is looking great.
- There are a few items with Gateway Slope including a timetable, lights, the painting of the Redi-Rock Wall, the compass at the walkway, and the workmanship that are being taken care of.

**Fire Company Report** – There was no fire company report this evening.

### **Mayor's Report –**

- The ceremony for the McKinley Avenue Park Tot Lot took place on May 3, 2022. Mayor Byrne recognized the community and council people who came out to celebrate the ribbon cutting for this event.

- The mayor again recognized the three chaplains that were sworn in. They are great resources for our community.
- Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> Mayor Byrne hosted her first town cleanup. She recognized two community members that came out and President Hover to help with this event. They met at Hays Park and cleaned up the park and area surrounding it. The next cleanup will be on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> that will be led by President Hover. The goal is to have a cleanup once a month in different areas of town.

### **President's Report –**

- Both the historic Lansdowne theatre corporation and the Lansdowne economic corporation learned that they are recipients of grants from the foundation of Delaware County.
- McKinley Avenue Park Tot Lot was again recognized. We are looking forward to the creation and naming of this new landmark in our community. It is especially great for the kids to come and utilize this new spot.
- It was a successful Earth Day on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Plants and trees were planted this day and there were environmental activities that revolved around recycling and environmentalism.
- On May 12<sup>th</sup> President Hover will be meeting with the LEDC Board and the Farmers Market Committee to continue the discussion of the revised NV5 Plan and gather feedback.
- On May 7<sup>th</sup> President Hover will be attending the cleanup at Veteran's Park. This event will be hosted by the Parks and Rec Board. There he will speak with members of the community and answer any questions regarding some of the changes that will be made.
- On May 7<sup>th</sup> there is not only the cleanup at the Veteran's Park at 9 a.m., but the Lansdown Business and Professional Association (LBPA) will be hosting a celebration of the businesses on Shadeland Avenue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- On May 14<sup>th</sup> our State Representative, Gina H. Curry will be hosting an event for young women at Hoffman Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- On May 21<sup>st</sup> Lansdowne Borough is hosting a Steam Festival for kids of all ages.
- On May 30<sup>th</sup> the Memorial Day Parade begins at 9 a.m. It is hosted by the American Legion. The parade starts on West Essex Avenue in Ardmore and goes through Lansdowne.
- Firefighters and volunteer firefighters that live in our community were recognized today for their service on Firefighter Appreciation Day. Lansdowne is always looking for volunteer firefighters, so please stop in if interested.

### **Old Business:**

**Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra-TCC (fee waiver)** – President Hover announced that information on a fee waiver was sent to everybody included in tonight's meeting for the Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra.

**WPSD Mural Agreement** – President Hover announced that this is an action item.

**Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting (June 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.)** – President Hover announced that there is a Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**Fourth of July** – Ms. Bowker announced that the theme is growing together again to celebrate the community coming together and the love for greenery. Ms. Bowker wanted to add the theme of growing together again as an action item.

### **New Business:**

**Asian American Pacific Islander Month** – President Hover announced that May is recognized for Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Mr. Curry was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, so Ms. Martsof is going to take up this action item.

**Delco Black Caucus** – President Hover announced that the Delco Black Caucus is requesting use of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club for a discussion of law enforcement community. Vice President Naji-Taylor then spoke and announced that the Delco Black Caucus wrote on May 2<sup>nd</sup> asking if they could use the venue on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help fathers in our community and supply resources for them for social, emotional, physical, and legal challenges. This would put them in a better position to adhere to their responsibilities.

**Lansdowne Library TCC** – Ms. Bowker announced that the library is asking to use the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club for the Kick-Off Summer Quest. This event is Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is also a puppet show on Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The performance will be at 10:30 a.m. There was no action item required for this event this evening.

### **Public Comment:**

- Arnold Jones came from the Delco Black Caucus to speak. Last year 2021, the Delco Black Caucus hosted an event called “The Role of Public Defense in the Criminal Defense System,” at the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club. There was a very well turn out. Mr. Jones is asking permission to host another event on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup>. This would be a Back fatherhood resource fair to give them resources to help them adhere to their responsibilities.
- A member from the community came to speak about her concern regarding a stray dog that was found in the North part of the community in January. She was also concerned because another community member’s cat went missing. She called Delaware County Animal Control multiple times, and they said that they do not pick up cats in Lansdowne. She requested that if this true if it could be added to the Borough Website.
  - Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford stated that animal control does not pick up any cats if the average citizen calls, however there is a dog that was picked up in January that they still have. There is a fee for animal control to pick up cats. The best way to handle this is to call the Lansdowne police for them to handle this.
- Tiara Orange came to speak about an event in June called the LBPA Night Market. She requested that there be an action item for the landing and parking lot to be used for this event.

### **Action Items:**

1. Ms. James motioned to authorize payment of bills for the period. Seconded: Vice President Naji Taylor Vote: Unanimous
2. Mr. Hover motioned to advertise for bids for remediation of an oil tank 31 North Lansdowne Avenue. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
3. Ms. Bowker motioned to enter agreement with the WPSD for the installation of a mural. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
4. Ms. Martsof motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-20 recognizing Asian American Pacific Islander Month. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous

5. Ms. Bowker motioned to waive the fee for the Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra for use of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club on October 2<sup>nd</sup> as part of Delco's Arts Week. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
6. Ms. Bowker motioned to adopt the fee of Growing Together Again for the 2022 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous
7. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to waive fees for the Delco Black Caucus to use the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Seconded: Ms. Bowker Vote: Unanimous

**Executive Session** – Vice President Naji-Taylor moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss. Ms. Bowker seconded. Vote: unanimous

**Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Maureen Pavlo

Borough Secretary