

Lansdowne Borough Council
BUSINESS MEETING
May 17th, 2023

The Lansdowne Borough Council meeting was held in person and virtually on Wednesday, May 17th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

President Hover opened the meeting and Mayor Byrne lead the Pledge of Allegiance followed with a moment of silence in memory of Ms. Helen Bowes, recently passed resident of the Borough. Members Present: President Hover, Mayor Byrne, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Ms. Young, Mr. Griffin, and Ms. Martsolf via remote. 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: Ms. Naji-Taylor: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Naji-Taylor motioned to approve the minutes of the April 19th Business Council Meeting. Seconded: Mr. Griffin Vote: Unanimous with friendly amendments.

Announcements and Presentations

Officer Murray was sworn in as a full-time police officer and Ms. Naomi Laherty was recognized for service as a Junior Council person.

Treasurer's Report

- General Fund Beginning Balance \$1,698,925; Ending Balance \$5,314,023
- Sewer Fund Beginning Balance \$424,019; Ending Balance \$1,376,742
- Liquid Fuels Fund Beginning Balance \$877,047; Ending Balance \$1,117,509
- Non-Uniformed Pension Fund Beginning Balance \$3,868,562; Ending Balance \$4,163,701
- Police Pension Fund Beginning Balance \$10,120,049; Ending Balance \$10,440,376
- Total All Funds Beginning Balance \$16,988,602; Ending Balance \$22,412,350

Solicitor's Report

No information to report.

Mayor's Report

Good Evening Lansdowne!! Congratulations again to Officer Murray. In his short time here as a part time police officer he has made quite an impact in the community and I am so happy to have here now as a full time officer.

I am so grateful to the Lansdowne Fire Company and the Parks & Rec committee members that came to help with the last Mayor's Clean up. The Fire Department brought the water and we were able to scrub the mural at the Landing for the first time in a while! Just in time for the first Farmer's Market :) The next Mayor's cleanup will take place on Sunday, May 28th at 10am. This cleanup will focus on cleaning the parade route for the Memorial Day Parade. If you can spare some time I would really appreciate the assistance.

On May 27th I will be at the ribbon cutting for a new restaurant opening @ 36 E Baltimore Ave @ 12pm. The restaurant is called Leo's Breakfast and Lunch Cafe and I am very excited for their opening. Feel free to come and welcome this new business to town.

The Memorial Day Parade will be taking place on Monday May 29th at 9am. Thank you to the American Legion for carrying on this tradition. If you are in town please come watch the parade. The legion put in a lot of work to make this parade happen.

As promised, I am working hard to be more on time with awards so with that in mind, June is the correct time to give the Sycamore Award. I have not made a final decision on the recipient but I plan on announcing who it will be at the first June council meeting and giving the award at the 2nd council meeting in June.

Founders Weekend is also coming up the first weekend in June. There are a lot of activities planned for that weekend that I am sure President Hover will report on so I won't repeat but mark your calendars June 2-4th and make sure you come out.

I will be attending the PSAB (Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs) conference in June at Hershey. This conference is a great opportunity for myself and council members to educate ourselves on items being pushed at the house as well as some great seminars and learning opportunities on how to work as elected officials. I have always enjoyed attending this conference as a council member and am looking forward to going again this year.

Council President's Report

To begin, I want to thank the many elected officials who work in the polling stations to ensure fair elections in Lansdowne.

Public Safety:

Tonight, we will continue with our discussion of appropriations for emergency services. Last council, you may remember an important guest with us President of the Fire Company Mike Boyce spoke to us concerning the ambulance services. As many residents may know, 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. Thank chief and the Police Department for hosting the Boy Scouts

Economic/ Community Development:

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. The Executive director of the Lansdowne Theater Corporation At the last Economic Development meeting, it was reported that the Callahan Ward, 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. Expect a lot of construction in Lansdowne this summer. But note, Lansdowne is on the move and good things are happening in our community. May 27th at 12 noon—ribbon cutting at Leo's Breakfast and Lunch Cafe

Comprehensive Plan:

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.

Facilities:

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. Lansdowne is leading the way!

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.

Save the Date for the upcoming events:

Thank you to all of the folks who came out to the shredding event on May 13th to make the event a success.

June 1st—Pride Flag Raising

June 2nd-4th- Lansdowne Founders Weekend; the Night Market was featured in the Delaware County Times today

June 14th

June 17th-19th—Juneteenth events

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety – Ms. Naji-Taylor

At the most recent public safety meeting the committee reviewed police department policies, animal control activity and responses, the status of the part-time officer staffing levels, the status of the Deputy Chief Position, use of QR code, construction status of the new ladder truck, community bike ride, and the outlook for ambulance/EMT services. Additional information reported included fire-call data and the mechanical status of vehicles was also reviewed. Police appreciation week was also noted.

Finance and Administration – Ms. James

Ms. Young reported that the committee reviewed the previously distributed Borough audit and tax collection. The committee reviewed the posting of meeting materials in advance of Borough Council meetings and staff positions were also discussed.

Economic Development – President Hover

Mr. Hover reported that the meeting reviewed the status and updates of the Lansdowne Arts and Culture Council and Juneteenth celebration logistics and funding. Also reviewed were the American Rescue plan funding, code enforcement updates and incident data and a warning system, updates to the comprehensive plan, veterans park final designs, updates on the HLTC project and associated financing, the Delaware County Transportation Management Association's focus on Lansdowne as the Bike to Work location. Public comment included the LEDC's report on businesses. New business included a review of the previously adopted DEI Resolution.

Environment – Ms. Martsolf

Mr. Griffin reported vacancies on the EAC and Parks and Recreation, earth day, the comprehensive plan, facilities plan, Arbor Day, Support for the Delaware County grant writing, benches in Marlyn Park, and information signage, and new tree signage. Publication of EAC flyers, cleanup of Interboro pollinator garden and student volunteers on the EAC.

Community Relations – Mr. Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported on the earth day and organizations supporting same, founders weekend/community day, and 4th of July parade. Library Board information included a request to use the 20CC for programming, PA Board Certification of the Library Board.

Infrastructure and Public Works – Ms. Young

Ms. Young noted technical issues with the most recent meeting, sanitation issues, recycling tipping fees, East Essex Avenue Aqua work, PECO restoration work on the west side, status of street signs, QR signs, facilities maintenance updates, cigarette receptacle at Veterans Park, certificates of appropriateness, zoning cases and board openings,

DEI – Mr. Curry

Mr. Hover reported recent discussion on the DEI Survey results, next steps with the consultant, and updating of the DEI Resolution.

Old Business

Borough Council discussed ambulance services and associated financing and services issues, an application notification of a license to the Liquor Control Board, conference room chairs, an audit of the Tax Collector, status of staff positions, appropriations for T-shirts and music for upcoming events,

New Business

Borough Council discusses public improvements associated with the developments on East Baltimore Avenue, a request for the use of borough food equipment, part time police officers and hiring, and consideration of producing flyers for the EAC.

Public Comment

Doris Alexander of 186 East Plumstead Avenue offered comment on potholes and wrong way traffic on Plumstead Avenue. Elijah Porter 256 Wabash Avenue offered comment on alley trash collection and paving. Suzanne McElroy of 200 Drexel Avenue offered comment on conference room audio and chairs, and FOIA request.

The Borough Council took actions including;

a motion made by Ms. Young for the payment of bills for the period, seconded by Mr. Griffin, vote unanimous.

Mr. Griffin motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-11 recognizing June as LGBTQIA month, seconded Ms. Naji-Taylor vote unanimous.

Ms. Young motioned to suspend the recruitment for new staff positions to September 2023 seconded, Mr. Hover seconded. After discussion role vote: Mr. Hover yes; Ms. Naji-Taylor no; Ms. Martsolf yes, Ms. Young yes, Mr. Griffin no. The motion carried 3/2.

Mr. Griffin motioned to adopt Resolution 2023-12 authorizing the Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant application, seconded by Ms. Naji-Taylor, vote unanimous.

Ms. Naji-Taylor motioned to nominate Ms. Heather Cronan for the Human Relations Commission seconded Ms. Young, vote unanimous.

Ms. Young motioned to authorize Barbacane Thornton to perform an audit of the Tax Collector seconded

by Ms. Naji-Taylor, vote unanimous.

Mr. Hover motioned to allocation up to \$6,400 for Juneteenth to the LEDC, seconded Ms. Young Seconded and vote unanimous.

Mr. Griffin motioned to appropriate up to \$3,000 for Community Day Activities seconded Ms. Naji-Taylor, vote unanimous.

Ms. Young motioned to allow the LSO use of borough food equipment (no second).

Ms. Naji Taylor motioned to advertise for the recruitment of part time officers, seconded Mr. Griffin. vote unanimous.

Ms. Young motioned to approve EAC flyers seconded Mr. Griffin, vote unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned 9:15 PM