

**.Lansdowne Borough Council
General Meeting**

May 19, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council held a virtual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Approval of agenda: Ms. English moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: No minutes for approval.

Announcements and Presentations: The Mayor had no announcements or presentations.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Totaro read the Treasurer's Report ended April 30, 2021 as follows:

General Fund beginning balance -	\$ 1,456,526; ending balance \$ 4,604,231
Sewer Fund beginning balance -	\$ 984,174; ending balance \$ 1,542,474
Liquid Fuels Fund beginning balance -	\$ 980,408; ending balance \$ 1,223,703
Non-Uniform Police Pension beginning balance -	\$ 3,988,380; ending balance \$ 4,305,680
Police Pension Fund beginning balance -	\$11,148,458; ending balance \$11,586,146

President Hover noted the Police fund is doing much better. Mr. Totaro confirmed that due to the recent good market, the decline was only 2%.

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Scott reported that the applicant for the Thompson tract apartment buildings project has withdrawn the application, as the property fell on the Darby Creek border of Lansdowne near Hoffman Park.

Mayor's Report – The Mayor reported as follows:

1. The town wide yard sale was a success with 60 houses participating. The Mayor thanked all who contributed to the event.
2. June 19th, 9-Noon. Recycling and shredding event will be held in Highland Avenue lot. A charge of \$30 is for TV's and computer monitors.
3. Chief Rutherford sent out 29 applications for hiring patrol officers and received 20 in return. The test will be held on May 26th.

4. Chief Rutherford is aware of the car speeding problem and continues to monitor and enforce the speed program. Approximately 100 tickets were issued in one month.
5. Fire Chief Russell has received the specs for the new ladder fire truck and will forward to Council in the near future.
6. The Memorial Day parade will not be held this year. The Mayor commented we should remember and honor all those who gave their lives for this country. American Legion Post 65 will hold a short ceremony on Memorial Day at Veterans Park.
7. The Mayor congratulated the recent graduates of Penn Wood High School.
8. The Mayor congratulated Ms. Byrne on her candidacy for Mayor of Lansdowne.
9. Travers Food Market is celebrating 35 years of doing business in Lansdowne.

Ben thanked the Mayor for representing Lansdowne at different events and organizing the shredding event.

Fire Company Report – No report was given.

President's Report – President Hover reported as follows:

1. Thanked all voters and poll workers who participated in the primary election.
2. The Economic Development Committee is moving forward with new projects regarding Veterans Park, finalizing the pilot program for The Landing and upgrading the parking lots.
3. Lansdowne identification banners will be purchased for the four borough entranceways.
4. The Lansdowne Avenue crosswalk project is nearing completion.
5. Bike program is underway.
6. Discussions held regarding reopening borough facilities. President Hover thanked Chief Rutherford and his force for their work last week during National Police Week.
7. May 31st – American Legion Post 65 will hold a wreath laying ceremony on Memorial Day at Veterans Park.
8. June 5th – opening ceremony at Reservoir Park.
9. June 5th - Noon – Pride Flag raising event recognizing LGBTQIA month.
10. June 19th – 1:00 PM – Flag raising event for Juneteenth celebration.
11. Discussions regarding reducing Council meetings in summer to one per month.

Committee Reports:

Junior Council Member - Ms. Lartey reported that Penn Wood High School is providing the Pfizer vaccine to those 16 and up and will be extending it to lower ages as well. The end of year Awards Night ceremony will be held tomorrow at 6 p.m. The National Honor Society Induction will be held next week at 6:00 p.m. Graduation will take place on June 19th at 11:00 am.

Public Health and Safety – Ms. Naji-Taylor reported on topics discussed at the last Committee meeting:

- Continuing support to residents who want to register their security cameras.
- Covid update.
- Body camera update and policy for same.
- Hiring full time officers and reviewing the applications.

- Replacing vehicle for K9 officer.
- The Lansdowne Board of Health might become part of the Delaware County Health Department.
- Speeding issues on Owen and Plumstead Avenues. Monitoring to be in place.
- National Night Out date change from August to October.
- Reopening of borough facilities.

Finance and Administration – Ms. English reported in Ms. James' absence.

- Committee recently met with PNC Advisors to discuss the pension plans and the next Advisors meeting will be held in August.
- Reviewed who will and will not be returning to work.
- Discussed incoming tax collection process and when the Callahan Ward fees would be received.

Economic Development - President Hover reported as follows:

- Committee met on May 12th. Mr. Totaro and LEDC representatives were also present. President Hover will meet with them in an auditor capacity tomorrow night to discuss the annual contract.
- Updates given on CDBG grants and the status of those already with applications.
- Codes Officer Jozwiak was present to discuss code enforcement issues and revisions for group homes.
- Discussed Comprehensive Plan.
- Discussed the HLTC progression.
- Updates provided re: Eastern Delaware County bikeway.
- Discussed the Ranger properties and bridge project.
- Met with Senator Williams's representatives earlier this week to discuss ideas for community funding to be distributed through the America Rescue Act.

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

- Various hurricane damage to some parks, Hoffman Park in particular.
- McKinley tot lot
- Gateway Slope.
- Spring free tree giveaway.
- Cleaning of Sycamore, Hoffman and Interboro Parks.
- Solicitor Scott confirmed that the Park and Rec Board membership cannot be expanded.
- Yoga and Zoomba classes might be held outdoors. There are less than 20 participants in each class and permits will not be necessary.

Library Board Liaison: Ms. English met with the Library Board last night. A book sale was held on May 15th. Staff operations are proceeding smoothly. The Board is requesting that a consistent message be issued for them and the Parks and Rec Board re: what facilities will or will not be reopening in the borough at this time. The Library Board is recommending not opening any libraries due to poor Covid case counts and wants Council's thoughts on three plans they have provided to handle this issue. Will be further discussed under Old Business.

Community Relations Committee - Ms. Byrne reported as follows:

- Committee met on May 4th at 6:30 p.m.
- Reviewed Mental Health Awareness proclamation.
- Discussed possible walking tour of borough historic areas in recognition of earlier settlers in this area.
- Asian American Pacific resolution was passed at last meeting.
- UAA updates: Parade is still possible but will be short. The purveyor for the fireworks reported that the borough can hold them next year with no penalty if cancelled. Ms. Byrne asked for feedback on whether or not the fireworks should be held this year. Borough Council, Mayor Campuzano and Chief Rutherford unanimously decided to cancel this year's fireworks due to Covid restraints.
- Covid numbers as of today: 18 new cases in borough.

Infrastructure and Public Works – Mr. Schleigh reported there was a discussion at the last Committee meeting of the infrastructure projects and resulting road detours and inconvenience. President Hover questioned why the Gateway Slope project has been paused. Mr. Matson met with the contractors regarding the schedule and encouraged same to keep on the schedule that was promised for the site. President Hover questioned the next stage for the Lansdowne Avenue crosswalk. Mr. Matson indicated he had been coordinating this with Penn Dot. The overlay went smoothly and the borough work portion is essentially completed. The last step will be installing stamped decorative asphalt.

Technology – Mr. Holt had no report.

Communications:

1. **HLTC** – Letter from Matt Schultz re: application on Senate and Congress changes on funding for individual districts. Representative Mary Scanlon requested that the theater be included in the \$1.5 million application request. This is now moving to the House Appropriation Sub Committee. Mr. Schultz thanked the borough for their support in this endeavor.
2. **PA Association of Boroughs** – information was received about the American Rescue Act. Lansdowne is scheduled to receive \$1 million through this Act but there are several restrictions on how the funds can be spent. Borough Council will review.
3. **TCDI Public Meeting** to be held on May 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Totaro indicated this is a general communication regarding the Eastern Delaware County bikeway. This general communication will be put on the borough and social media web sites. This will be the first of two public virtual meetings for public opinion. The plan follows closely to the information included in the recently distributed survey.

Old Business:

1. **Ranger Properties Bridge** – President Hover will be reaching out to County Council to take up this item.

- Borough Reopening Plans:** President Hover opened the discussion with a breakdown of plans for various borough buildings and facilities.

Borough Hall - There has been no slowdown in customer service. Mr. Totaro noted there is social distancing with the second floor employees and safety protocols will be in place even if all have been vaccinated. Ms. English commented that the Covid numbers were not yet acceptable for public openings as only 33% of the Delaware County population had been vaccinated. As of May 17, 2021, the average is 108 cases per day. Ms. English noted that a locality should have less than 100 cases per day for four weeks before reopening and it was questionable how to know if one has been vaccinated. Protocols will also be in place for limitations on the public. Chief Rutherford commented he hoped his department would be open for a full week to handle administrative tasks normally addressed at the front desk. After further discussion it was decided to open borough hall to all employees as of June 30th. Reopening for public customer business would be July 31st.

20th Century Club – President Hover commented this facility could be used as a meeting place and community center for all Board and Committee meetings. Social distancing measures should be set up as well. Mr. Schleigh commented he had no problem with live meetings but would be unable to attend the 6 p.m. committee meetings due to family scheduling conflicts. Mr. Holt suggested trying a hybrid model as an alternative and will be speaking with Mr. Totaro.

Library – Ms. English presented three plans for consideration: (1) Open 11-5 Monday through Friday with one hour contact at beginning and end of day; (2) Open all day from 10-6 Monday through Friday with curbside pickup; or (3) Pickup schedule as currently in place and adding alternate hours (about 4 a day). Library staff is concerned about computer usage and social distancing and would not be renting the Baney Room. Mr. Schleigh asked if there had been any discussion about allowing children in and what would be the conditions and considerations. Ms. English commented this issue was not addressed by staff and regulating who had or had not been vaccinated would be difficult. President Hover suggested having the Library Director provide a more detailed plan.

Parks and Rec - President Hover noted that groups are already using parks without permits and asked for recommendations. Ms. English felt little could be done about it and only the criteria for acceptable vaccinations numbers had been reviewed. There was a discussion about non-permitted use of the hoops and court nets, current six week waiting period for vaccination effects and having outside use acceptable for adults. Mr. Holt suggested following scientific guidelines for safety. Opinion was divided among Council members as to whether or not to put up the nets and hoops.

- Senator Williams** – Mr. Totaro met with representatives of Senator Williams, who was unable to attend. There was a discussion about meeting with municipalities in Senator Williams' district that are not part of Philadelphia regarding their needs. There may be a state subsidy available to concentrate on a forum for public safety in Lansdowne. More information will follow. Ms. Naji-Taylor indicated that the borough's suggestions were welcomed and there was great interest in the fire truck idea.

New Business:

- Code Revision – Group Homes** – Mr. Scott indicated this had been revised to omit two items that were in violation of the Fair Housing Act. He also noted that this is an amendment to the

zoning ordinance and if moving forward, a motion to advertise was needed. If approved, it will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board for review. A hearing would then be scheduled after 30 days for a vote.

2. **LGBTQIA Resolution** – Recognizes June as Pride Month. A flag raising event will be held on borough green.
3. **Juneteenth Resolution** – This is a revised and updated version of last year’s resolution. There will be a flag raising event held on June 19th.
4. **Certificates of Appropriateness** – The Economic Development Committee reviewed all and there was a consensus to approve all of them. Mr. Totaro provided some detail on each: (1) Lansdowne Eye will be going into the building east of the Appligent building and removing existing glass entrance with a new door; (2) Signage requests for Lansdowne Urban Farm site, Studio 16 North, Cindia Hair Boutique and Sweet Gardenia on the northwest corner of Lansdowne and Baltimore Avenues; (3) Callahan Ward components facing Baltimore Avenue for a new mesh metal door to apartment entrance as well as lighting. Will apply later for signage.
5. **Speeding – Plumstead/Owen** – Ms. Naji-Taylor reported she personally witnessed the same car twice speeding down Owen Avenue. Chief Rutherford noted there will be an increased detail immediately placed for that area as well as Scottdale Road. There had been a request for a traffic study at East Plumstead and Owen Avenues where officers have been in place. Ms. Naji-Taylor added that the repairs on Lansdowne Avenue have caused detours through neighborhoods instead of the main road. Mr. Matson indicated traffic measuring devices can be set up for existing flow and speed and if there are any recommendations for traffic calming devices. He asked Chief Rutherford if Lansdowne had any relationship with a radar detection provider out in the field. The Chief indicated he was not familiar with any such organizations.
6. **Police Vehicles** – Ms. Naji-Taylor indicated this is to replace the current K9 vehicle which has many safety concerns, particularly overheating. Officer McGowan knew that Folcroft Borough has a fully equipped Dodge Charger for about \$10,000. He has already received \$2,000 in donations for the vehicle and \$500 toward repairs. Chief Rutherford commented it would cost about \$1,000 for repairs, excluding the air conditioning issue. There was a consensus to proceed with negotiations for the vehicle.
7. **Banners** – President Hover commented that the Economic Development Committee had discussed this purchase for the downtown area and four entry points into the borough as well as the Shadeland and East Marshall Avenue businesses. Total cost: 16 banners @ \$55 = \$2,000. There arrived a consensus to purchase the banners using design #3 as presented. Mr. Holt asked if the banner design had been presented to the HARB. President Hover indicated that the banners for the downtown business area would be presented to the HARB. The American Legion Post 65 has also been looking into developing a Home Town Hero program in Lansdowne and would like it posted on the web site and in the newsletter. Mr. Holt asked who would be responsible if any issues arose in this regard. President Hover commented it would be the Legion’s responsibility.

Public Comment: Ms. Byrne moved to Suspend Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: Unanimous.

Visitors:

1. Joseph Iacona – 93 E. Essex. Mr. Iacona read his prepared statement regarding his support for reopening the parks, noting that continued closure will not change the virus and pandemic at large. He noted the county population numbers for Covid vaccinations in Lansdowne was only 1% and should not be compared to the remaining population of 550,000 throughout the county. He also felt that waiting six weeks for full vaccination effect would make a huge difference in that it would eliminate half of the summer months.

Ms. Byrne moved to Reinstate Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Action Items:

1. Ms. English moved to authorize payment of bills for the period. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Mr. Hover moved to advertise and forward to County Zoning Planning Ordinance 2021-01 regarding Group homes. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Mr. Hover moved to adopt Resolution 021-14 recognizing the celebration of Juneteenth Day.
5. Mr. Hover moved to issue a COA for 48 East Baltimore Avenue. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous.
6. Mr. Hove moved to issue a COA for 10 North Lansdowne Avenue. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
7. Mr. Hover moved to issue a COA for 12 North Lansdowne Avenue. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
8. Mr. Hover moved to issue a COA for 16 North Lansdowne Avenue. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
9. Mr. Hover moved to issue a COA for 23-25 North Lansdowne Avenue. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
10. Mr. Hover moved to issue a COA for 24 North Lansdowne Avenue. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.
11. Mr. Hover moved to procure 16 Lansdown borough banners. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.
12. Mr. Hover moved to allow American Legion Post 65 to install banners on borough poles. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

13. Mr. Hover moved to enter agreement with NV5 for professional design services at Veterans Park and Highland lots. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
14. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to initiate traffic study on E. Plumstead and Owen Avenues. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
15. SNT/JE to procure police vehicle from Folcroft Borough in an amount not to exceed \$10,000
16. Ms. Byrne moved to open up the tennis and basketball courts for public use. Mr. Hover seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Aye votes: Ms. Byrne, Mr. Hover and Mr. Holt. Nay votes: Ms. Naji-Taylor, Mr. Schleigh and Ms. English. The Mayor broke the tie and the motion carried 4-3.
17. Ms. Byrne moved to open borough hall to all employees June 30th. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous.
18. Ms. Byrne moved to open borough Hall for business customers July 26th. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous.
19. Ms. Byrne moved to suspend July and August Borough Council Business meetings. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
20. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to open police department for all week day public business. Ms. Byrne seconded. Ms. Naji-Taylor amended motion to include opening date of June 1st. Ms. Byrne seconded the amended motion. Vote: unanimous.

Executive Session –Mr. Holt moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:38 PM to discuss personnel issues. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

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

Adjourn – Ms. English moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 PM. Ms. Naji-Taylor seconded. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry
Borough Secretary