

Borough of Lansdowne  
Borough Council Business Meeting  
June 21, 2023 7:00 pm

The Lansdowne Borough Council meeting was held in person and virtually on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

President Hover opened the meeting and Mayor Byrne lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: President Hover, Vice-President Naji-Taylor, Mayor Byrne, Ms. Martsolf, Ms. James, Ms. Young, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Curry. Also present: Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Borough Treasurer Donna Lang, Borough Engineer Kevin Matson, Borough Solicitor Robert Scot

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: by Mr. Griffin

SECONDED: by Ms. Naji-Taylor

Moton to approve the Agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: by Ms. Naji-Taylor

SECONDED: by Ms. James

Moton to approve minutes of May 17, 2023, Borough Council meetng.

VOTE: Unanimous

Presentations

Mayor Byrne presented the Sycamore Award to Mr. Bill Horton. Visit from Ms. Juneteenth Pennsylvania Anna Bullock.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report – For the 5-month period ending 5/31/2023:

General Fund – Beginning Balance \$1,698,925; Year to Date receipts- \$7,372,889; Year to Date disbursements- \$3,928,544; Surplus- \$3,444,345; Ending balance- \$5,143,270

Sewer Fund – Beginning Balance- \$424,019; Year to Date receipts- \$1,481,360; Year to Date disbursements- \$495,713; Surplus – \$877,047; Year to Date Receipts – \$285,741; Year to Date Disbursements – \$42,733l Surplus- \$243,008; Ending Balance- \$1,120,055

Non-Uniform Pension Fund- Beginning balance- \$3,868,562; Year to Date receipts – 307,915; Year to Date Disbursements – \$15,785; Surplus – \$292,129; Ending Balance- \$4,160,691

Police Pension Fund – Beginning Balance- \$10,120,049; Year to Date receipts- \$561,411; Year to Date Disbursements- \$389,913; Surplus- \$171,498; Ending Balance – \$10,291,547

Total of All Funds – Beginning balance- \$16,988,602; Year to Date receipts – \$10,009,317; Year to Date disbursements- \$4,872,688; Surplus- \$5,136,621; Ending balance- \$22,125,231

NOT INCLUDED IN THESE TOTALS:

American Rescue Plan – Beginning balance- \$903,022; Year to Date Receipts – \$14,860; Year to Date Disbursements – Credit of \$3,900; Surplus – 10,960; Ending balance- \$913,982

Solicitor's Report – No information to report. Note of an Executive Session to update Council Borough Petition for Conservatorship

Mayor's Report –

Good Evening Lansdowne! Happy first day of summer!!!

It's been a busy month in Lansdowne! We started off with the raising of the Pride Flag, followed by the raising of the Lansdowne Flag and our first annual Founders Day weekend, then the annual Flag Day Ceremony and then on to the Juneteenth Flag raising and celebration at the Landing. The thing that I love most about these events is that they started off as tiny gatherings with a small handful of people. And through the years, they have gotten bigger and bigger!! These may seem like small things but they are meaningful. I love that we celebrate so many things and I love that more and more of you are coming to celebrate with us! Special thanks to the organizers of these many events including our president and council members, the LEDC, DAR and the LBPA.

Since I am on the topic of volunteering, coming soon is 4th of July parade and this year's theme is Lansdowne LOVE. The LOVE stands for love our volunteers every day. I have said this many times as a council member and it is worth repeating as mayor - everything that happens in town happens thanks to the help of many wonderful volunteers. So this parade is dedicated to them and all of their hard work at countless events and countless years of service. I had asked the Bowes Family if they would be our Grand Marshall but they have opted out as they are still mourning the huge loss of Helen Bowes. So in light of that, I would like to very strongly encourage ALL volunteers to please march in the 4th of July Parade. This parade is dedicated to you and I would love to see you there.

Also, the Mayor's Clean Up will be taking place on Sunday July 2nd (I know I am a week late but this month flew by!) at 10am. The cleanup will be focused on the 4th of July Parade Route. We will meet on the corner of E Greenwood and N Lansdowne Ave. If you can spare some time to help clean up I would greatly appreciate it.

Council President's Report –

*Dear Lansdowne friends, residents, and neighbors, Happy June! What a fantastic month of celebration and great news for our wonderful community in Lansdowne. From the new businesses that are opening to the many community celebrations. Lansdowne is on the move. The question is: Are you 'Downe?*

***New Business Updates:***

*Thank you to Chef Sophia Gallimour for opening Sophusion Fine Dining at 24 North Lansdowne Avenue. Thank you to Leonardo Cruz for opening Leo's Breakfast and Lunch at their location at 36 East Baltimore Avenue in Lansdowne. Welcome to Lansdowne and thank you for choosing our community to open the business! We wish you success and hope that Lansdowne comes out to support the businesses!*

***Lansdowne Pride:***

*On June 1st, Lansdowne Borough celebrated the beginning of Pride Month by hosting a flag raising ceremony to honor LGBTQIA+ Month. Mayor Magda Byrne, Councilmember Griffin, Councilmember Young, and I were delighted to host the many folks in our community who joined in to support the event. We also want to thank Maleata Ragin of UDTJ—Understanding, Devotion, Take Action, and Justice—for speaking and hosting the Pride Flag.*

***Lansdowne Community Day/ Founder's Weekend:***

*To begin, I want to thank the many volunteers who made our celebrations successful. Thank you to the Lansdowne Police Department for their participation in the Lansdowne Founder's Weekend events with the support of the Night Market and Community Day. Also, thank you to the Lansdowne Fire Department for the support of the Community Day. We also want to thank the community groups and businesses who participated to support the day: Delaware County Transportation Management Association, the Greater Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition, Lansdowne Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Lansdowne Neighbor's Club, American Legion Post 65, WSFS Bank, Children of Angels, and CC's Dance Company.*

*Also, on behalf of Lansdowne Borough Council, I want to extend our gratitude to Tiara Austin and the Lansdowne Business and Professional Association and our businesses downtown for organizing an outstanding Night Market to help celebrate Founder's Weekend.*

***Juneteenth Celebration:***

*On June 17th, Lansdowne Borough celebrated Juneteenth weekend with a flag raising ceremony and community celebration at the Lansdowne Landing. We want to thank Delaware County Council Chair Dr. Monica Taylor, State Representative Gina Hackett Curry, and State Senator Tim Kearney for attending the event and supporting the event.*

*We want to thank the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation, Jessica Pointer, and the rest of the Juneteenth Committee for expanding the celebration of Juneteenth with many performers from the Lansdowne community.*

*We also want to celebrate local Lansdowne resident Anna Bullock on being named Miss Juneteenth Pennsylvania. Anna Bullock was crowned Miss Juneteenth on June 10th and will be moving on to the national competition.*

***Fourth of July:***

*We look forward to joining in with the Lansdowne Community in celebrating 4th of July with a parade beginning on East Greenwood Avenue turning on Wycombe Avenue and right onto Stewart Avenue to Lansdowne Avenue. The parade continues north up Lansdowne Avenue and right onto Essex Avenue to the Penn Wood High School Football Field.*

*The parade begins at 9:00 and will be followed by a short ceremony at the Penn Wood High football stadium at approximately 10:00.*

*We encourage all community groups to sign up to join in the parade.*

*This year, we honor long time community volunteer Helen Bowes as the Marshall of the parade.*

*The theme of this year's parade is "Lansdowne L.O.V.E=Lansdowne Loves Our Volunteers Everyday."*

***Upcoming Events:***

*4th of July Parade: 9:00 Parade Route ending at Penn Wood High stadium.*

*Liberia Day: July 23rd on Borough Greene from 11-1*

*National Night Out: August 1st*

*Labor Day: September 4th*

*Enjoy the summer! We hope to see you around Lansdowne. Your friend and neighbor,  
Council President Benjamin Hover*

Committee Reports

1. Public Health and Safety – Ms. Naji-Taylor

At 6/14/23 meeting the following was discussed: Police Manual, part-time police officer advertising, school resource officer at WPSD, street signs in process, use of QR code signs, vacancies on board, status of new ladder truck, EMT services, opioid settlement funding,

street closure process. Also, members of the audience discussed speeding and requested to learn the process of getting speed bumps installed.

Fire Report: for the month of May there has been 36 alarms, year to date 294 alarms, 27 hours, and 10 minutes man hours. Firefighters responding on apparatus is 1.8 average, not on apparatus is .5 average, total 2.3 average, average in-route time is 3:14, average arrival time is 6:36, average time on scene is 25:21, ambulance response year to date is 653. Major incident types: 4 fires, 3 Rescue or EMS assists, 2 hazardous condition calls, 0 service calls, 19 good intent calls, and 8 false alarms. 1 ambulance is out of service.

Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford reports: for the month of May 518 police incident reports, 40 false burglar or hold up alarms, 37 motor vehicle accidents, 9 adults and 5 juveniles were arrested, 944 parking tickets, 92 motor vehicle violations, 8 non-traffic citations issued, 8 abandoned vehicles towed, 41 domestic related incidents.

2. Finance and Administration – Ms. James

At 6/6/23 meeting the following was discussed: Investments with PNC, portfolios are up 5% but mild recession is predicted so they are positioning the portfolios with that in mind. Also discussed available documents, contracts, salaries, tax collector auditor priced at \$7,500, grants, Green Ways and Trails, internet services, employee handbook. Next meeting 9/12/2023 at 5:00 p.m.

3. Economic Development – Mr. Hover

At 6/12/23 meeting the following was discussed: Updates on the Lansdowne Arts and Cultural Council, including conversations with LEDC about establishing the Lansdowne Arts and Cultural Cooperative, discussed updates with Juneteenth and Community Day including a recap of the expenses involved, update on Community development, update on American Rescue Plan and new firetruck, review of Code Enforcement, progress of Veterans Park design, Historic Lansdowne Theater updates, and Library Day resolution to set date of formal observance of Library Day

4. Environment, Parks and Recreation – Ms. Martself

At 6/12/2023 meeting the following was discussed: opening vacancies on EAC; the public meetings on Comprehensive Plan and Facilities Plan; Delaware County Grant Writing Support Resolution; benches at Marlyn Park, message boards, Interboro Park events and EAC articles.

5. Community Relations – Mr. Griffin

At 6/6/23 meeting the following was discussed: theme of 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade which is LOVE; communication with the Dept. of Labor for sourcing work permits for minors; recapped LGBTQIA+ flag raising, comprehensive plan, facilities plan.

6. Infrastructure and Public Works – Ms. Young

Ms. Young reminded residents of Solid Waste rules and practices. Reminded residents of rules concerning recycling, sump pumps and yard waste. At the last meeting, reviewed recycling costs, street signs, cleaning, microphones, graffiti, and trash pickup from alleys. No cases for Zoning Hearing Board. Police chief commented graffiti should go through 911.

7. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Mr. Curry

At 6/13/23 meeting the following was discussed: Findings and recommendations of Tra Gilbert, DEI contractor, from Boards of Commission survey and DEI Proclamation. Next meeting is 8/8/23 at 6:00 p.m. where there will be discussion on updating original resolution.

### Communications

Petition from residents on Madison Road concerning speed bumps.

### Old Business

- Ambulance Services
- Historic Lansdowne Theater Corp. documents. RE: loans/grants
- Marlyn Park benches
- Park message boards and location placement
- Movies

### New Business

- East Lansdowne Athletic Association request for use of Lansdowne facility
- 6/28 EAC event
- EAC extreme weather article
- EAC community garden day
- Resolution to show support for County Sustainability Commission
- Borough secretary
- Liberian Day resolution
- Use of 20 Lansdowne Court

### Public Comment

Mr. Robinson commented on event flyers; Jennifer Hoff of Windermere Avenue commented on DEI report, committee reports and her 6/6 email to council; Mary Catherine Berner of Violet Lane commented on signage regarding basketball usage; Dale Harris of 79 Ardmore Avenue commented on 7/18 Community Science event; Suzanne McElroy of Drexel Avenue commented on communication and policies; and Ms. Connors commented on public comment format at council meetings.

### Action Items:

Motion by Ms. Young to authorize payment of bills for the period. Seconded by: Vote:  
Ms. Naji-Taylor  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Young to nominate Molly Connors for Zoning Hearing Board for term expiring 6/21/25. Seconded by: Ms. Martsolf  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to nominate Anthony Lowler for Zoning Hearing Board for term expiring 6/21/26. Seconded by: Mr. Griffin  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to adopt Batch #5 of the Police Policy Manual subject to changes  
Seconded by: Mr. Curry  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Curry to adopt Resolution 2023-14 Liberian Independence Day. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Young to table Resolution. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Martsof by adopt Resolution 2023-16 Council grant writer. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to authorize execution of a Consent to Assignment by Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation agreement to the re-investment fund and direction of payment agreement condition on approval by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the Budget. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to approve Parks and Recreation movie nights. Seconded by: Naji-Taylor  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to approve the use of Hoffman Park by the East Lansdowne Athletic Association on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday. Seconded by:  
Vote: Mr. Hover-yes; Ms. Naji-Taylor-yes; Ms. Martsof-yes; Ms. James-yes; Mr. Griffin-yes; Mr. Curry-yes; Ms. Young-no  
Motion passes

Motion by Ms. Martsof to hold Interboro Park Bird and Insect count community science event on 7/18 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Rain date: 7/19 Seconded by: Ms. Young  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Martsof to approve article on extreme weather events with edit. Seconded by Ms. Young.  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Martsof to approve article regarding the 6/28 community gardening event. Seconded by: Ms. Young  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to approve the use of 20 Lansdowne Court for art show in honor of Helen Bowes from 9/16 to 11/30/2023. Seconded by Ms. Young  
Vote: Unanimous

Executive Session

Motion by Ms. Young to move Resolution 2023-15 County Liquid Fuels Fund off the table.  
Seconded by: Mr. Curry  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to appoint Kate Dogget as Borough Secretary. Seconded by:  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Young to adopt Resolution 2023-15 County Liquid Fuels Fund. Seconded by: Ms.  
Naji-Taylor  
Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm