

## Lansdowne Borough Council

### BUSINESS MEETING

July 20, 2022

### UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually and in person on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

President Hover opened the meeting and Mayor Byrne lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Members Present: President Hover, Mayor Byrne, Ms. Young, Mr. Curry, and Ms. Bowker. Ms. James attended the meeting virtually due to medical reasons. Vice President Naji-Taylor arrived at 7:03 p.m. Absent: Ms. Martsof was excused for travel 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** President Hover motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous

**Approval of Minutes** Ms. Young motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting of Borough Council on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Seconded: Ms. Bowker Vote: Unanimous

### **Announcements and Presentations**

- Lisa's Shadowbox Express – Lisa was not able to attend the business meeting due to a family emergency.
- Mary Lou Jennings – Mary Lou Jennings was not able to attend. Mayor Byrne wanted to recognize her for her contributions to Lansdowne and those that served with her.

### **Treasurer's Report**

- General Fund Beginning Balance \$1,449,587; Ending Balance \$4,215,058
- Sewer Fund Beginning Balance \$528, 501; Ending Balance \$1,089,890
- Liquid Fuels Fund Beginning Balance \$1,147,223; Ending Balance \$1,173,502
- Non-Uniformed Pension Fund Beginning Balance \$4,394,030; Ending Balance \$3,713,800
- Police Pension Fund Beginning Balance \$12,622,676; Ending Balance \$9,859,707
- Total All Funds Beginning Balance \$20,142,017;0 Ending Balance \$20,051,958

### **Solicitor's Report**

- The Borough and all municipalities of Delaware County are under a DEP mandate to adopt an updated stormwater ordinance by September, because it needs to be included in the Borough's MS4 permit filing with the signed finalized ordinance.

### **Mayor's Report**

- The Penn Wood graduates were recognized for graduating.
- Council was quick to respond to Roe v Wade.

- The next Mayor's cleanup will be taking place on Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. We will meet in front of Pepper Pharmacy and focus on the Plumstead Avenue and Marshall Road area.
- Mayor Byrne has been in contact with members of the EAC and would like to hold a mayor's form to discuss climate change and the environment. The date of August 25<sup>th</sup> has been proposed at the library at the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club.
- Mayor Byrne met with some of the residents who discussed their concerns with some of the homeless in the area and who suggested flying the Ukrainian Flag to show support.
- Lastly, it is important for those to respond on social media in an appropriate and respectful manner.

### **Council President's Report**

#### **Economic Development –**

- The Farmer's Market is open every Saturday from 9:00-1:00 p.m.
- Camelia Coffee Shop will be opening soon at 20 North Lansdowne Avenue.
- Lansdowne Borough Council featured Tay's Donuts, a new online Donut Shop that recently opened in Lansdowne.
- Lansdowne Borough Council voted to support the acquisition of a Liquor License for Roon 55, a sit-down restaurant and banquet space at 55 East Baltimore Avenue.
- Lansdowne Borough Council has continued our commitment to work with the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation to create a new contract that provides \$50,000 to support the endeavors and programming of the Economic Development Corporation including work with the downtown business for collaborative plannings and a Famer's Market Agreement that allows for rent free space on Saturdays throughout the Summer.

#### **Comprehensive Plan Updates -**

- The end goal is October for the work of the Comprehensive Plan Committee.
- The comprehensive plan team is interviewing stakeholder groups including Lansdowne Boards and Commissions currently.
- All residents are encouraged to answer the survey to provide input for the comprehensive plan.

#### **Project Updates –**

##### **Veteran's Parkway –**

- The Lansdowne Borough Council voted to award NV5 Design the contract to develop the building plan and engineering work to develop Veteran's Parkway
- In Phase 2 of the Engineering plan with NV5 design, the Parks and Recreation Board will have the ability to provide input on the plantings and furniture design.
- McKinley Avenue Tot Lot: The McKinley Tot Lot work is currently paused due to the contractor waiting on supplies to complete the project. The next steps will be to install the equipment.
- Councilmember Carol Martsolf is recognized for her in work on producing Tot Lot notes.

##### **Hays Park –**

- On June 25<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Byrne, President Hover, and members of the Environmental Advisory Council and members of the Parks and Recreation Board met to discuss the installation of Solar Tables, the possible ideas of fitness equipment and an event hosted on August 27<sup>th</sup> by the Environmental Advisory Council, Food and Our Planet.

### **Community Events**

- On July 4<sup>th</sup>, Lansdowne Borough Council hosted another successful 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.
- On July 24<sup>th</sup>, Lansdowne Borough Council joined with members of the Liberian community in Lansdowne and United States Representative Mary Gay Scanlon, State Representative Gina Hackett Curry, and County Councilmembers to conduct a wonderful Flag Raising Ceremony on Borough Greene.

### **Upcoming Events**

- On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lansdowne Borough will be celebrating National Night out.
- On August 27<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-6:00, Lansdowne Borough will host through the Environmental Advisory Council a community celebration at Hays Park enjoying the Vegan and Vegetarian gifts.
- On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Lansdowne Borough will host a Community Bike Ride and walk along the Lansdowne Loop with the Delco Bike Coalition and Greater Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition. The event begins at 1:00 at Highland Avenue Parking Lot with a community celebration at the end.

### **Committee Reports**

- 1. Public Health and Safety** – Vice President Naji-Taylor reported from the last meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> -
  - Chief Rutherford supplied information on two grants that were submitted. The grants are in reference to the Cops Grant.
  - The officer manual update was discussed during this meeting. The accreditation with the consultant has started.
    - Chief Rutherford discussed going over the policies and bringing them to the committee to review.
  - There was a successful anti-gun march that was successful.
  - It is important that you place an order for an overnight parking permit online. You will get ticketed if you do not have an overnight parking permit!
  - The newly marked police car has arrived.
  - Officer Lassiter and Officer Lyons are up for promotion.
  - National Night Out is August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 p.m.-9 p.m.
  - There is no Fire Marshall Report.
  - The county is marked yellow for COVID-19. It is important to keep practicing safety precautions.
  - There is a community bike ride and walk on September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. Finance & Administration** – Ms. James reported that they are not meeting in the Summertime. The next meeting will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- 3. Economic Development** – President Hover reported from the last meeting on July 6<sup>th</sup> -
  - There was discussion about having canopies for events such as National Night Out for the community to use.

- They discussed what how to and what we should apply for, for any CDBG grants in the Fall.
  - The LEDC was recognized for the hard work that they do for our community.
  - There was an item discussed regarding code enforcement. Our director reported that there was an inspection of 296 rental units, there were 29 violations given out and 42 tickets.
  - The Callahan Ward Property was discussed.
  - The approvals for the Wycombe Avenue Lot were discussed and it is moving forward.
- 4. Environment** – Ms. Young reported from the last meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> -
- There is a community plant-based party in Hays Park on August 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - The proposed statement from the Borough on climate change was reviewed.
  - National Night Out on August 2<sup>nd</sup> was discussed. The EAC, Parks and Rec and Shade Tree Commission would like to participate.
  - The next movie for the summer series is Friday July 29<sup>th</sup> at Hoffman Park is Finding Nemo.
  - The Belmont Park cleanup was postponed due to weather. Stay tuned for the rescheduled date!
  - There was discussion with their involvement with the bicycle coalition on September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- 5. Community Relations** – Ms. Bowker reported from the last meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup> -
- The entire meeting was about the reorganization of the website.
  - The library is considering a drag story hour. There is no date yet.
- 6. Infrastructure and Public Works** – Ms. Young reported from the last meeting -
- Kate Clifford from the HARB came to present information on Lansdowne becoming a certified local government.
  - The June recycling is paying a little over \$30. We would like to see that collection rate go up. They are trying to figure out some ways to encourage residents to recycle.
  - Quick Lots is putting flyers around for the bike lane striping.
  - There were complaints about flooding on Dudley Avenue. Kevin Matson is looking into that situation.
  - The committee voted yes for the street signs. Some of the funding could come from liquid fuels and there was a proposition to sell off the old signs to the residents.
  - The committee approved the HARB wants to write an article for the newsletter. They would like to start some more serious conversations with the residents.
  - The Zoning Hearing Board has a meeting scheduled for July 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 7. Diversity and Inclusion** – Mr. Curry reported that there was no Diversity and Inclusion meeting for the month of July. However, they are in the final stages of hiring diversity, equity, and inclusion professional to come in the Borough to support. One thing that this person will do is facilitate the development of a vision, goals, initiatives, and metrics, and ways we can sustain diversity, equity, and inclusion. The next meeting will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

### Communications

- There is a communication, but that was added to the New Business section.

### Old Business

#### ➤ **Certified Local Government**

- There are some significant changes that must take place with ordinances.
- Council member Martsolf was worried that there would be issues with weatherization.

- **EIT**
  - We are in the process of developing the budget for next year. Currently we have a real estate tax as well as an income tax at half percent.
- **HLTC Stormwater Easement**
  - As part of the development there is new construction that will be at the back of the theatre to deal with stormwater.
  - There is still an easement that needs to be in place as a separate agreement and that is still pending.
- **Website Reorganization**
  - The new website and content management system was developed by CivicPlus.
  - The Borough would like to ensure that both the organizational navigation and content are relevant and user friendly for website visitors and that the content management system's unique capabilities are utilized to full advantage.
  - The goals are to evaluate the current site map and reorganize pages based on actual Lansdowne Borough's residents' current behavior; optimize Home Page and top navigation for maximum visitor engagement based on up-to-date Google Analytics and visitor behavior; standardize top navigation web pages and subpages using modules; and ensure content is accurate and links are working.
- **Fitness Apparatus**
  - We can still apply grant money and apply for grants for the fitness apparatus in Hays Park.
  - Ms. Bowker is going to motion to pursue the fitness apparatus under the action items.
- **COA 18 North Lansdowne Avenue**
  - The application included awnings and window signage.
  - A condition of this Certificate is that the project be completed in accordance with the final plans submitted by the applicant at the meeting.
  - The project must comply with all applicable codes and regulations. It is the property owner's/agent's responsibility to secure all required permits before proceeding with the work.
  - This Certificate shall expire one year from January 5, 2022.
- **Statement – Dobbs v. Jackson**
  - The Lansdowne Borough unequivocally denounce this ruling by the Supreme Court. We believe that all residents in Lansdowne have the right to privacy in making medical decisions and reproductive decisions.
  - We will advocate with our elected state representatives to ensure the right to abortion remains in Pennsylvania. And we will advocate with our elected federal representatives to pass legislation to ensure this right for all Americans.
- **Statement – Clean Air Act**
  - Lansdowne opposes the Ruling of the Clean Air Act by the Supreme Court. We believe that all current and future residents in Lansdowne have the right to clean air and a healthy future.
  - Lansdowne will continue to advocate with our elected State and County representatives to ensure a cleaner, more sustainable future for all and a cleaner environment.

### **New Business**

- **Special Needs Advocacy – TCC**

- Special Needs Advocacy Inc. is a headquarter in Lansdowne. We provide fiduciary services to those with disabilities to assist in maintaining their eligibility for government benefits.
- We are planning a community resource event for October 15<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to make Delaware County residents aware of the numerous resources available to them, both funded by the government as well as organizations such as ours. We are hoping to use the 20th Century Club or the 2020 House for this event.
- **Event Canopies**
  - We are looking at two options for the canopies. One is with no markings on it and the other has the Borough's insignia on it.
  - The total cost for the canopies would be \$5,000 to \$7,000.
- **September 17<sup>th</sup> – Bicycle Coalition**
  - Lansdowne Borough is hosting a Community Bike Ride and Walk along the Lansdowne Loop with the Delco Bike Coalition and Greater Philadelphia Bicycle Coalition. The event is on Saturday, September 17, 2022, and begins at 1:00 p.m. at Highland Avenue Parking Lot with a community celebration at the end.
- **National Night Out – August 2<sup>nd</sup>**
  - This is an event that is taking place on August 2, 2022, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Highland Avenue Parking Lot. The event focuses on community-building that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. There will be food, activities, and giveaways.
  - The lot will be reserved at 3:00 p.m.
- **LBPA Request**
  - The LBPA has made a request to use both upper and lower lot across from the theatre for a food truck centric event on September 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- **EAC Hays Park Event Budget**
  - This event is August 27<sup>th</sup> at Hays Park. It is a community party, featuring plenty of free food and activities. There is a focus on the food being plant based to make the point that transitioning to plant-based eating is something that we can do to have a better atmosphere.

**Public Comment** Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to move into Public Comment. Seconded: Ms. Bowker  
Vote: Unanimous

- Mr. Ira Joseph; resident of Media PA commented on the Bicycle Facilities Plan. He wanted to recognize Lansdowne for having such a great bicycle facility plan in place.
- Ms. Terri Baraldi; resident of 239 West Plumstead Avenue had a question regarding speeding on Scottsdale Road. Chief Rutherford is positive in thinking that speeding and tailgating will cut down within time.
- Mr. Jerone Cherly; resident of 814 Church Lane is the pastor of New Life in Christ Fellowship. He asked for some consideration for those that go to worship service, especially on Sundays.
- Ms. Nancy Slater; resident of 4 Knoll Street commented on that although the changes on Scottsdale Road to help prevent speeding will cause trips to take longer she believes it is necessary due to the amount of speeding. She is also excited about the bicycle plan.
- Mr. Nathaniel Miller; resident of 32 Schapett Terrace commented on the bicycle facility plan. Him and his wife are very supportive of this plan and believe that it will make Lansdowne a better community.

- Mr. John Moore; resident of 112 Greenwood Avenue commented on the Scottdale Road speeding issue. He would like us to consider doubling the speed bumps instead of making it a one lane road.
- Ms. Bonnie McSchane; resident of 80 West Baltimore Avenue wanted to show support to the Churches in Lansdowne. She is worried about the safety of the bikers in the bike lanes. She wants to make sure that bikers are abiding to the rules as well.
- Mr. William Horton; resident of 30 Linden Avenue commented on the Sunshine Act and wants to see the committee agendas posted. He also wants to see the location of where the Park and Rec Board is meeting on the Borough Calendar. He noted that the streetlight on Linden Avenue has been out for some time. It is on back order. He also wanted to thank Chief Rutherford for doing his job and being a great gentleman. Lastly, he wanted to comment on the website reorganization.

**Action Items** Ms. Bowker motioned to move from Public Comment to Action Items. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous

1. Ms. James motioned to authorize payment of bills for the period. Seconded: Ms. Bowker Vote: Unanimous
2. Ms. James motioned to advertise Ordinance 2022-02 regarding adjustment of fees Portnoff is authorized to charge. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous
3. President Hover motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-28 regarding DELCORA's Act 537 Plan submission to the DEP. Seconded: Vote: The DELCORA Act of 537 Plan is null and void.
4. Ms. Young motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-29 regarding the sewer module for 12 South Wycombe Avenue. Seconded: Ms. Bowker Vote: Unanimous
5. Ms. Young motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-30 regarding the sewer module for 48-50 East Baltimore Avenue. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
6. Ms. Young motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-31 regarding the sewer module for 17 South Highland Avenue. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
7. President Hover motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-32 to apply for a multi-modal Grant supporting Veterans Parkway. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
8. Ms. Young motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-33 regarding the size and weight of trucks. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
9. Ms. Young motioned to issue a COA to 18 North Lansdowne Avenue for signage. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
10. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to promote Officer Lassiter to Class D officer. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
11. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to promote Officer Lyons to Class C officer. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous
12. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to table the Certified Local Government upon completion of the Comprehensive Plan. Seconded: Ms. Bower Vote: Passes with one dissent
13. President Hover motioned to adopt changes to the HLTC easement and waive additional consideration that amounts to \$12,158.39. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
14. Ms. Bowker motioned to adopt the website reorganization plan. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

15. Ms. Bowker motioned to pursue procuring fitness apparatus for Hays Park. Seconded: Ms. James  
Vote: Unanimous
16. Ms. Bowker motioned to adopt the Statement on Dobbs v. Jackson. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote:  
Unanimous
17. Ms. Young motioned to adopt the Statement on the Clean Air Act. Seconded: Mr. Curry Vote:  
Unanimous
18. Mr. Curry motioned to waive the fee for the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club for the Special Needs Advocacy.  
Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous
19. Ms. Bowker motioned to authorize Borough Manager to purchase of the tents not to exceed  
over \$5,000. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Passes with one dissent
20. Mr. Curry motioned to approve the Bicycle Coalition on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Seconded: Ms. James  
Vote: Unanimous
21. Ms. Young motioned to approve expenditure for the EAC event contingent on proper Delaware  
County Health Department Licensing. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
22. President Hover motioned to allow the Lansdowne Business and Professional Association, use of  
Lansdowne Avenue Lot on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote:  
Unanimous

**Executive Session** Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to move from Action Items to Executive  
Session at 9:40 p.m. Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous

**Adjournment** Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to adjourn the Business Meeting at 9:50 p.m.  
Seconded: Ms. Young Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Pavlo

Borough Secretary