

Borough of Lansdowne
Borough Council Business Meeting
August 16, 2023 7:00 pm

The Lansdowne Borough Council meeting was held in person and virtually on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

President Hover opened the meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: President Hover, Ms. Martsof, Ms. James, Ms. Young, and Mr. Griffin. Vice President Naji-Taylor was present remotely due to personal illness. Absent: Mayor Byrne and Mr. Curry. Also present: Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Borough Treasurer Donna Lang, Borough Solicitor Robert Scott, and Police Chief Ken Rutherford.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: by Mr. Griffin

SECONDED: by Ms. Martsof

Motion to approve the Agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: by Mr. Griffin

SECONDED: by Ms. Martsof

Motion to approve minutes of July 19, 2023, and July 27, 2023, Borough Council meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

Presentations

Presentation by Stephanie Sena of SREHUP (Student Run Emergency Housing Unit of Philadelphia). She presented Council with information about her organization "Breaking Bread Community". This is a homeless shelter based at 107 Long Lane, Upper Darby. This shelter is pet friendly. She spoke of a need for donations, volunteers and other resources, including meals.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report – For the 7-month period ending 7/31/2023:

General Fund – Beginning Balance \$1,698,925; Year to Date receipts- \$8,810,119; Year to Date disbursements- \$6,072,585; Surplus- \$2,737,534; Ending balance- \$4,436,459.

Sewer Fund – Beginning Balance- \$424,019; Year to Date receipts- \$1,523,412; Year to Date disbursements- \$950,779; Surplus – \$572,633; Ending balance- \$996,652.

Liquid Fuel Fund – Beginning Balance – \$877,047; Year to Date Receipts – \$294,135; Year to Date Disbursements – \$46,750; Surplus- \$247,386; Ending Balance- \$1,124,433.

Non-Uniform Pension Fund- Beginning balance- \$3,868,562; Year to Date receipts – \$610,397; Year to Date Disbursements – \$19,908; Surplus – \$590,490; Ending Balance- \$4,459,052.

Police Pension Fund – Beginning Balance- \$10,120,049; Year to Date receipts- \$1,291,041; Year to Date Disbursements- \$544,774; Surplus- \$746,267; Ending Balance – \$10,866,316.

Total of All Funds – Beginning balance- \$16,988,602; Year to Date receipts – \$12,529,105; Year to Date Disbursements- \$7,634,795; Surplus- \$4,894,310; Ending balance- \$21,882,912.

Solicitor's Report – No information to report.

Council President's Report –

Happy Summer, friends and neighbors, fellow Lansdowne residents,

As we enter the dog days of August and the waning days of summer, I want to take a moment to thank the many folks on the boards of the Swim Clubs in the area and youth programs who made spaces available for our residents to recreate this summer. In particular, thank you to the Lansdowne Swim Club Board and employees and the Nile Swim Club Board and employees for maintaining the vibrant places of joy to fuel the future nostalgia of our children.

Also, as we approach the beginning of the school year, please be aware of the changing traffic patterns in the morning to keep our children safe as they walk to school, bike to school, and are dropped off by their parents. Their safety is more important than anyone shaving a few minutes off their commute by driving too fast.

Public Safety:

At a special meeting on July 27th, Lansdowne Borough Council unanimously voted to provide financial support to the Lansdowne Fire Company to partner with the Narberth Ambulance Company and provide 24/ 7 EMS to the residents of Lansdowne.

Thank you, President Mike Boyce, Vice President Sinoe Naji-Taylor and the Public Safety team, the Finance Team and this council for working as a team to provide a solution to a challenging problem that is being faced by many communities in Delaware County and Pennsylvania.

Also, President Mike Boyce has invited Council to the Fire Company's blessing celebration on September 9th to bring the new ladder truck into service.

[Link to Lansdowne post and News article](#)

On August 1st, Lansdowne Borough collaborated on our National Night Out event with East Lansdowne Borough. Thank you to both the Lansdowne and East Lansdowne Police Departments and Fire Departments and the Lansdowne Business and Professional Association for creating another great night for our community. Special thanks to Officer Albertoli for his many years of coordination of this event.

[Link to Borough post](#)

Economic/ Community Development:

On July 23rd, Lansdowne celebrated with members of the Liberian community to celebrate Liberian Independence Day. Lansdowne Borough is the first and currently the only community

in Delaware county to recognize and celebrate the Liberian community. Thank you to Saadiq Kamara, Amah Dunor, and Prince Massaquoi for organizing the event, the speakers, music, and food. We also want to thank U. S. Representative Mary Gay Scanlon, Senator Tim Kearney, and County Council Dr. Monica Taylor for attending.

[Link to post about Liberia Day](#)

<https://www.delcotimes.com/2023/07/25/lansdowne-celebrates-liberia-day-cinderella-youth-edition-at-summer-stage/>

On July 24th, the Historic Lansdowne Theater hosted an event to announce the completion go fund-raising and the beginning of construction. Many of our representatives were in attendance, including Representative Mary Gay Scanlon, Senator Tim Kearney, County Council Chair Dr. Monica Taylor, Council Vice-Chair Elaine Schaefer. Mayor Magda Byrne and I attended representing Lansdowne Borough. Congratulations to Executive Director Matt Schultz and the Theater Board for working with all of the many partners including Lansdowne Borough to bring this project to near completion. The Theater announced that opening will be in the Fall of 2024.

<https://patch.com/pennsylvania/haverford/18m-historic-lansdowne-theater-restoration-project-now-underway>

[Link to Borough post about Lansdowne Theater](#)

And, if you missed it, Lansdowne has two great new restaurants: Leo's Cafe and Sophusion Cafe.

Comprehensive Plan:

We will be moving forward with the next public meetings to receive input prior to adoption of the Comprehensive Plan this fall. Over the course of September and October, Lansdowne Borough will host two public meetings to receive public comment on the Comprehensive Plan before a vote for adoption.

The first meeting will take place on September 26, 2023, at Borough Hall. The meeting will be at 6:30 in the evening.

We encourage all residents to review the draft proposal and to offer comments here, as well:

[Link to email for Comprehensive Plan Draft](#)

[Link to public comments](#)

Finance:

Lansdowne Borough Council will be holding a special meeting on August 30th at 7:00. The meeting will be hybrid and at Borough Hall. This meeting will be an opportunity for the finance team to review the assumptions and fixed costs at the beginning of the budgeting process.

Thank you to Finance Chair Tangela James, Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Treasurer Donna Lang, and the Finance Committee for their preparation of this meeting.

Facilities:

On August 8th, the ad hoc Facilities meeting met and received a presentation from the Library Board and from Chief Rutherford to review the necessities for expansion and updates to both premises. The presentations were both thorough and thoughtful. Lansdowne Borough Council will consider the alternatives for a site plan and vote this fall to determine the future course of action in selecting the plans to move forward. At this time, there is not an architectural drawing of any buildings. Council will only be voting to determine which strategy to pursue in land development.

Please review presentations here:

[Link to plans](#)

Pennsylvania Borough Association Training

On August 2nd and 3rd, I attended the Pennsylvania Borough Association Municipal Legal Training and attended workshops pertaining to code Enforcement, the Ethics Act, supervision of the police department and the contract negotiations. I shared much of the material with members on Council. On August 16th, both Councilmember Carol Martsof and I attended the first part on a series for Complete Streets policies and implementation. Borough Code provides a stipulation that all Boroughs should provide funding for professional development of Council Members by the Pennsylvania Borough Association and we are committed to maintain the same professional training and expertise that earned our Borough an award for *Excellence in Local Government* this past spring.

Condolences:

At the August 16th meeting, Lansdowne Borough began the meeting with a moment of silence for Raphal “Rap” Curry, a long-time resident of Lansdowne, whose inspiration and legacy pervades the Lansdowne Community and the surrounding areas due to his work as the athletic director of the William Penn School District. Lansdowne Borough Council discussed and passed two resolutions concerning Rap Curry, in honor of not just his legacy, but the legacy of the Newman Curry family who have lived on Bartram Avenue for nearly a century. We offer condolences to the Newman Hackett Curry family and remember Rap Curry for his impact and legacy and memory that still impacts the future of our community. May we all live a full life like Rap Curry.

[Please read the resolutions and Borough Council eulogy here.](#)

Save the Date:

August 30: Special Council Meeting: Budget: 7:00 at Borough Hall
September 26th: Comprehensive Plan Meeting: 6:30 at Borough Hall
September 30th: Celebration of Labor: 1pm-4pm 20th Century Club

October 1st: Arts on the Avenue: 12- 6 Lansdowne Avenue and Owen Avenue Lot
October 21st: Dedication of Rap Curry Park “The Center”: Bartram Avenue

To all of my friends, neighbors and fellow residents, Lansdowne is on the Move.

I hope to see you around the town in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Hover

Committee Reports –

- Public Health and Safety – Ms. Naji-Taylor
 - There was no meeting this month. The committee will reconvene in September.

- Finance and Administration – Ms. James
 - There was no meeting this month. The committee will reconvene on 9/12/23 at 5:00 pm and will discuss the employee handbook and the budget. There will be a special meeting on 8/30 at 7:00 pm with the finance team at council chambers to discuss budgets.

- Economic Development – Mr. Hover
 - At 8/9/2023 meeting the following was discussed: CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) updates; Department of Housing and Urban Development Fair Housing training; American Rescue Plan; Lansdowne Business and Professionals Association meeting on 8/22/2023; Code Enforcement office report; Comprehensive Plan; updates on Veterans’ Parkway; Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation updates; Facilities Plan update; Lansdowne Arts and Cultural Council reports/updates; Lansdowne Arts Festival; message boards; mural at Hoffman Park and Hispanic Heritage Month resolution. Next meeting will be second Wednesday in September at 6:00 pm.

- Environment, Parks, and Recreation – Ms. Martsof
 - At 8/14/2023 meeting the following was discussed: Vacancies on EAC Parks and Rec and Shade Tree Commission; free tree signs; pollinator events; community choice aggregation; reviewed a newsletter article that the EAC would like to provide; Delaware County Sustainability Plan; sample resolution provided by Council of Mayors.

- 5. Community Relations – Mr. Griffin
 - At 8/1/2023 meeting the following was discussed: Liberian flag raising celebration; resolution offering condolences to the Curry family and name change of Interboro Park; mural art program for Hoffman Park; career fair for residents of Lansdowne; update for park benches and cork boards.

6. Infrastructure and Public Works – Ms. Young

At the last meeting the following was discussed: Purchase of back-up batteries for three borough intersections; website form for resident's request for speedbumps; storm water inlets; street signs; website emergency banner and facilities sound system.

7. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Mr. Curry

- No report. Next meeting scheduled for September.

Communications

Letter from the Darby Creek Joint Authority.

Old Business

- School Resource Officer update
- Hoffman Park mural presentation by Andre Johnson and questions followed.
- Labor Day Event/career fair
- Facilities planning
- Comprehensive planning

New Business

- Delco Greenways 4/grants
- Lansdowne Folk Club
- Renaming of Interboro Park resolution
- Condolence resolution
- SEPTA Senior ID card outlet
- Labor Day event flyer date change resolution
- LEDC banner
- WSFS Shred event

Public Comment

Joseph Martino of 181 Bryn Mawr Avenue commented on borough/committee budgets; school resource officer.

Andre Johnson of 26 Mansfield Road commented on community involvement in Lansdowne parks.

Jennifer Plumb of 182 W. Greenwood Avenue commented on school resource officer.

Action Items:

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

Motion by Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2023-19 renaming Interboro Park to Ralphal "Rap" Curry Park with friendly amendments. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to adopt Resolution 2023-20 in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to enter into agreement with the Lansdowne Folk Club for use of Borough facilities. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to promote Officer Oulouhojian to Class A Patrol Officer. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to adopt Resolution 2023-21 expressing condolences in memory of Ralphal Curry. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to authorize the LEDC to set a banner at Gateway Slope entrance from September 1st to October 10th. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to appropriate up to \$500.00 for the Celebration of Labor for September 30, 2023, with friendly amendments. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to approve use of Borough Hall on August 17th 2023, for SEPTA keycard event information session from 10:00 am. to 1:00 pm. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to approve the use Highland Avenue lot near WSFS for their shredding event on 9/9/2023 from 9:00 – 1:00. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to approve the flyer and name change from 9/2/2023 to 9/30/2023 and name change to Celebration of Labor. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

The meeting is adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Executive Session

Meeting moved back into regular session at 9:37 pm.

Action Items:

Motion by Mr. Griffin to give conditional offer of employment to Officer Darryl Savinsky.

Seconded by: Ms. James.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. James to accept Separation Agreement from Erica Solberger. Seconded by: Mr. Griffin.

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting is adjourned at 9:39 pm.