

Borough of Lansdowne
Borough Council Business Meeting
September 6, 2023 7:00 pm

The Lansdowne Borough Council meeting was held in person and virtually on Wednesday, September 6, 2023.

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. Young, Mr. Griffin, and Mr. Curry. Absent was Ms. James. Also present: Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Borough Engineer Kevin Matson, Borough Solicitor Robert Scott.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: by Mr. Griffin

SECONDED: by Ms. Naji-Taylor

Motion to approve the Agenda with Amendment.

VOTE: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: by Mr. Griffin

SECONDED: by Ms. Naji-Taylor

Motion to approve minutes of August 30, 2023, Special Borough Council Budget meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

Presentations

Mayor Byrne read the Constitution Week Proclamation and proclaimed the week of 9/17/23 through 9/23/2023 as Constitution Week.

Reports:

Solicitor's Report – No information to report.

Borough Manager's Report – The Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation's permit has been issued; the planning project for the Lansdowne-Clifton bridge is progressing and is moving into second phase this fall; permanent generator at borough hall is being installed; commented on borough hall boiler and scheduled shredding event.

Police Report- Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford reports: for the month of August 2023, there were a total of 431 police incident reports, 35 false burglar or hold up alarms, 31 motor vehicle accidents, 11 adults and 2 juveniles were arrested, 760 parking tickets, 81 motor vehicle violations, 3 non-traffic citations issued, 4 abandoned vehicles towed, and 32 domestic related incidents. Two sergeants completed field training officer school and are now certified to train, commented on the opening of schools, and reported there are vehicle wheel locks available to residents.

Engineer's Report – Road program has been completed. There was road re-paving of Berkley Avenue and areas along Plumstead Avenue and installation of speedhumps in areas of Greenwood Avenue and Wycombe Avenue. Upgrades of ADA ramps were completed in those areas. The Lansdowne Theater Project construction is underway and Callahan Ward permits are either in final stage or obtained.

Mayor's Report – Good Evening Lansdowne Friends and Neighbors!!

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer and had a wonderful Labor Day Weekend filled with friends, family and fun. I am certainly looking forward to some fall weather soon!

I have a short report tonight and will start with the Mayor's clean up. It should have been this past weekend but I didn't think there would be enough volunteers to pull it off and this weekend I am concerned about the weather so the next Mayor's cleanup will be on Sunday, Sept 17 @ 10am. This month's cleanup will be focused on the Gateway Slope area. We will meet in front of the steps on the corner of Scottdale Road. If you can spare some time on this date I would love to see some of you there.

To all students, Welcome back to school. I hope everyone has a great and productive school year!

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15th. Thank you to council for renewing our Hispanic Heritage month resolution for this year at the August council meeting.

That is all I have to report this evening. Are there any questions for me?

Council President's Report – Happy September, friends and neighbors, fellow Lansdowne residents,

This week, may students and teachers we begin the school year
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.

On August 22nd, Vice President Sinoe Naji-Taylor and I attended the LBPA meeting where representatives from PECO presented on a small business grants and which we discussed the Lansdowne Arts and Cultural Council Initiative sponsored by the Borough and being implemented by the LEDC.

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.

Finance:

Lansdowne Borough Council held a special meeting on August 30th at 7:00 to review the initial assumptions leading into the budget for the fall. 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.

Tonight, we will discuss the possible purchase of a property that if passed would allow us to move forward with the next stages of the development.

At the first meeting in October, Council will have an item on the agenda to make a decision about the next stages in a facilities design. Please review the plans and previous meetings and discuss at the committees to be prepared for a vote.

Pennsylvania Borough Association Training

On August 16th and August 23rd August 30th, 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 Raphael "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.

On October 21st, we will have a ceremony for the installation of the sign with Representative Gina Hackett Curry's office

Save the Date:

September 26th: Comprehensive Plan Meeting: 6:30 at Borough Hall

September 30th: Celebration of Labor: 1-4 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

Communications

One communication that will go into Public Comment.

Old Business

- 2024 Budget
- Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra
- Delaware County Greenways 4 grant application
- Borough website – announcements – emergency banner
- Celebration of Labor Flyer revisions
- EPR meeting – date change to 9/18
- 47 South Lansdowne Avenue
- Lansdowne Business and Professional Association use of lot
- Mural at Hoffman Park Project

New Business

- Community Choice Aggregation-Memorandum of Understanding

- 98 McKinley Residential Proposal
- Breast Cancer Group use of lot
- Park Maintenance review
- Delaware County Interactive Gaming Revenue
- American Rescue Plan Resolution
- East Lansdowne Athletic Association
- WPSD request for street sweeping in East Lansdowne
- Lansdowne Fire Company request for use of tables/chairs

Public Comment

A statement was made by the Borough Solicitor about the public interest in council's employment decisions and public concerns concerning the Sunshine Act. He also spoke about changes to the Borough newsletter.

Councilwoman Jayne Young of Violet Lane read an email from the Lansdowne Democratic Committee commenting on the borough website and methods of communication with residents. President Hover then responded to the questions within that email.

Mr. Ryan Berley commented on 47 S. Lansdowne Avenue property and had a question concerning HARB involvement. President Hover answered resident's question.

Ms. Terri Baraldi of West Plumstead Avenue commented on upkeep at the parks.

Ms. Helen Marcarelli 127 East Plumstead Avenue commented about the Tree Ordinance and the Director of Parks and Recreation position.

Mr. Parsio of 157 Bryn Mawr Avenue commented that he is a member of the Shade Tree Commission. He commented on the free shade tree program and the Director of Parks and Recreation position.

Ms. Marie Campuzano of 40 Albermarle Avenue commented on the Facilities Plan and the library.

Ms. Kymberly Hernandez of 5 Owen Avenue commented on the technology problems at borough meetings.

Ms. Lustgarten of Willowbrook Avenue commented on the Parks and Recreation Director position.

Ms. Jennifer Hoff of Windermere Avenue commented on the Parks and Recreation Director position, 20th Century Club rentals, plastic bags in the central business district, public documents, and the borough website.

Suzanne McElroy of 200 Drexel Avenue commented on the Borough website, the public comment section of the Agenda and the Sunshine Act. The borough Solicitor responded to Ms. McElroy's comments.

Bill Horton – Linden Avenue commented on mural in Hoffman Park, Borough website and banner alert.

Rick Prigg – Commented on the Hoffman Park mural

Molly Connors commented on the Hoffman Park mural

Ms. Hanne Weedon Greenwood Avenue commented on the Parks and Rec Director position and other employment positions in the borough.

Ms. Kate Clifford commented on the 20th Century Club and community involvement in the Hoffman Park mural.

Action Items:

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

Motion by Ms. Young to set the 2023 minimum municipal obligation for the Police Pension Fund to \$550,203.00. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Young to set the 2023 minimum municipal obligation for the non-uniform pension fund to \$168,950.00. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to purchase advertisement in the LSO program booklet at \$150.00 with Amendment for up to \$200.00. Seconded by: Ms. Young
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to accept resignation letter from Joseph Grubb from the Parks and Recreation Board. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Young to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for awnings at 19 East Baltimore Avenue. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Young to adopt Resolution 2023-22 regarding the conversion of debt. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2023-23 regarding memorial of September 11, 2001.

Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to authorize transfer of ownership of 89 McKinley Avenue to Emerging Movements, LLC. Seconded by: Ms. Young.

Vote: Mr. Hover – yes; Ms. Naji-Taylor – yes; Ms. Martsolf – yes; Ms. Young – no; Mr. Griffin – yes; Mr. Curry – yes.

Motion passes

Motion by Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2023-24 regarding the purchase of property at 47 South Lansdowne Avenue. Seconded by: Ms. Naji Taylor.

Vote: Mr. Hover – yes; Ms. Naji-Taylor – yes; Ms. Martsolf – yes; Ms. Young – no; Mr. Griffin – yes; Mr. Curry – yes.

Motion passes

Motion by Ms. Martsolf to adopt Resolution 2023-25 regarding a Delco Greenways grant application. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2023-26 recognizing Constitution Week 2023.

Seconded by Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2023-27 regarding the use of American Rescue Plan funds with friendly Amendment to include \$250,000.00 for the purchase of 47 South Lansdowne Avenue. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Mr. Hover – yes; Ms. Naji-Taylor – yes; Ms. Martsolf – yes; Ms. Young – no; Mr. Griffin – yes; Mr. Curry – yes.

Motion passes

Motion by Ms. Martsolf to enter Memorandum of Understanding regarding Community Choice Aggregation. Seconded by Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Griffin to revise the Celebration of Labor flyer. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to conditionally approve mural proposal with friendly amendment.

Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to request funding from Delaware County Interactive Gaming Revenue Authority grant. Seconded by: Mr. Curry.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to amend the date for the Breast Cancer Awareness by Traci's B.I.O to October 15, 2023, for the use of the Lansdowne Avenue lot. Seconded by: Mr. Griffin.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to authorize the use of Hoffman Park from 9/5 – 10/12 for the East Lansdowne Athletic Association. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to authorize East Lansdowne borough the use of Lansdowne Borough street sweeper. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Mr. Hover – yes; Ms. Naji-Taylor – yes; Ms. Martsolf – yes; Ms. Young – no; Mr. Griffin – yes; Mr. Curry – yes.

Motion passes

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to allow the Lansdowne Fire Company to borrow 20 tables and sufficient chairs from the 20th Century Club from 9/8 to 9/9. Seconded by: Mr. Griffin

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting is adjourned at 9:59 pm