

Borough of Lansdowne
Borough Council Business Meeting
September 20, 2023 7:00 pm

The Lansdowne Borough Council meeting was held in person and virtually on Wednesday, September 20, 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. James, Ms. Young, and Mr. Griffin. Absent was Mr. Curry. Also present: Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Borough Treasurer Donna Lang, Borough Engineer Kevin Matson, Borough Solicitor Robert Scott, and Police Chief Ken Rutherford.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: by Ms. James
SECONDED: by Mr. Griffin
Motion to approve the Agenda.
VOTE: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: by Ms. James
SECONDED: by Mr. Griffin
Motion to approve minutes of August 16, 2023, Borough Council meeting.
VOTE: Unanimous

Presentations

Presentation by Girl Scout Troop #59 detailing their Bronze Award Project, "Litter and How it is Bad for the Environment". They presented Mayor Byrne with trash grabbers. Mayor Byrne read the International Peace Day Proclamation and proclaimed September 21, 2023, as Peace Day in Lansdowne Borough

Reports:

Treasurer's Report – For the 8-month period ending 8/31/2023:

General Fund – Beginning Balance \$1,698,925; Year to Date receipts- \$9,294,643; Year to Date disbursements- \$6,951,155; Surplus- \$2,343,489; Ending balance- \$4,042,414.

Sewer Fund – Beginning Balance- \$424,019; Year to Date receipts- \$1,607,359; Year to Date disbursements- \$963,453; Surplus – \$643,906; Ending balance- \$1,067,925.

Liquid Fuel Fund – Beginning Balance – \$877,047; Year to Date receipts – \$298,529; Year to Date disbursements –\$268,993; Surplus- \$29,536; Ending balance- \$906,583.

Non-Uniform Pension Fund- Beginning Balance- \$3,868,562; Year to Date receipts –\$556,598; Year to Date disbursements – \$19,918; Surplus – \$536,680; Ending balance- \$4,405,242.

Police Pension Fund – Beginning Balance- \$10,120,049; Year to Date receipts- \$1,099,356; Year to Date disbursements- \$613,823; Surplus- \$485,533; Ending balance – \$10,605,582.

Total of All Funds – Beginning Balance- \$16,988,602; Year to Date receipts – \$12,856,486; Year to Date disbursements- \$8,817,342; Surplus- \$4,039,144; Ending balance- \$21,027,746.

NOT INCLUDED IN THESE TOTALS:

American Rescue Plan Funds – Beginning Balance- \$895,222; Year to Date receipts – \$22,957; Year to Date disbursements – \$496,100; Deficit – \$473,143; Ending balance- \$422,079.

Solicitor’s Report – No information to report.

Mayor’s Report – Good Evening Lansdowne Residents! Thank you all for coming this evening either in person or virtually.

We are quickly approaching October (can you believe it!) so I am going to start my report there :)

As you know, during the holidays we have the Jingle Judge Awards. During my time on council I have noticed that a lot of people also decorate for Halloween. So this year I would like to start a new tradition that I am calling the OctoBOO Awards! For the last 2 weeks in the month of October myself and a few volunteers will drive around town to see your spooky Halloween décor. If you love Halloween I encourage you to get outside and decorate and show your Halloween spirit. Your holiday decorations are real contributors to the festive atmosphere of the community.

October 1st is Arts on the Avenue. I have my fingers and toes crossed that there is no rain this year!! Mark your calendars for October 1st - it is a real good time for everyone of all ages.

Lastly, I would like to talk about Mayor's Clean ups. This past weekend I hosted my monthly clean up in the Gateway Slope area. We had some extra time so we decided to make our way down Scottdale Road and try to clean up the basketball courts. We never made it down to the courts. There was so much trash along the way that we really didn’t make it past the first parking area before the pavilion. I know everyone enjoys the parks so it saddens me that some people think it is ok to leave the park in the condition that I saw it in this Sunday. So, with that in mind, I would like to revamp my Mayor clean ups to instead more directly support the park and rec boards efforts during their monthly park clean ups. I also want to challenge our community to keep their areas clean. I get a lot of complaints about trash - this Sunday I had 2 volunteers, one of them being President Hover who is a usual. Please volunteer some time to help keep our beautiful town clean.

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

Council President’s Report –

Committee Reports –

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

At 9/13/23 meeting the following was discussed: Accreditation for police department status; police officer new hire recommendation, police officer promotion; funds for new police department tent; Traci's Bio Walk; CDBG grants; crosswalks; street signs; 4 spaces available on Human Relations Commission and 1 alternate space on Civil Service Commission; speedhumps; borough website banner/voice message.

Fire Report: for the month of August there was a total of 68 alarms, 510 year to date alarms, 35 hours, and 5 minutes in man hours. Firefighters responding on apparatus is 2.7 average, not on apparatus is .7 average. There were 5 fires, 3 Rescue or EMS assists, 8 hazardous conditions calls, 0 service calls, 23 good intent calls, 20 false alarms. Ambulances 19 and 19A are out of service with no discrepancies. Engine 19 is in service with no discrepancies and Truck 19 is out of service, Rescue 19 is in service with no discrepancies, Utility truck, Fire/Police truck and command vehicle are all in service. Narberth Ambulance is scheduled to begin staffing 24/7, 365 starting 9/17/23; the new ladder truck is still at the dealership awaiting a part.

2. Finance and Administration – Ms. James

At 9/12/23 meeting the following was discussed: PNC was present at meeting and gave a review of the Uniform and Non-Uniform Pension Plan and a summary of the plan to minimize losses in the event of a recession; employee handbook; job search for Assistant Borough Manager. Next meeting is 10/10/23.

3. Economic Development – Mr. Hover

At 9/16/23 meeting the following was discussed: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) updates; crosswalks; American Rescue Plan; Fair Housing Training for staff members; updates from the Lansdowne Business and Professional Association; received Code Enforcement report; items on Planning Commission; Comprehensive Plan; Veterans' Parkway; Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation updates on construction; Facilities Plan update; Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation updates; Delaware County Interactive Gaming Authority Grant update; Arts Week; Curry Park dedication; LGBTQIA History Month Resolution; Interviewed person for Planning Commission.

4. Environment, Parks, and Recreation – Ms. Martsof

At 9/18/2023 meeting the following was discussed: vacancies on EAC committees; tree sign updates; update on the Community Choice Aggregation; possible single use plastic bag and single use plastic straw ban; Borough Park maintenance, Hoffman Park mural.

5. Community Relations – Mr. Griffin

At 9/5/23 meeting the following was discussed: Traci's Bio Walk; revisions of the Celebration of Labor; Delaware County Interactive Gaming Revenue Authority grant as possible source of funding for proposed mural; book sale; Library Board vacancy; 125-year anniversary of Lansdowne Library; acknowledgement of Michael Sheenan for 50 years of service at Lansdowne Library. Next meeting is 10/3/2023.

6. Infrastructure and Public Works – Ms. Young

Sanitation: No issues with trash or recycling. Reminded residents that recycling saves Lansdowne money. Paving: Projects will begin in the Spring. Stormwater: Asked residents to clear debris from stormwater grates. The company Epic sent a report of possible solutions to flooding. Discussed street signs; crosswalks; park maintenance and poison ivy control. Facilities: HVAC project is mostly completed; waiting for bid for sound enhancement system for council chambers; discussed in-room laptop for zoom meetings; cleaning of borough buildings; HARB meeting; zoning hearing board denied variance for daycare center.

7. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Mr. Curry (reported by Ms. James)

At 9/12/23 meeting the following was discussed: discussed engaging all of the community; ordinance language and trying to increase the number of intellectually disabled persons hired in the borough. Next meeting is 10/10/2023.

Old Business

- Community Development Block Grants – Crosswalks
- Hoffman Park mural – presentation by Andre Johnson and Eddie Graham followed by questions/discussion.
- Delaware County Interactive Gaming Authority Grant
- Facilities Plan
- Comprehensive Plan
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Report – Action Plan
- Traci's Bio Walk
- Delco Arts Week
- Lansdowne Arts Plan
- Assistant Borough Manager

New Business

- October 21st Celebration of Rap Curry Park unveiling
- Single use plastic bag and single use plastic straw Ordinance
- POA/MIA Day Resolution
- Tent for Police Department
- Peace Day Resolution
- LGBTQIA History Month Resolution
- Local Share Account

Public Comment

Terri Veraldi of West Plumstead Avenue commented on the Hoffman Park mural; Heather Giardinelli Cronin of 102 Madison Road commented on EMS agreement with Narberth Ambulance Service and the mural at Hoffman Park; Jennifer Hoff of Windermere Avenue

commented on Assistant Borough Manager position, 20th Century Club, Parks and Rec position, Lansdowne Arts Plan, and the Borough generator; Hanne Weedon of West Greenwood Avenue commented on the 2018 Arts Plan and the Hoffman Park mural; Molly Connors of Stewart Avenue commented on reciprocal agreements for EMS services, Hoffman Park mural, parks and rec position, Arts and LEDC and a possible designated zoom laptop; Suzanne McElroy of Drexel Avenue commented on Hoffman Park mural, Assistant Borough Manager job description and zoom technology; Ms. (inaudible) of 178 Owen Avenue commented on Borough Council minutes; William Horton of Linden Avenue commented on Hoffman Park mural implementation, crosswalks and council meeting audio; Josh (inaudible), Sr. of 78 Price Avenue commented on Borough Council decisions.

Action Items:

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

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to hire Daryl Savitski as a full-time police officer. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to promote Officer Murray to Class D patrolman. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to adopt Resolution 2023-28 recognizing LGBTQIA history month.
Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2023-29 recognizing International Peace Day.
Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to approve up to \$2,000.00 for a tent for the Lansdowne Police Department. Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Mr. Hover – yes; Ms. Naji-Taylor – yes; Ms. Martsof – yes, Ms. James – Yes; Mr. Griffin – yes; Ms. Young – No.
Motion passes.

Motion by Mr. Hover to approve 2023-30 recognizing POA/MIA Day on September 22, 2023, with friendly amendment to September 15, 2023.
Seconded by: Ms. James.
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to appoint Kat Henry to the Planning Commission for a term.

Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to pursue mural artist E. Graham to develop a mural in Hoffman Park.

Seconded by: Ms. James

Motion by Ms. Young to table this discussion at the request of Robert Curry.

No Second.

Return to vote on Mr. Griffin's original Motion.

Vote: Mr. Hover – yes; Ms. Naji-Taylor – yes; Ms. Martsolf – yes, Ms. James – Yes; Mr. Griffin – yes; Ms. Young – No.

Motion passes.

Motion by Ms. James to advertise for Assistant Borough Manager.

Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Mr. Hover – yes; Ms. Naji-Taylor – yes; Ms. Martsolf – yes, Ms. James – Yes; Mr. Griffin – yes; Ms. Young – No.

Motion passes.

Motion by Ms. Martsolf to have a public hearing to discuss banning single use plastic bags and single use plastic straws, with friendly amendment for date to be determined by Ms. Martsolf and Mayor Byrne.

Seconded by: Ms. James

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting is adjourned at 9:53 pm