

Lansdowne Borough Council

BUSINESS MEETING

September 21, 2022

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually and in person on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Vice President Naji-Taylor opened the meeting and Mayor Byrne lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Members Present: Mayor Byrne, Vice President Naji-Taylor, Ms. Young, Ms. Martsolf, and Ms. Bowker. Late: President Hover and Ms. James Absent: Mr. Curry was excused due to back-to-school night. Also Present: Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford, Borough Engineer Kevin Matson, and Borough Treasurer Ms. Donna Lang. Late: Mr. Robert Scott

Approval of Agenda Ms. Young motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded: Ms. Bowker Vote: Unanimous

Approval of Minutes Ms. Young motioned to approve minutes of the August 17th meeting of Borough Council. Seconded: Ms. Bowker Vote: Unanimous

Treasurer's Report

- General Fund Beginning Balance \$1,449,587; Ending Balance \$3,504,122
- Sewer Fund Beginning Balance \$528,501; Ending Balance \$1,154,349
- Liquid Fuels Fund Beginning Balance \$1,147,223; Ending Balance \$1,166,232
- Non-Uniformed Pension Fund Beginning Balance \$4,394,030; Ending Balance \$1,166,232
- Police Pension Fund Beginning Balance \$12,622,676; Ending Balance \$9,967,048
- Total All Funds Beginning Balance \$20,142,017; Ending Balance \$19,618,844

Solicitor's Report

- The petition for conservatorship of the Walsh Road property was filed. Court should schedule a hearing within 60 days of filing the petition that was two weeks ago.

Mayor's Report

- There were many events that took place in the past few weeks including the Night Market, the celebration of the re-opening of Jamey's House of Music and their new partnership with Conshohocken Brewery, and the ribbon cutting for Camellia's Coffee House and the new bike lanes.
- There are many events coming up. Arts on the Avenue is on October 2nd. The next mayor's cleanup is on October 9th. The annual Halloween party will be on October 29th. All events are listed on the Borough Calendar.
- The Mayor would like to present The Sycamore Award at the October 19th Council meeting.

Council President's Report

Economic Development

- On September 10th, Mayor Byrne and President Hover joined Jamey's House of Music to celebrate the partnership of Jamey's House of Music with Conshohocken Brewery.
- On September 15th, the Lansdowne Business and Professional Association hosted a wonderful Night Market and the many businesses in downtown Lansdowne stayed open and Lansdowne's downtown hosted a great evening for neighbors and visitors.
- On September 17th, Mayor Byrne, Vice President Naji-Taylor, and President Hover joined Camellia Coffee to celebrate its official opening after a long soft opening.
- Also, on September 17th, the Borough of Lansdowne hosted a wonderful Community Walk and Bike Ride.

Upcoming Community Events

- On September 22nd, Open Sound continues their Open Sound series with a concert at the Lansdowne Landing at 7:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m. to provide the preliminary budget discussion with the community.
- On October 2nd, the annual LEDC Arts on the Avenue Festival will take place in Lansdowne.
- On October 22nd, the Borough of Lansdowne will host a free concert for the residents of Lansdowne at the 20th Century Club.

Committee Reports

Public Health and Safety Vice President Naji-Taylor reported -

- There was discussion of the 70 street meters being replaced. Chief Rutherford is going to look into the best solutions and the best cost.
- Chief Rutherford is requesting a new chief vehicle. His current vehicle would be handed down to a detective.
- There was discussion about hiring a part-time officer.
- There was discussion of an additional full-time officer and deputy chief. This was brought up to finance.
- There is no update on the Cops Grant yet.
- Chief Rutherford just received notice that Animal Control is changing their prices.
- The manual update and accreditation were discussed.
- The link for the neighborhood watch is up.
- Vice President Naji-Taylor and Ms. Bowker continue to work on a womens reproductive health care rights resolution and will be giving that work over to the Solicitor before the next meeting.

Finance & Administration Ms. James reported –

- The 2023 budget was discussed and how additional staff members would fit into the budget. For now it looks like the budget is pretty balanced.
- Committees should make sure to have budgets in by October 1st.

Economic Development Vice President Naji-Taylor reported -

- There was nothing that was reported.

Environment Ms. Martsolf reported -

- The summary of the plant-based food community event was a success. There were about 35 people there.
- There was discussion about advertising these events better.
- There are about four submissions for the naming contest of the McKinley Tot-Lot. An early estimate of the deadline for this contest is early November.
- We would like community feedback on the parks. Having message signs at various parks is an idea for us to gather feedback.
- The Ocean of Possibility the Summer Movie Series has come to an end. There weren't too many people who attended. It is important to have message signs to get the word out on these events.
- Joe Grubb is the new Parks and Recreation Board Chair.
- There is a recycling proposal that needs to be further discussed. It is important that the community recycle as much as possible.
- October is official bird migration month.

Community Relations Ms. Bowker reported -

- The Minas concert is officially at the 20th Century Club on the 22nd at 2:00 p.m. The goal is to have it outside. There was talk about having pre-ticketing to make sure there are not more attendees than space allows.
- There was some talk about investing in solar interactive boards from a company called SOFA. They are expensive. This would help promote events. The LEDC and LBPA could utilize these boards.
- The Lansdowne Arts Board is very excited to have their first program at the 2020 House. The lights and dehumidifier still need to be taken care of. There is also question about wi-fi being in the building.
- The Lansdowne Arts Board is recruiting members. They are taking applications online.
- The library has a couple of programs coming up. There is Step into Nature that starts September 28th, and that will be every other Wednesday. This event is for children.
- The library now has passes for the Philadelphia Magic Gardens that you can reserve over the phone with your library card.
- There is a community craft night the first Wednesday of every month.
- The library is also looking for volunteers.

Infrastructure and Public Works Ms. Young reported -

- The paving of the Northeast side of town will begin soon. Residents will receive notice of the time and place of road paving.
- Resident should continue to recycle as much as they can.
- There were no problems reported for solid waste collection.
- There were no sewer issues reported.
- We are looking to be in uniform with storm water regulation with the rest of Delaware County.
- The Zoning Hearing Board has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 28th in the evening.
- There is a Senior Discount available for Verizon Wireless.

Diversity and Inclusion Mr. Curry is absent, so President Hover reported for him -

- Mr. Curry has a meeting this week with the consultant to discuss the scope of work that needs to be completed and will report about their discussion at the next meeting.

Communications

Gun Violence Awareness

- A gun violence awareness organization reached out to council to invite us to a formal launching of a gun violence awareness program that will include elected officials from Delaware County and Philadelphia and the minority communities of the area. This program is scheduled for Saturday October 15th from 12:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. followed by sporting events at 4:00 p.m. The venue is 7601 Lindbergh Boulevard, Philadelphia at the soccer field. All council members and elected officials are invited.

Old Business

HLTC Construction Staging Mr. Totaro reported

- Construction at the theatre is reported to begin later this year, possibly early next year.
- When the construction does begin a staging area will be needed in the Northern half of the Highland Avenue Lot. They are seeking permission to occupy approximately one-half of the parking area of this lot.

Code of Conduct – Ethics: Ordinance/Resolution President Hover reported –

- This is an item that has been discussed at a few council meetings. It is consistent with the Pennsylvania Ethics Act.

Responsible Contractors Ordinance President Hover reported

- This items was discussed in the Economic Development Committee.
- The word “responsible” is focused on.

CDBG 2023 President Hover reported –

- We are still waiting on the map to see what are eligible for potential projects.
- Some of the discussion during the economic development meeting consisted of looking toward the NV5 design.
- In past council meetings it was voted on that the Borough Manager look for other grants for our fitness apparatus at Hays Park.

New Business

Girl Scout use and fee- 20CC Mr. Craig Totaro reported –

- The Girl Scouts are asking to use the 20th Century Club on Sundays through December.

LSO Advertisement Mr. Craig Totaro reported –

- The Lansdowne Borough has supported the LSO in the past by advertising in our concert program booklets. They are hoping to have the same support in the 2022-23 season.

- The Advertising Agreement and check need to be submitted by October 15th.

Delaware County Greenways III Mr. Craig Totaro reported –

- Delaware County has opened a third round of its popular municipal program for open space, trails, and recreation.
- The grant program Delco Green Ways makes funds available to municipalities and non-profit organizations working with municipalities, for projects that advance the County's 2035 Open Space, Recreation and Greenway plan goals: Conserve, Enhance, Connect.

Spina Bifida Walk President Hover reported –

- There was a request to use Hoffman Park for the Spina Bifida Walk.
- This event takes place Sunday October 30th at 9:30 a.m. The time needs to be clarified.

National Pedestrian Safety Month – October Ms. Martsolf reported –

- October 4th-11th Everyone is a Pedestrian, celebrates the many benefits of walking and how we can encourage more walking by creating a safer transportation system.
- October 11th-15th, Safe Speeds Save Lives, reminds drivers that speed limits are not merely suggestions.
- The personal, physical, and environmental benefits of walking can lead to healthier, quieter, cleaner, and safer streets. Walking can also improve local economies and enhance social and community engagement that can lead to more vibrant, resilient, and livable spaces.

New Staff Positions President Hover reported –

- We are looking at budgeting for new staffing positions.
- One of the suggestions taken up in economic development was taking up an assistant borough manager position.
- Job descriptions will be created by looking at the needs of the borough.

Breast Cancer Awareness Mayor Byrne reported -

- Traci's Bio is looking to do a Breast Cancer Awareness event. They want to host it at the Landing on October 15th. They are just looking to co-sponsor with us. They are willing to pay whatever fee is needed to the LEDC. They would like to promote as soon as possible.

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

- Charlotte Hummel resident of 55 West Stewart Avenue commented on the parking of the theatre and the job descriptions and proposal of new staffing. She requested that there be training of the borough staff.
- Suzanne McElroy resident of 200 Drexel Avenue commented on the budgeting process that is coming up.

Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to move into the action items. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Action Items

1. Ms. James motioned to authorize payment of bills for the period. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous
2. President Hover motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-37 regarding Delco Greenways Application. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
3. Ms. Young motioned to adopt Ordinance 2022-03 regarding the management of stormwater in the Borough. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
4. President Hover motioned to advertise Ordinance 2022-04 regarding Code of Conduct. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
5. President Hover motioned to advertise Ordinance 2022-05 regarding Responsible Contractors. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
6. Ms. Young motioned to nominate appointee the HARB for a term expiring 9/21/2025. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
7. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to authorize applications for part time officers. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
8. Ms. Young motioned to waive the fee for the Girl Scouts use of the 20th Century Club for Sundays through the rest of the year December 2022. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
9. Ms. Bowker motioned to purchase full page advertisement in the LSO program. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
10. Ms. Martsolf motioned to approve fee waiver for Hoffman Park for the Spina Bifida Walk. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous
11. Ms. Martsolf motioned to promote pedestrian safety awareness through social media and the newsletter. Seconded: Ms. Martsolf Vote: Unanimous
12. Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to allow breast cancer awareness day at the Landing on October 15th, 2022. Seconded: Vote: Ms. James Unanimous

Executive Session Vice President Naji-Taylor motioned to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. Seconded: Ms. James Vote: Unanimous

Adjournment Ms. Bowker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Seconded: Vice President Naji-Taylor Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted

Hannah Pavlo
Borough Secretary