

Borough of Lansdowne  
Borough Council Business Meeting  
October 4, 2023 7:00 pm

The Lansdowne Borough Council meeting was held in person and virtually on Wednesday, October 4, 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, Mr. Griffin, and 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 Mr. Griffin

SECONDED: by Ms. Naji-Taylor

Motion to approve the Agenda.

VOTE: Unanimous

**Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: by Ms. Naji-Taylor

SECONDED: by Ms. Martsolf

Motion to approve minutes of September 6, 2023, Borough Council meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous

**Presentations**

The swearing in ceremony of Officer Savitski was conducted by Mayor Byrne.

Presentation by Traci Smith detailing the organization she founded named “Tracis B.I.O.” Ms. Smith is a 10-year breast cancer survivor. This organization was founded 9 years ago to educate and help spread awareness of breast cancer. The organization offers support to individuals on their journey with breast cancer. There is a life celebration and breast cancer walk on October 15, 2023, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

**Reports:**

**Solicitor’s Report** – No information to report.

**Borough Manager’s Report** – No information to report.

**Police Report-** - Police Chief Kenneth Rutherford reports for the month of September 2023, there were a total of 357 police incident reports, 26 false burglar or hold up alarms, 31 motor vehicle accidents, 8 adults and 4 juveniles were arrested, 598 parking tickets, 48 motor vehicle violations, 1 non-traffic citations issued, 14 abandoned vehicles towed, and 35 domestic related incidents.

**Engineer's Report** – Mr. Matson reports he contacted PennDOT to have preliminary conversations about the feasibility of various crossing areas and set up a meeting; sign manufacturer reports that materials are expected shortly.

**Fire Company Report** – Ms. Naji-Taylor states there is no report.

**Mayor's Report** – Good Evening Lansdowne!

What a way to kick off October!! This past weekend was amazing! The weather was beautiful and I hope you all found some time to get out and go to at least one of great events that went on this weekend! Thank you to everyone that worked so hard to plan and execute all that went on this past weekend. In case you missed something this weekend: There was the Big Book Sale at the Lansdowne Library on Saturday (and I think they are selling books that were left over at 50% off in the library so check it out), the Celebration of Labor event put together by councilmember Griffin, The Threads of Remembrance event at the 2020 House put together by the Lansdowne Arts Committee (if you missed the opening it will be going on until November 18th so be sure to stop by), and of course, Arts on the Avenue put together by the LEDC (special thanks to Councilmember Jayne Young who rallied all the volunteers that helped make this event a success.).

So what is next for October? OctoBOO Awards!! If you are a fan of Halloween and decorate the exterior of your home, I will be coming around to check out your décor! I feel fortunate that a few folks have offered to help me judge. The criteria will be very much like Jingle Judge Awards. I am still working out the categories but they will include: scariest, most family friendly, best use of Halloween lighting and a few more. Judging will take place the last 2 weeks of October. You will be notified by mail if your home is chosen. I encourage all to participate, I know a lot of homes decorate for Halloween already and I am looking forward to seeing everyone's creativity.

Also, on October 28th I plan on hosting the Annual Halloween Party for kids at the Landing from 11am - 1pm. Later on this evening we will discuss budget for this event. There will be pre-packed trick or treat bags, music, and more. I encourage all to wear costumes although not required. All children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. This is also the last Farmer's Market of the season so once you pick up your trick or treat bag; take a walk through the farmers market and trick or treat with our vendors! Added note: it is also community day and the bake off at the farmers market so if Halloween is not your thing, there is plenty more to do that day.

Lastly, as I am sure you know by now, every now and then I like to address the chatter that is on social media. I must say that I had no idea how important my looks were to anyone while I sit up at this desk!! Now that I do know I would like to address a few things for the record. Firstly, yes, I am tired. I work all day and then come here for a meeting, as does everyone else at this table. During the meeting, I look at the meeting materials as we review them throughout the meeting. I keep an eye on the chat box as I know that is sometimes challenging for the president or the borough manager to check while presenting or talking. I also keep an eye out for hands up during public comment. And for those residents who have my cell number, I do sometimes get text

messages letting me know if they can hear or if they need clarification of something they did hear. All of those things require a lot of looking down. So while you are sitting at home watching a meeting I guess it is not the best look. However, I will continue to do what I believe I have to do in order to execute this role in the best possible way.

Additionally, sometimes I know details of a project but I am not as well versed as someone else. In a situation like that, I prefer to direct a question to the person that could answer better than I can.

That is all I have for this evening. Does anyone have any questions for me?

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

Good evening!

This is one of my favorite months of the year with the changing autumnal colors, the impromptu neighbor hangouts, and the fun times of Halloween at the end of the summer.

### **Library: September 30th**

To begin, I want to say what a great weekend! Thank the many residents and volunteers who made Lansdowne the place to be this past weekend. On September 30th, I attended the Library Book Sale and Bake Sale and found it hard to resist going home with a stack of books. Thank you to many volunteers and the Library Board for all you do make our Library the best in the County. (I see many in our audience, please give them a round of applause)

### **September 30th**

Afterwards, I attended the the Celebration of Labor organized by Councilmember Griffin and want to thank him for creating the event. From the conversations I overheard and participated in, several individuals may have found new careers this past Weekend. Thank you, Mr. Griffin for bringing these trade options for careers to the attention of our community. The resources have been posted on our social media, will be on our website, and in our newsletter.

Then, later in the evening on September 30th I attended the Grand opening of the “Threads of Remembrance” show at the Kiosk Gallery and the 2020 House. Thank you to the many volunteers and artists for participating in the show. This show was a great continuation of the Lansdowne Arts and Cultural Council collaboration with the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation.

### **Sunday, October 1st**

On Sunday, October 1st, I joined in with festivities at the Arts on the Avenue Festival and enjoyed seeing the many artists and activities. Thank you to all of the volunteers, the LEDC Board, and our own Councilmember Jayne Young, in her role as volunteer coordinator, for making it happen.

What a beautiful weekend. After the disappointment of last year's rainout, Sunday's events made for a special day.

### **Community Relations:**

#### **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.

On September 26, 2023, the Comprehensive Plan ad hoc committee met at Borough Hall to review edits to the plan.

Next week, the Planning Commission will meet at 7:00 in the Centennial Room to provide a public meeting on the Comprehensive Plan. After that meeting, Council will have a public hearing to receive any more public comments before adoption.

We encourage all residents to review the draft proposal and to offer comments.

#### **Facilities:**

Tonight, Council will discuss the facilities plan to make a decision about the next stages in a facilities design. This is a major decision with a lot of pros and cons in each plan.

#### **Mural Updates:**

For those who are coming to Council for the first time or just started attending meetings, Council moves forward ideas through discussion in Council meetings and Committee meetings and then voting to take action. Once an action has been voted on that dictates the resolutions and action of the Borough.

**On September 20th, the Delaware County Interactive Revenue Gaming Authority voted to conditionally approve \$20,000 for the mural project.**

**Tonight, at 6:25, Delaware County Council voted to approve the \$20,000 grant**

**On October 11th, I invite any Councilmembers and the Mayor to receive the grant from DCIGRA at 6:00 prior to the Economic Development Committee meeting.**

#### **Condolences:**

On October 22nd from 12:00-4:00, we will have a ceremony for the installation of the sign with Representative Gina Hackett Curry's office. I hope folks in our community will save the date. We will discuss more details about this event later in the agenda.

1:00-2:00—Dedication Ceremony.

2:00-5:00—Community Resource Fair

2:00-5:00 3 on 3 Tournament

**Save the Date:**

October 8th: Mural Feedback Forum at Hoffman Park 1-3

October 11th: Planning commission; Comprehensive Plan 7:00

October 15th: Breast Cancer Walk: Traci's Bio

October 22nd: Dedication of Rap Curry Park "The Center": Bartram Avenue 1:00-2:00 Dedication

October 27th: Open Sound: Halloween 7:00 Landing

October 28th: Borough Halloween Party 12:00 Landing

November 7th: Election Day All Day

November 11: American Legion Veteran's Day Dinner

**A Final note before proceeding on Process/ Decorum:**

As a small community of neighborhoods, residents often bring ideas to Council to discuss and to contribute to the story of Lansdowne: already tonight Traci Smith of Traci's BIO presented and this project was organized by another Lansdowne resident who approached Council to make an event happen. At times, the events presented are more polished, at other times, the projects need work. We want to continue to be accessible to all residents and welcome idea to be added to the community. Please feel free to send and email to me and the fellow councilmembers with any ideas for projects, events, or resolutions.

For those who are coming to Council for the first time or just started attending meetings, Council moves forward ideas through discussion in Council meetings and Committee meetings and then voting to take action. Once an action has been voted on that dictates the resolutions and action of the Borough.

Finally, Council is a public meeting and follows a structure with a time for public comment on items concerning Lansdowne at the end and before any actions taken by Council. Please recognize the decorum of the meeting.

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** – No communications.

**Old Business**

- LEDC (Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation) Arts Festival recap presentation by Chair Bill Brown and Executive Director Deborah Brodeur

- 2024 Budget update
- Community Choice Aggregation of PA
- Veterans Parkway – October 16<sup>th</sup>
- Facilities Plan
- Audio Visual conference room update
- Hoffman Park mural – October 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>
- Breast Cancer Month Awareness Resolution
- Comprehensive Plan update
- Rap Curry Park Memorial Celebration/Flyer – Change of date and time
- DEI Report

### New Business

- Open Sound use of Twentieth Century Club – October 27th
- Mobile Office Hours – Senator Kearney
- Lansdowne Votes Banner
- Halloween Party

### Public Comment

Heather Giardinelli Cronin of 102 Madison Road commented on amplification at Borough meetings and Facebook postings by Lansdowne Police; Jennifer (inaudible) of 182 West Greenwood Avenue posed a question about School Resource Officer; Tony Campuzano of 40 W. Albemarle Avenue thanked council for their hard work, commented on Hoffman Park mural and crosswalks; William Horton of Linden Avenue commented on audio system in council room, graffiti and trash in parks, borough website and Hoffman Park mural; Suzanne McElroy of Drexel Avenue posed a question about Civic Plus fees, commented on a possible Calendar of Events, 2024 budget for EMS services, “Same But Better” option, audio in Council room, message boards, Marlyn Park bench and Hoffman Park mural; Andre Johnson of 26 Mansfield Road posed questions on DEI Plan and councilpersons’ responsibility; Beverly Uram of 178 Owen Avenue commented on Hoffman Park mural and Facilities Plan.

### Action Items:

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

Motion by Mr. Hover to select from the three options, facilities plan for advancement and next steps. Seconded by Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Motion by Mr. Hover for the “Same but Better” site plan. Seconded by Ms. Naji-Taylor.  
Vote: Mr. Hover – yes; Ms. Naji-Taylor – no; Ms. Martsof – yes; Ms. James – yes; Ms. Young – yes; Mr. Griffin – yes; Mr. Curry – yes.

Motion passes.

Motion by Mr. Griffin to enter agreement with E. Graham for Hoffman Park mural. Tabled by Mr. Griffin. No council member picked up the Motion. Motion left on the table to be brought back on 10/18.

Motion by Mr. Griffin to appropriate an amount up to \$1,500.00 for Rap Curry Memorial Celebration with Friendly Amendment for up to \$2,000.00. Seconded by: Ms. James.  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2023-28 in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Seconded by: Ms. James.  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2023-29 in recognition of Italian American Month. Friendly Amendment: Italian American Heritage Month. Seconded by: Ms. James.  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to appropriate up to \$600.00 for Halloween Party. Seconded by: Ms. James.  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to approve Rap Curry Park Memorial Day Flyer with Amendments. Seconded by: Ms. James.  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Curry for DEI Committee to develop proposal introduced by Tina Gilbert into Action Items. Seconded by: Ms. James.  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Young to approve Open Sound use at the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club from 6:00-11:00pm on October 27<sup>th</sup> in the event of inclement weather. Seconded by: Ms. James.  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to approve Senator Kearney's use of Borough Chambers as Mobile Office, date to be determined. Seconded by Ms. James, with Friendly Amendments.  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to approve Lansdowne Votes sign on Borough Green from October 5<sup>th</sup> through November 9<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by: Ms. James  
Vote: Unanimous

Meeting is adjourned at 10:20 pm.