

## **Lansdowne Borough Council**

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

**October 6, 2021**

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

The Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

President Hover opened the meeting led by the Mayor with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: President Hover, Ms. Byrne, Ms. English, Mr. Holt, Ms. James, Ms. Naji-Taylor and Mr. Schleigh. Also present: Mayor Campuzano, Borough Manager Totaro, Borough Solicitor Scott, Borough Engineer Matson and Police Chief Rutherford. Absent: Borough Secretary Henry.

**Approval of agenda:** Mr. Holt moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Byrne seconded. Mr. Schleigh asked for the number of the Ordinance re: tapping fee. Mr. Totaro commented this was not yet available and the action item would be tabled. Vote: unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Holt moved to approve the minutes of the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of Borough Council. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Solicitor's report** - Mr. Scott had no report.

**Borough Manager's report** - Mr. Totaro provided updates as follows:

1. Leaf collection schedule begins October 18 and ends until all leaves are collected. Check website for calendar and areas.
2. The State Auditor's report for the Police Pension Fund and Non-Uniform Police Pension found no adverse findings in the exit audit.
3. 2022 budget is underway and has been discussed in the Finance Committee. Ms. James commented that all committee, board and commission budgets are due by October 15<sup>th</sup>.
4. There has been a significant amount of grant recovery work with ongoing projects.

**Police Chief's report** – Chief Rutherford gave the Police Report for September as follows:

900	responses to police incidents
26	false burglar or hold up alarms
32	motor vehicle accidents
20	adults arrested
8	juveniles arrested
668	parking tickets issued
86	motor vehicle violations
20	non-traffic citations
13	motor vehicles towed
26	domestic related incidents

1. Roxanne Capisi, the new hire for retired police clerk Jocanda Pannell, is successfully transitioning into the position.

President Hover questioned if enforcement had started on South Lansdowne Avenue with the parking restrictions. The Chief commented it would start when the new signage is posted and would allow for a small grace period before enforcement begins.

**Borough Engineer's report** – Mr. Matson reported on updates:

1. Had punch list meeting with contractor and Penn Dot for the Lansdowne Avenue crossing. Some small items remain to be finalized. Maintenance phase will start now.
2. Sewer contract is complete with a few punch list items remaining before payment. The project is not yet in the maintenance phase.
3. Gateway slope contractor was approved to move forward. A meeting was held to discuss prior issues and the contractor understands the terms of the contract. Work is steady but oversight will be required.
4. Bid opening for McKinley tot lot. A meeting was held yesterday morning and there has been strong interest in this project.
5. Tapping fee issue: the model was developed by Mr. Matson in July. A special solicitor reviewed it and had a different take about how pricing modeling was to be prepared. The initial projections had been based on population and now it entails the number of sewage use by various properties. Sewer projections now had to be supplied by the total number of houses, apartment units, etc. that had sewer usage. Mr. Matson indicated that the end result of this will be within a 5-10% margin or the original projection.

Ms. Naji-Taylor questioned the parking issue on South Lansdowne Avenue involving motorists who mistakenly park in the lane space for bike usage. She asked if there was any way to cross hatch in the buffer between the bike lane and road. Mr. Holt suggested considering other possible options by experts in the field before deciding on the issue. Mr. Matson will relay this to Penn Dot.

**Fire Company report** – Ms. Naji-Taylor commented there was no report.

**Mayor's report** – Mayor Campuzano announced that he will be awarding the 2021 Helms Award to Charlotte Hummel at the November general meeting. The Mayor mentioned the extensive public service and volunteerism as well as Ms. Hummel's membership on the William Penn School Board.

1. The Mayor attended five events this weekend: Arts Festival, Lansdowne Safety Day, Farmers Market, Art Show at 2020 House and the Ladies Auxiliary Bingo Bag event. The Mayor thanked all the individuals who helped make these events a success.
2. Borough Greene was lit up last week for National Recovery Day. The Mayor thanked Code Director Jozwiak for purchasing and installing the changing color lights.
3. It is Fire Prevention Week. The Mayor reminded residents to have a family escape plan in case of fire and to be careful with fire pits. Everyone should have fire and smoke detectors.
4. October 30<sup>th</sup>, Kids Halloween Party, Noon to 2 p.m. at the Landing, Children must be accompanied by an adult. Music provided by Joe Foley. Wear masks and practice social distancing.
5. The owner of Bonnie's Wonder Gardens will be the spotlighted new business at the next Council meeting. The new business is located next to her shop on Scottdale Road.

6. The Mayor commented that borough property maintenance has improved but could use improvement. He and his wife pulled weeds in the parking lot of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club and 2020 House before last week's multiple events. The Mayor suggested hiring someone to take care of the public areas on a regular basis.

**Council President's report** – President Hover reported as follows:

1. Gateway Slope – President Hover commended Borough Manager Totaro and Borough Engineer Matson for deciding to pull the bond on this project. A meeting was held on September 20<sup>th</sup> with the contractor to discuss concerns of prior work stoppages. The contractor commenced work on October 1<sup>st</sup> and work is progressing smoothly.
2. CGI Video – postponed but will restart soon. They are soliciting borough businesses to help with costs.
3. President Hover thanked the many volunteers who worked on National Safety Day and gave a special thanks to Officer Larry Albertoli for his work over the years in this endeavor.
4. President Hover thanked the Arts Board for their first art show that showcased borough artists and events.
5. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

**Old Business:**

1. **Land Development Plan** – Callahan Ward representatives gave a presentation of the planned development plans for 17 S. Highland Ave. There will be some buildings torn down and new multi-use facilities will be built on site. Mr. Matson commented that all is good technically and had received conditional approval contingent upon conditions from the Planning Commission. He added that the scope of work presented this past July was consistent with last year's presentation. There will be a three story, 26 apartment units building at the rear of the site with a new building erected closer to the street. The units will mostly be one bedroom with a few 2 bedroom units. Mr. Wardell questioned how police would access the property in an emergency. There will be a wide pedestrian access to the main apartment building and will be gated with a private control entrance. The building vendor will be contacted to confirm any safety concerns. Mr. Matson added that the sewer planning module is being worked on as well for this project.

2. **Comprehensive Plan** – President Hover indicated a discussion was held with the applicant where some adjustments were made to the initial bid. URDC is the contractor. This past week President Hover met with Councilwomen Naji-Taylor and English, Environment Advisory Council Chair Carol Martsolf and resident Kellie Bowker to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review the sequence of how the Plan will be presented to the community. There will be outreach to the community to provide a broad chance to participate. If adopted, the timeline would commence November of this year and reach completion by November of next year.

**New Business:**

1. **EAC – Library Kids Program** – Ms. English explained that some workshops will be held for all ages and will include crafts and educational programs. The first event will be held on October 6, 2021 at the library with additional events planned for November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

2. **Opioid Settlement Letter** – Solicitor Scott commented this is a class action suit by the PA Attorney General’s office as well as Attorneys General in several states against some manufacturers of opioids. The settlement reached awarded \$21 billion for Pennsylvania over 18 years with an additional \$9,000 over 9 years. This settlement is for opioid prevention and abatement purposes only and municipalities need to specifically opt into the settlement. Mr. Scott is checking if signing this agreement will compromise the separate County class action suit. The deadline is January 27<sup>th</sup>.

3. **Pro Act Resolution** – President Hover indicated this was the borough voicing support as a Council for current legislation now in front of the Senate to give more access for unions to organize throughout the country. It will also reign in any abusive practices to restrict those rights to unionize. Ms. Byrne added that the Community Relations Committee supported it as well to take care of borough employees.

4. **Park clean-up Days** – President Hover commented there had been some issues in parks whereby cleanup measures sometimes conflicted with planned events. This will now go through the Parks and Rec Board with Borough Council’s approval and be organized by the Parks Director and Parks Board under its Park Plan.

**Public Comment:** Mr. Holt moved to Suspend Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Visitors:** There was no visitor comment.

Ms. Byrne moved to Reinstate Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Action Items:**

1. Ms. James moved to authorize payment of bills for the period. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous.
2. Mr. Hover moved to enter contract with URDC for services to develop a Comprehensive Plan. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.
3. Tapping fee ordinance was tabled.
4. Mr. Hover moved to approve land development plans for 17 South Highland Avenue. Mr. Holt seconded. Vote: unanimous.
5. Mr. Hover moved to approve Ad Hoc Committee for the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Byrne seconded. **Discussion:** Members will consist of President Hover, Councilwoman Naji-Taylor, Councilwoman English, Parks and Rec Board and Environment Advisory Council member Carol Martsolf and community member Kellie Bowker. They will act as a steering committee for the Comprehensive Plan. Vote: unanimous.
6. Mr. Hover moved to adopt Resolution 2021-27 approving and supporting the Pro Act Senate Bill. Mr. Schleigh seconded. Vote: unanimous.

7. Ms. Naji-Taylor moved to expend up to \$2500 for National Night Out. Ms. Byrne seconded. Ms. Naji-Taylor amended the original motion to stipulate the event as Community Safety Day. Ms. Byrne seconded the amendment. Mr. Schleigh asked if the money had been spent or budgeted for next year. Ms. English commented it had been spent. Vote: Unanimous.

8. Mr. Hover moved to enter into grant sub-recipient agreement with Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation (HLTC) for a blight remediation grant. Ms. Byrne seconded. **Discussion:** Ms. Byrne asked if this was a new agreement or an extension of the original. Mr. Scott commented that it was an agreement by right for the borough to comply. Vote: unanimous.

**Executive Session** - Mr. Holt moved to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. Ms. English seconded. Vote: unanimous.

**Public Session** – No motions were made upon reconvening to Public Session.

**Adjourn** – Mr. Holt moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Byrne seconded. Vote: unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Ann Henry  
Borough Secretary