

Borough of Lansdowne  
Borough Council Business Meeting  
October 18, 2023 7:00 pm

The Lansdowne Borough Council meeting was held in person and virtually on Wednesday, October 18, 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. Young, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Curry. Ms. Martsof attended virtually due to a business trip. Ms. James attended late virtually due to illness. Also present: Borough Manager Craig Totaro, Borough Treasurer Donna Lang, 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.  
VOTE: Unanimous

**Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: by Mr. Griffin  
SECONDED: by Ms. Naji-Taylor  
Motion to approve minutes of September 20, 2023, Borough Council meeting.  
VOTE: Unanimous

**Presentations**

Mr. Hover and Mayor Byrne, on behalf of Council, presented a plaque and flowers to the Curry family in honor of Rap Curry's life, his dedication, his contributions to the community and his many achievements.

Heather Cronin, Annie Fitzpatrick, and Jennifer Parrado presented Council with information about Simon's Heart, an organization founded to help prevent sudden cardiac arrest and death in young people. The presentation was to advocate for installing outdoor AED cabinets in Lansdowne parks and at Lansdowne Landing in event of a sudden cardiac attack emergency.

**Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report** – For the 9-month period ending 9/30/2023:

General Fund – Beginning Balance \$1,698,925; Year to Date receipts- \$10,172,035; Year to Date disbursements- \$8,256,478; Surplus- \$1,915,557; Ending balance- \$3,614,482

Sewer Fund – Beginning Balance- \$424,019; Year to Date receipts- \$1,621,212; Year to Date disbursements- \$1,379,025; Surplus – \$242,186; Ending balance- \$666,205

Liquid Fuel Fund – Beginning Balance – \$877,047; Year to Date Receipts – \$302,852; Year to Date Disbursements – \$272,646 Surplus- \$30,206; Ending Balance- \$907,253

Non-Uniform Pension Fund- Beginning balance- \$3,868,562; Year to Date receipts – \$427,154; Year to Date Disbursements – \$19,918; Surplus – \$407,236; Ending Balance- \$4,275,798  
Police Pension Fund – Beginning Balance- \$10,120,049; Year to Date receipts- \$675,052; Year to Date Disbursements- \$666,552; Surplus- \$8,500; Ending Balance – \$10,128,549  
Total of All Funds – Beginning balance- \$16,988,602; Year to Date receipts – \$13,198,304; Year to Date disbursements- \$10,594,619; Surplus- \$2,603,685; Ending balance- \$19,592,287

NOT INCLUDED IN THESE TOTALS:

American Rescue Plan – Beginning balance- \$895,222; Year to Date Receipts – \$24,601; Year to Date Disbursements – \$496,100; Surplus – \$471,499; Ending balance- \$423,723

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

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

I want to start today's report by reminding everyone about the OctoBOO Awards. I am always driving all around town and I have seen some decorations up already and they all look fantastic! Thank you to all the residents who contribute to this wonderful Halloween spirit.

While we are on the topic of Halloween, the annual Halloween Party will be held on October 28th from 11am - 1pm at the Landing. Kids will be able to stop by and pick up a pre-packed trick or treat bag while supplies last. Then take your bag and trick or treat through the Farmers Market! Also, this year The Lansdowne Police will be there for the 2nd year in a row handing out treats and the Lansdowne Fire Truck will be there. Thank you to the LPD and LFC for carving out some time to join me at the Landing.

As you already heard during the presentations this evening, Interboro Park will be renamed Rap Curry Park, The Center, this coming Sunday at 1pm. If you do not already know, we lost Rap Curry earlier this year. Rap is a Lansdowne native and grew up with this park as his backyard. Rap was prolific in this community, both as a student in Penn Wood and as a part of the faculty as an adult. (And that is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Rap and his impact in this world) Along with the park renaming, there will be a 3-on-3 basketball tournament and a community resource event taking place in the park. Please be sure to come out.

Lastly, I would like to make a comment about the events taking place right now in Israel and Palestine. You might feel like Lansdowne has no place commenting on world events. But terrorism affects everyone. There have already been reports of hate crimes here because of activity there. I pray for the lives lost and the families affected. For those members of our community who are directly affected either because they have family in Israel or Palestine or are originally from those areas - please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. If there is anything I can do to support please reach out.

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

## Council President's Report –

### Committee Reports –

1. Public Health and Safety – Ms. Naji-Taylor
  - At 10/11/2023 meeting the following was discussed: Continuation of the accreditation process discussion with Police Chief with updates.
  - Fire Report: for the month of September there has been 36 alarms, year to date 547 alarms, 80 hours, and 47 minutes man hours. Firefighters responding on apparatus is 2.9 average, not on apparatus is .4 average, total 3.3 average, average in-route time is 2 minutes and 5 seconds, average arrival time is 3 minutes and 37 seconds, average time on scene is 18 minutes and 42 seconds, ambulance response year to date is 1,031. Major incident types: 6 fires, 2 Rescue or EMS assists, 2 hazardous conditions calls, 9 service calls, 7 good intent calls, 10 false alarms. Narberth ambulance began ambulance staffing 24/7/365 Sunday, September 17 at 1800 hours with no issues. The fire department said the service has been phenomenal up to this point and providing service levels above all expectations. The new ladder truck is due back from the dealership this week. Fire Department also shared the results of the recent response ALS (Advanced Life Transport) and BLS (Basic Life Transport): 10 ALS transports for Lansdowne; 12 BLS transports for Lansdowne; the other transports were 15 which totals 37 transports for Lansdowne. East Lansdowne had 0 ALS, 0 BLS and 3 other for a total of 3. Yeadon had 2 ALS, 4 BLS, 3 other for a total of 9. Upper Darby had 4 ALS, 9 BLS, 10 other for a total of 23; Clifton Heights had 5 ALS, 11, BLS, 11 other for a total of 27; Darby Borough had 6 ALS, 5 BLS, 5 other for a total of 16; Darby Township had 0 ALS, 1 BLS, 1 other for a total of 2; other Delco cover had 1 ALS, 1 BLS, 2 other for a total of 4; for a Total of 121 runs. At this time Lansdowne was the top for transports for the ambulance service.
  - Also discussed was the interview of person for Boards and Commissions; Comprehensive Plan and crosswalks; crossing guard; LBPA use of lot; Traci's BIO.
2. Finance and Administration – Ms. Young for Ms. James
  - At 10/10/2023 meeting the following was discussed: 2024 budget; EIT, trash fee and real estate tax.
3. Economic Development – Mr. Hover
  - At 10/11/2023 meeting the following was discussed: Community Development Block grants; status of current grants; Fair Housing training; Hayes Park fitness apparatus; LBPA ; code enforcement; planning commission/comprehensive plan; Veterans' Parkway funding; update on Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation building; facilities plan; report from the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation; Delaware County Interactive Gaming Revenue Authority grant contract; Hoffman Park mural sessions; Rap Curry Center Park dedication; Veterans' Day Recognition and Native American Heritage Month Resolution and National Adoption Awareness Month Resolution. There was a brief presentation about broadband and different funding sources on the state level; a report

by Mayor Byrne on the opportunity to get advertisement in Business Week Magazine; DEI Statement for the committee.

4. Environment, Parks and Recreation – Ms. Martsolf
  - Meeting not held in October. Ms. Martsolf mentioned that she is working with the EAC in setting up times to discuss the Single Use Plastic Bag ban with Media Borough and would like to have a public hearing about the ban. There were 2 public forums to discuss the Hoffman Park mural.
5. Community Relations – Mr. Griffin
  - At 10/3/2023 meeting the following was discussed: Traci's BIO; Celebration of Labor; Hoffman Park mural open forum; LEDC Art Festival; broadband options and funding.
6. Infrastructure and Public Works – Ms. Young
  - Meeting not held in October. Ms. Young spoke about the upcoming Zoning Hearing Board Meeting on 10/25 at 7pm; PennDot letters about reduced money for sinkhole and culvert repairs on state roads and highways; Senate Bill 191 and House Bill 1128; next Infrastructure meeting is 11/13 at 7 pm
7. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Mr. Curry
  - At 10/10/2023 meeting the following was discussed: DEI report from Tina Gilbert; plans for a "Get to Know Lansdowne" event; effective communication with community; creating a procedure to be followed when ideas are submitted to council; closed captioning; linking committee meeting Agendas to the website with Google Docs; broaden Resolution 2303 to include more statistics. Next meeting 11/14 at 6 pm

### Old Business

- First Presbyterian Church building permit fee
- 2024 Budget
- Earned Income Tax
- Comprehensive Plan
- Facilities Planning
- Hoffman Park Mural Agreement
- Delaware County Interactive Gaming Revenue Authority

### New Business

- Closed captioning
- Small Business Resources and Funding Fair on Thursday 11/30 6:00-8:00pm
- Mansfield Brass use of Auditorium on 12/16/23 6:00-8:00pm
- 2005 Fire Truck Sale

- Lansdowne Business and Professional Association Street and Lot Closure
- Greater Gladstone Civic Association Request

### **Public Comment**

Rev. Jonathan Britt of W. Greenwood Avenue commented on First Presbyterian Church's request for permit fee relief; Mr. Josh Moorehead of Price Avenue commented on mural process; Andy Farquhar of 55 W. Stewart Avenue commented on services provided to the community by First Presbyterian Church; Ellen Lustgarten of 32 Willowbrook Avenue commented on trash fees; Mr. William Horton of Linden Avenue commented on AED presentation, Parks and Recreation position, zoom links and Hoffman Park muralist contract; Jennifer Seldon of 182 W. Greenwood Avenue commented on two upcoming safety meetings with WPSD (10/28 11:00 a.m. Pennwood Middle School and 10/30 6:00 pm at Pennwood High School)

### **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 enter agreement with Delaware County Interactive Gaming Revenue Authority. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2023-30 recognizing Adoption Awareness Month 2023. Seconded by: Ms. James  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to adopt Resolution 2023-31 recognizing American Indian Heritage Month 2023. Seconded by: Mr. Curry  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to approve Oc-To-Boo flyer. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to approve Halloween Party flyer. Seconded by: Mr. Curry.  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to advertise for public hearing for final draft of the Comprehensive Plan at 6:00 pm on November 8, 2023. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor  
Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Griffin to enter agreement with E. Graham for mural at Hoffman Park. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor

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

Motion passes 6-1

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to nominate candidate for human relations commission, Yvette Rouse. Seconded by: Ms. James

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to transfer ownership of the 2005 ladder truck to the Lansdowne Fire Company. Seconded by: Ms. James

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. James to advertise ordinance to increase the rate of Earned Income Tax. With friendly Amendment to have ordinances .25 and .5 Seconded by: Mr. Griffin.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Mr. Hover to allow the use of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club by Representative Gina Curry's office on November 30, 2023, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Young to allow Mansfield Brass use of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club on 12/16/2023, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm for a public concert Seconded by: Ms. Naji-Taylor.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Naji-Taylor to allow street and lot closure for the Lansdowne Business and Professional Association on 12/9/2023 from 4:00 – 9:00 pm. Seconded by: Ms. James

Vote: Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Young to allow the Greater Gladstone Civic Association use of the Island in Gladstone Manor on Sunday, 10/29/2023 without fee. Seconded by: Mr. Curry

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting is adjourned at 9:56 pm