

January 4, 2016

The Reorganization Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Monday, January 4, 2016 in the Council Chambers, 1 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 7:00 pm by Council President Leon Angelichio.

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, Jake Ziegler
Finance Director, Brian Shapiro
Dir. Comm. Development, John Ernst
Parks & Rec. Director, Carl Saldutti
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss
Public Works, Rick DeLong
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie

Borough Solicitor, Dave Sander
Borough Engineer, Chris Fazio
Police Sgt., Alex Kromdyk
Library Director, Tom Meyer
IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster
Cust. Svc/Records Mgr., Pat Chapman

Residents:

Robert Willi – 711 W. Fourth Street

President Angelichio – An Executive Session will be held after the meeting tonight and no action will be taken tonight.

Agenda Item #4 – Roll Call

(X) President Angelichio
(X) Councilman Burnell
(X) Councilman DiGregorio
(X) Councilwoman Fuller
(X) Councilman Hansen
(X) Vice President Liberto
(X) Councilman Malagari
(X) Councilman Van Dame
(X) Councilman Work
(X) Mayor G. Andrew Szekely

Agenda Item #5 – Acknowledgement of Outgoing Council

President Angelichio – acknowledged outgoing Councilman, Ray Liberto. Ray served on the Economic Development Committee as Chairman from June 2014 through December 2015. He also served on the Parks and Recreation Committee as well as the Electric Committee from June 2014 through December 2015. Thank you for your time and dedication to the Borough during your time on Council.

Councilman Burnell – Ray challenges us and I think we need that and he hopes that Ray continues to be involved as a citizen.

Councilman DiGregorio – Thank you Ray for your help, support, knowledge and care. What you did for the Borough has been great.

Mayor Szekely – Ray is the one pushing the Revitalization of Lansdale on Facebook. He is a great ambassador of the town.

Mr. Ziegler – He appreciated Ray during his transition to Borough Manager and Ray always has been responsive whether it was a phone call or email. He has a big heart and a true love of the Borough.

Councilman Malagari – Ray was pushing us as a Council. He has a great dedication to Lansdale.

Councilman Liberto – Thank you to Council and our awesome Borough staff. We can't do it without you all.

Agenda Item #6 – Administration of Oath of Office to incoming Council Members

Mayor G. Andrew Szekely swore in:

1. Denton Burnell: re-elected
2. Carrie Hawkins Charlton: newly elected
3. Richard DiGregorio, Jr.: re-elected
4. Jack Hansen: re-elected
5. Steven Malagari: re-elected

Agenda Item #7 – Roll Call of new Council Members

- (X) Councilman Leon Angelichio
- (X) Councilman Burnell
- (X) Councilwoman Carrie Hawkins Charlton
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Councilwoman Fuller
- (X) Councilman Hansen
- (X) Councilman Malagari
- (X) Councilman Van Dame
- (X) Councilman Work
- (X) Mayor G. Andrew Szekely

Agenda Item #8 – Nomination and election of Council President

Councilman Van Dame nominated Councilman Burnell for President.

Councilwoman Fuller seconded the nomination of Councilman Burnell for President.

A roll call vote was taken for Councilman Burnell as President:

- Councilwoman Fuller** – yes
- Councilman Malagari** – yes
- Councilman Van Dame** – yes
- Councilman Work** – yes
- Councilman DiGregorio** – yes
- Councilman Hansen** – yes
- Councilman Angelichio** – yes
- Councilman Burnell** – yes
- Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – yes

Nomination is unanimous 9-0 for Councilman Burnell as President.

Agenda Item #9 – Nomination and election of Vice President

Councilman Hansen nominated Councilman DiGregorio for Vice President.

Councilman Work seconded the nomination for Councilman DiGregorio as Vice President.

Councilman Malagari nominated Councilwoman Fuller for Vice President.

Councilman Van Dame seconded the nomination for Councilwoman Fuller as Vice President.

A roll call vote was taken for Councilman DiGregorio as Vice President:

Councilwoman Fuller – no

Councilman Malagari – no

Councilman Van Dame – no

Councilman Work – yes

Councilman DiGregorio – yes

Councilman Hansen – yes

Councilman Angelichio – yes

President Burnell – no

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – no

Nomination fails 4-5 for Councilman DiGregorio as Vice President.

A roll call vote was taken for Councilwoman Fuller as Vice President:

Councilwoman Fuller – yes

Councilman Malagari – yes

Councilman Van Dame – yes

Councilman Work – no

Councilman DiGregorio – no

Councilman Hansen – no

Councilman Angelichio – no

President Burnell – yes

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton - yes

Nomination wins 5-4 for Councilwoman Fuller as Vice President.

President Burnell – Thank you Leon for your time as Council President. We all need to treat each other with respect. Councilman DiGregorio you should be proud to be nominated. Some people are in this audience tonight because Ray has energized people to be here.

Below is the speech that President Burnell gave:

Thank you to my peers here on Council for supporting me. At the same time, it's clear that we have more work to do to rebuild trust, and I intend to work hard to gain and keep the trust of each of you as long as I sit in the President's chair. I will insist that we treat each other with respect in all things we do here. For me that isn't simply about how we relate or speak to one another, but also how we conduct our business as well. This body has a great responsibility to the citizens of Lansdale -- to first and foremost ensure and maintain basic public services and safety, as well as to invest wisely in the infrastructure and people that make those things happen. Beyond that to be open and responsive to the needs and desires of our constituents. We can only do these things effectively if we do them openly, with ample opportunity for public input and discussion. I would expect any item we ultimately vote on here, unless it rises to the level of an emergency or comes out of

an executive session, will be reviewed through our committee process, with a chance for Council and the public alike to discuss and debate its merits. That debate and discussion is essential to this process as a whole. And yet, at the same time, we must not let it become personal.

Along those lines, I'm reminded of a quote from Emerson that goes: "Let me never fall into the vulgar mistake of dreaming that I am persecuted whenever I am contradicted."

We will disagree, and that is healthy. It certainly reflects the times we live in! We should embrace that debate, and challenge our own preconceived notions, but that debate should never be personal. It is only through the process of civil discussion and debate that we are likely to come to strong and lasting consensus. Yes, at the end of the day, those of us here must vote and decide. But in this way we will have done it in plain view, and considered all available information to hopefully make the best decision possible.

As I thought about what, if anything, I might say this evening should I find myself in this position, I was immediately drawn to something I wrote a while back at a time when I felt I had every reason to be angry with where things were headed in town, but at the same time, I was desperately seeking a peaceful way forward. Writing for me is generally cathartic, and so I share this with you in the hopes that it will express the essence of how I believe we should move forward, and that you will understand it in the spirit it was intended, not just for one of us, but for all of us -- myself included.

"I am hopeful for the future of this town. What I have heard from most of my constituents is that they aren't satisfied with the bare minimum, or "just enough". They want Lansdale to be what it "was" and what it could be again. I want that too. To do that we must respect the lessons of the past, but not dwell in it. We must learn to work together, and do things in the light of day. We must avoid making political decisions, and make the right ones. We must treat each other with respect. We must rebuild trust. We must admit our mistakes. I've certainly made some on this journey. We must put aside our anger, our hurt pride, our desire for revenge, and our desire to be right at all costs. We must act like adults. If we can do all those things, together, we have a chance to make Lansdale the place we all know it has the potential to be."

Thank you.

Agenda Item #10 – Lansdale residents to be heard on any item (five minutes)

Mr. Willi of 711 W. Fourth Street – Congratulations to all of Council and to President Burnell and Vice President Fuller. He hopes we don't see what we have seen the past two years. He hopes everyone on Council remains respectful.

Agenda Item #12 New Business

None

President Burnell – He is working on Committee assignments and Council will hear from him soon.

Vice President Fuller – Thank you to the newly and re-elected Council members and for your support in her position as Vice President.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.