

February 3, 2016

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 9:18 pm by Council President Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilman Angelichio
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- (X) Councilman Hansen
- (X) Councilman Malagari
- (X) Councilman Van Dame
- () Councilman Work – absent personal reasons
- (X) Mayor Szekely

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, not present
Borough Engineer, not present
Police Chief, Bob McDyre
Library Director, Tom Meyer
IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster
Cust. Svc/Records Mgr., Pat Chapman

Residents

Debra Fitzgerald – 42 Vine Street
Carol Zellers – Elm Drive
Anne Henning Scheuring – 225 S. Line Street

President Burnell – Please keep Tom Work and his family in your thoughts and prayers as Tom's father passed away suddenly. We had a record blizzard last week. Thank you to staff, particularly Rick DeLong, Public Works employees, PK Moyer and the other Borough departments that assisted as well; we had zero power outages. Staff did a great job but we can always use this storm to identify ways to improve in the next storm.

Agenda Item #5 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Van Dame

1. The 2015 audit is taking place right now and when it is completed it will be added to OpenGov on the borough website.
2. Discussed capital items list:
 - Discussed the need for a fiber/meter trailer for the cost of \$24,000.
 - Prepare and advertise bid for Lion switchgear for the Richardson Ave. substation.
 - Begin to prepare the bid for the Crestview Rd. project.

- Memorial Park grandstand project for Parks and Recreation
The question was asked how will we plan for future projects? Items on the capital list are projected out through 2021.

3. Electric savings pass back 40% of the total savings. Jim Havrilla, Electric Engineer, recommends a one-time flat rate based on usage class. Residents would receive about \$22 per account. A resident asked if they did not want their pass back could they give it back to the Borough; this is something that staff would have to look into.
4. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Amend ordinance to change the parking rate in the Vine Street parking lot to fifty cents per six hours.
 - Payment #26 for work completed on the municipal complex in an amount of about \$69,125.57. That will leave a \$323,667.02 balance and \$230,000 will be held for retainage.
5. Ms. Anne Henning Scheuring represented to the Committee about the possibility of the Borough purchasing the Freight House property to save a piece of Borough history.
6. Discussed zero based budgeting for 2017. Currently Montgomery County does their budget that way. They may be able to assist us with this concept.

Vice President Fuller – Would the rate change in the Vine Street Lot be temporary until SEPTA's parking garage is done?

Councilman Van Dame – We will look at the rates of the lot after the Madison Lot is developed.

Councilman Angelichio – Zero based budgeting is a great idea and is the least complicated for a Borough like us.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Is the electric pass back set in stone or is it coming before Council again? Maybe we could round down the pass back to \$20.

Councilman Van Dame – Council approved a 40% pass back so we are committed to that total.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman Angelichio

1. On January 26th a public presentation was presented regarding the property at 3rd and Walnut Streets. The developer showed conceptual plan for an off the grid “green” building and this concept will be presented to the Planning Commission on February 22nd. A project like this is something that could be nationally recognized and is in the infancy of planning.
2. Snow removal ordinance states that snow must be removed from sidewalks within twenty-four hours of a storm ending. Due to the large amount of snow we received, the Code Department gave extra time for people to clear their sidewalks.
3. East Main Street Streetscape Grant – This grant would update Main Street from Broad Street to Greenwood Road. In 2014 the Borough received a TAP Grant from PennDOT for \$2.7 million. The Borough has to match 30% of that amount. Upgrades would be done to utilities, street lights, sidewalks,

benches, etc. The planning stages will begin in April 2017 and then construction to end around April 2018.

4. Discussed department statistics for the previous month.
5. The Planning Commission reported that the Zoning Hearing Board denied a duplex at S. Chestnut Street due to parking. They also discussed in-law suites and there is nothing in the Code book pertaining to these structures. Many requests have come in to the Code Department to build this type of structure and we are trying to be proactive instead of reactive.
6. Staff is working with Montgomery County Planning Commission on the Borough's Comprehensive Plan.
7. The Zoning Hearing Board meeting for February has been cancelled. The applicant is re-evaluating their proposal for a digital sign on North Broad Street.

President Burnell – The Zoning Hearing Board was cancelled?

Mr. Ernst – The applicant asked for a postponement so they could revise their application.

Communication Commission – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Thank you President Burnell for being the driving force of the Communication Commission.
2. A user survey regarding the website will be coming in the next few months. The Commission wants to see where and how people are using the website.
3. At the next meeting we will be discussing video equipment to video Council meetings.
4. There is an opening on the Communication Commission if anyone is interested in applying.
5. Audio recordings of the Council meetings will be uploaded to our website the following day.

Economic Development Committee – Councilman Van Dame

1. New officers were appointed at the last meeting. The committee appointed Councilman Van Dame Chairman and Richard Strahm Vice Chairman.
2. The Borough welcomed eight new businesses to the Borough for the months of November and December 2015.
3. Several members of the Facebook group Citizens for Lansdale attended the EDC meeting.
4. They discussed their goals for their Committee.
5. Discussed briefly Main Street Manager Program
6. Mr. Ernst met with DCED PA Downtown Center regarding Main Street Manager program and will have a report at the next meeting.
7. PennSuburban Chamber will have a business to business exchange on February 11th at the municipal complex from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

Councilman DiGregorio – You mentioned a consultant to help with a Main Street Manager? Is that an expense for the Borough?

Councilman Van Dame – DCED provides program assistance but it is not a consultant.

Mr. Ernst – DCED representative came from Philadelphia to meet with him and that visit was paid for by membership dues we pay each year.

Electric Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Purchase of a fiber/meter trailer for the department. This will be purchased through COSTARS for \$24,000.
 - Prepare and advertise a bid for the Lion Switchgear for the Richardson Avenue substation. This is definitely needed for this substation.
2. The utility work for the SEPTA pedestrian bridge has been completed by the department.
3. Added service for the new laundromat on East Main Street.
4. The utility services are complete at the North Penn Commons project.
5. More work will need to be completed for the Andale Development.
6. A capital items presentation will be presented to Council in March.

Library Committee –Vice President Fuller

1. Discussed replacing carpet in several areas of the library. The main floor area can be cleaned. Carpet for the front of the library and vinyl/laminate will be purchased for the computer lab area and along with a rubber tread for the steps.
2. The flag pole that was taken down during the PCTI route construction was located at the Public Works garage and will be reinstalled.
3. Staff is working with the Police Department to reuse the security cameras from the temporary trailers for the library.
4. Mr. Meyer is working on a plan for public usage of the 3D printer.
5. A First Team Challenge Club wants to hold a fundraiser for their robotics club at the library. This fits the Behind the Screens program.
6. Currently in trial period from some programs. One is a Learning Express program for \$3,000 per year to assist students in preparation of test such as SAT's, etc. Students can access from home with their library ID number.
7. Mr. Meyer is looking into a hobbies and crafts database as well as a psychology and behavioral health database.
8. Discussed potentially hiring a part-time employee to manage and track grants that are awarded to the library. A lot of paperwork and tracking has to be completed for these grants which is very time consuming.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. Motion to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Motion to allow staff to schedule Weaver Field in Memorial Park for the spring/summer season.
2. The Charlie Brown concert at Penndale Middle School was well attended and the department may do it again next year.
3. Spring classes are currently being scheduled.
4. New karate classes at the Parks & Rec. building for kids ages 5-11 will begin the end of February. Three sessions will be offered.
5. Staff is looking to add a LEGO's program for Thursday nights in March.
6. The Easter Egg Hunt is March 19 and the Pysanky Decorating is March 12.
7. Sign-ups for summer programs will start soon and the planning of summer concerts is happening now.

8. Founders Day will be on Saturday, August 27th. Planning has begun.
9. First Fridays will start in May this year instead of April and planning is ongoing.
10. Discussed maintenance and snow removal in the parks. The parks staff have several miles of sidewalks to clear as well as all parking lots before they can assist Public Works.
11. Discussed the budget and the skate park. The Borough received a grant for the skate park and Equus will contribute as well for this project even though it may not be in the original planned location. Also discussed Memorial Park grandstand and replacing the roof at 5th Street garage.
12. Staff is inquiring about moving the Liberty Bell grant from the Madison Lot project to the Andale Development.
13. Eagle Scout Project – Brian Mayer will create signage that explain the history of the cannons in Memorial Park.

Public Safety Committee – Councilman Hansen

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Prepare and advertise for a handicapped parking space at 174 E. Second Street.
 - Prepare and advertise an ordinance to amend the Chapter 7, Sections 7-4, 7-5, and 7-6 Civil Service Code related to Sergeant and Lieutenant testing.
 - Support the PA Heroes Walk for Saturday, May 28th at 10:00am.
 - Approve Lansdale Day for June 4th from 10:00am to 4:00pm.
 - Prepare and advertise an ordinance to restrict parking on East Fourth Street at the entrance of Williamsburg Court due to line of site issues. The homeowner's association is responsible for streets within the development and those streets are considered driveways so Pennoni Associates suggested that parking be limited on East Fourth Street for safety purposes.
2. A resident requested that a four way stop sign be placed at North Line and Seventh Streets. There is already a traffic light at that intersection and it is a safe intersection.
3. With the 9th Street Station opening there have been concerns regarding traffic in that area. The Police Department will put the JAMR system out there after the snow melts to collect data.
4. Discussed the budget and one patrol car will be replaced in 2016. Also, Taser replacements and upgrades are needed for all Tasers which will cost about \$10,000.
5. The Commonwealth may mandate sometime in the near future that all officers wear body cameras and the Borough must be prepared financially for this purchase.
6. An upgrade to the department's phone system is needed and will cost about \$18,000.
7. A warning to residents to please be aware of scammer phone calls. Tax season is approaching and the calls will increase.

Councilman DiGregorio – Can the patrol in the Gettysburg Drive and Norway Drive be increased when kids are going and coming home from school?

Councilman Van Dame – During Lansdale Day some businesses have complained that customers can't get to their stores on Main Street because vendor tables are set up in front of their stores. Can a business get a vendor table for themselves in front of their store at no cost?

Councilman Hansen – This was discussed and Mayor Szekely will speak to the Rotary Club about this.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Malagari

1. GIS/IT Team showed a presentation to the committee regarding a road maintenance program that are creating.
2. 2013 CDBG Project – The contractor Gorecon Inc. has not responded to requests for information to close out this project.
3. 2014 CDBG Project – Waiting for SJM to submit their paperwork for payment.
4. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Payment request for work completed on the Perkiomen Avenue Project in the amount of \$102,562.74.
 - Change order for the Perkiomen Avenue Project in the amount of \$432.45.
 - Payment request for work completed on the WWTP Capacity Upgrade Project in the amount of \$150,544.18. That will leave a \$208,000 balance.
 - Resolution for the Wissahickon Alternative TMDL plan.
 - Payment request for utility work completed on the 2013 Roads Program to Laffredo Construction in the amount of \$19,134.22.
5. Blizzard Jonas – Twenty-six inches of snow fell in a 24-hour period which is a huge amount of snow to clear off the roads in a short amount of time. Copies of an FAQ sheet are available at Borough Hall.

Mr. DeLong – The Borough plows snow in three sections and it takes four hours to plow priority roads. With the constant snowfall they had to go back and plow the priority roads immediately after the first run through before starting on secondary roads. It takes six hours to plow the secondary roads which then they had to go back to the priority roads to plow them again. The crews worked 40 hours straight from Friday night to Sunday.

6. Discussed the budget and the blizzard did not affect the budget too much.
7. **Mayor Szekely** – Introduced on behalf of the International Spring Festival (ISF) purchasing and hanging various countries banners and American flags on street light poles on W. Main Street. They are requesting that the banners be hung for one month, April, for the International Spring Festival that is on April 16th.

Ms. Anne Henning Scheuring – Presented a proposal to hang Lansdale Borough Veteran Hometown Heroes banners on W. Main Street after the ISF banners come down until after Veterans Day. The banners can be purchased for \$100 each for any veteran that was born and/or raised in the Borough or any veterans currently living in the Borough.

Councilman DiGregorio – He sent an email to staff regarding a resident on Knoll Drive that is having drainage issues in his yard.

Mr. Ernst – He looked into this problem and found that the subdivision was built in the 1970's and there is no easement agreement with the Borough that would allow the Borough to fix the problem on private property. Per the Borough solicitor, this problem is a private matter that the Borough cannot fix.

Councilman DiGregorio – The pipe was installed by the builder and not the Borough?

Mr. Ernst – The homeowner was notified and explained the situation.

Councilman DiGregorio – Are there any other road projects this year besides Crestview Road?

Mr. Ziegler – Perkiomen Avenue will be finished this summer and progress will continue on the East Main Street Streetscape project.

Councilman DiGregorio – Are there any plans on tackling some roads that are falling apart? N. Broad Street from 7th Street to Main Street is really bad.

Mr. Ziegler – N. Broad Street is a state owned road and is PennDOT's responsibility. We have been in touch with PennDOT about the road and they assure us that as soon as the State budget is passed they can put this road on their schedule.

Councilman DiGregorio – Williamsburg Drive was redone a few years ago and it is now cracking.

Mr. Ziegler – Roads do have wear and tear over time.

Councilman DiGregorio – Was the material used on Knapp Road different than Williamsburg Drive?

Mr. Ziegler – Material used on all roads is chosen per PennDOT standards.

Councilman Angelichio – He is surprised that there is only one road project on the schedule for this year. We need to look for more money to do more roads. Can we fund projects and fix more roads this year? Doesn't think just one road project is sufficient.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – The Hometown Hero banners are a great idea.

Councilman Angelichio – How much will each banner cost?

Ms. Scheuring – She is thinking \$100 per banner.

Parking Authority update – Mr. Ziegler gave an update on the Parking Authority.

- They meet the second Wednesday of every month and the meetings are open to the public.
- They continue to work with Equus on the Madison Lot development project.
- Members continue to work with SEPTA regarding the parking garage, specifically allowing the contractor to use lay down space in the Madison Lot.
- An ad hoc committee of Authority members and Council members will meet to have a general discussion between the two entities.

Blizzard comments – Mr. Ziegler commented that this blizzard was of historic portions and it took a massive effort from all departments, office staff, Police Department and first responders to get through this storm. We had twenty-seven inches of snow fall in a 24-hour period which made clean up even more difficult.

Agenda Item #6 – Announcements

Vice President Fuller – Kudos for the list on the Lansdale Facebook page that allows residents to report trouble areas concerning snow and the responses back to the residents. On February 11th the PennSuburban Chamber is hosting a business to business exchange from 5:00pm to 7:00pm in the municipal complex.

Agenda Item #7 – Public Comment

Ms. Debra Fitzgerald of 42 Vine Street – What is the address of the Freight House?

Ms. Scheuring – 111 S. Broad Street.

Ms. Carol Zellers – Kudos on the idea of changing to zero based budgeting for 2017. Thank you to Jake for letting us know of all the other things that have to be done in the Borough.

Ms. Scheuring – On Tuesday, February 9th the Lansdale Historical Society will be dedicating their history museum here in Borough Hall from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06pm