

May 18, 2016

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 in the Council Chambers, 1 Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 7:02 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 VanDame
- () Councilman Work – absent due to illness
- (X) Mayor Szekely

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, Jake Ziegler
Finance Director, Brian Shapiro
Asst. Borough Manager, absent
Parks & Rec. Director, Carl Saldutti
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss
Public Works, Rick DeLong
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie

Borough Solicitor, Sean Kilkenny
Borough Engineer, absent
Sergeant Alex Kromdyk
Library Director, Tom Meyer
IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster
Cust. Svc/Records Mgr., Pat Chapman

Residents:

Nancy Frei – Cypress Street
Carol Zellers – 101 Elm Drive
Bob Ianozzi – attorney for Lansdale United Methodist Church
Pastor Max – Lansdale United Methodist Church
Mike Mickerson – Lansdale United Methodist Church
Cindy Sheetz – Lansdale United Methodist Church
Connie Barnes – Lansdale United Methodist Church
John Darab – Spruce Street
Rose Chapman – W. Mt. Vernon Street
Anne Scheuring – 220 S. Line Street
Ross Ziegler – 43 W. Third Street

Agenda Item #5 – President's Comments

President Burnell – An Executive Session will be held after all of the presentations regarding potential litigation and personnel.

Agenda Item #6 – Presentation –

1. **Swearing in Ceremony** – Sergeant Adrienne Gori

- Sgt. Gori graduated from the police academy in 1999 as valedictorian and began her career in the Lansdale Police Department in 2000 as a patrol officer. In 2010, Sgt. Gori was promoted as the first female Detective; and she is now the first female Sergeant in LPD. She has accomplished many things to date and we are proud to promote her to Sergeant.

2. **Business of the Month** – The Archive presented by Bruce Schwartz.

- The Archive opened in the Borough in 2007 by Dale Mechalas and is located at 725 W. Second Street.
- This bookstore includes new and old books as well as endless newspapers and magazines. The selection is so large it can be overwhelming. Dale receives trailers of books, newspaper and magazines and personally goes through each box.
- There is a children's room, antique room, magazine room, fiction room and non-fiction room to name a few.
- He runs the warehouse with his mother Barbara Mechalas and his fiancé Lisa.
- If you have hours to spend browsing, or even if you don't, this is a gem in Lansdale where you can find just about anything in print.
Bruce's entire speech is attached to the end of the minutes.

President Burnell – Council will go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation on which there may be action and personnel which there will not be action taken tonight. Executive Session began at 7:17pm and ended at 7:51pm.

Agenda Item #7 – Petitions

None

Agenda Item #8 – Residents to be heard on any item

Ms. Frei of Cypress Street – She attended the Civics 101 classes and found them to be very informative. There was a class about how local government works, the workings of the Police Department and a workshop with Judge Ed Levine to learn about the judicial system. Thank you to those that gave their time for the residents, especially Tracy Flynn and Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton for putting together these classes.

Ms. Zeller of 101 Elm Drive- The Farmers' Market begins May 21 from 9:00am to 1:00pm in the Hillcrest Shopping Center. They are also looking for an indoor market for two Saturdays a month with about 25 vendors for the winter months so if anyone has suggestions on where they could house this in the winter they are welcome to share them with the Market.

Councilman Angelichio – Have they looked at the old Tabora Farms location on Main Street?

Ms. Zellers – The Farmers' Market runs on a very slim budget and can't afford to pay a large rental fee.

Mr. Bob Ianozzi, attorney representing Lansdale United Methodist Church, regarding the allowance of a LED sign – Thank you for considering this evening to withdraw your opposition to the requested LED sign at LUMC. We are also asking if Council would give their support for this sign as well. LUMC is aware that there will be conditions that they will have to follow and they are more than willing to do so. There are several audience members who are from LUMC and are in support of this sign.

Pastor Max of LUMC – This sign would greatly assist the church in getting their message out to the community, not only church related messages but emergency messages and other programs that are held in their hall not associated with LUMC. This is for the community not just the church members. He does not like putting up multiple banner signs as they look cluttered and would like to be able to have one beautiful sign.

Mr. Mike Mickerson, President of LUMC – Church members are not just from Lansdale but the surrounding communities and we all care about Lansdale. The single sign would look better and can be useful to the community as a whole. The signs we have now are sometimes tampered with such as letters removed or the letters changed to spell not nice words. We hope you will support us.

Ms. Cindy Sheetz, Chair of Church Council – She is a 60-year member of LUMC and Lansdale is in her heart. She lived in the Borough for many years and now lives just outside the Borough. They are a community-oriented church. You have an open invitation to come visit us. The sign is part of reaching the community and it is the future.

Ms. Connie Barnes, Borough resident for 64 years – They want to be able to do this for the community of Lansdale.

Mr. John Darab of Spruce Street – Has the church decided where the sign will go?

Ms. Rose Chapman of W. Mt. Vernon Street – How will that apartment building at 43 W. Third Street fit into that neighborhood? It looks like a terrible plan. Thank you for filling in the potholes in the alley and thank you to Anne for the Hometown Hero banners.

Ms. Anne Scheuring of 227 S. Line Street – Thank you to the Public Works Department for hanging the banners. We have many more to get up. There have been only positive comments regarding the banners and the town is benefitting from these. We have sold 202 banners to date.

Mr. Ross Ziegler of 43 W. Third Street – He is just stunned about the Hero banners. They are just so great for the community.

Agenda Item #9 – Action Items

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion #1 and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council withdraw the Borough's opposition to the Zoning Hearing Board application of the Lansdale United Methodist Church, and to take no position on the application.

Comments:

Councilman Van Dame – He voted to oppose a few months ago and, in hindsight, he thinks we should not have voted at all and left it up to the very capable Zoning Hearing Board. The Borough is not against the church and we are not discriminating against a religion. He will vote to lift the opposition, but will not support that kind of sign in the business district. The current ordinance is in place for a reason.

Vice President Fuller – She appreciates the compassion of the congregation. She will vote no to lift the opposition. This is not about the LUMC, but the sign itself. LUMC is the first organization that wants to get a variance because the ordinance does not allow LED signs in the Business District and if we allow it then what is the point of the law we put into place. She feels that by receiving the extremely long Right to Know request that this was a legal bullying tactic to get Council to change their mind.

Councilman Hansen – He believes in the many levels of government such as the Zoning Hearing Board. They do a good job and have had to make some difficult decisions in the past. Let them do their job.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – She has heard that one of the reasons for the sign is to attract younger members and be able to change the message from home. To her that is not a

good enough reason to support this sign. She thinks that in that particular area it is a safety issue due to the high traffic present. She also is not happy about the Right to Know request.

Councilman Malagari – He will vote to lift the opposition due to the Right to Know request. It is not worth the taxpayer’s money to have to fulfill that request. He also does not like the LED portion of the sign and there are alternatives that look like paper that are digital.

Councilman DiGregorio – He is in favor of this motion and he likes the idea of the sign and it could be good for the community.

Mr. Ianozzi – Before you make the decision he wants to point out that the ordinance that you have in place does not mean anything. First Baptist Church and Lansdale Catholic both needed zoning changes to get their signs. Also, it is complete nonsense that the Right to Know request he filed on behalf of LUMC was a form of bullying. Federal law demands that all churches be treated equally and he needed to get all information for the Zoning Hearing Board. Please treat us fairly and equally as other churches.

Mr. Kilkenny – Council made a responsible choice when they followed their ordinance. That ordinance was passed several years ago and that is what Council has to follow. This is not religious discrimination and should not be viewed as such. The Borough will have to hire an additional staff member just to fulfill the Right to Know request as they are looking for 40 years of records.

Mr. Ianozzi – No one suggested this is religious discrimination. They are entitled to seek that information through that request; it is their right to request information. Nowhere in the past has the Borough opposed a church for anything.

Councilman Angelichio – He did some investigation regarding safety of a LED sign in a high traffic area and he now feels that it would not be a safety issue. But he does want to make it clear that Council is not against the church. We opposed the sign and the sign alone.

President Burnell – He still opposes the sign. When he voted to support Lansdale Catholic and First Baptist Church the Borough had a very strict ordinance in place and he didn’t then and still doesn’t want to see LED signs in the Downtown District but he felt that changeable signs would be okay in the Industrial District. The Zoning Hearing Board does an effective job and will render a fair decision.

Roll Call Vote:

Vice President Fuller – no
Councilman Malagari – yes
Councilman Van Dame – yes
Councilman Work – absent
Councilman DiGregorio – yes
Councilman Hansen – yes
Councilman Angelichio – yes
President Burnell – no
Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – no

Pastor Max – His heart is heavy tonight. He didn’t expect all of this and there is pain in his heart. He knows what the rules and regulations were, but thought we could work together. They were hoping to be able to reach out to the community through the use of this sign. They do hope to get a variance and hope to move forward.

Motion seconded by Councilman Hansen and approved 5-3.

Councilman Van Dame presented Motion A and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of April, which shows the expenditures listed on the attachment.

Councilman Malagari – Are detailed reports being received yet?

Councilman Burnell – Two out the three reports are ready.

Councilman Angelichio – When will we stop seeing Mod Space in the bills?

Mr. Shapiro – That was a final payment. It took so long because we were disputing some charges.

Motion seconded by Vice President and unanimously approved.

Councilman Van Dame presented Motion B and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the bills \$1,000.00 and over as per the attachment.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Van Dame presented Motion C and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Special Meeting: March 23, 2016
Work Session: April 6, 2016
Business Meeting: April 20, 2016

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Van Dame presented Motion D and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 16-16 regarding the Borough's Emergency Management Plan.

Motion seconded by Councilman Malagari and unanimously approved.

Councilman Van Dame presented Motion E and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 16-17 supporting an amendment to the Sterling Act, and encouraging State elected officials to support an amendment, whereby minimum of one percent (1%) of earned income taxes paid to the City of Philadelphia by persons who work in Philadelphia but reside outside of Philadelphia be paid to the municipality in which such person resides.

President Burnell – He is concerned that we don't have enough information to vote on this and worries about what Philadelphia will do to recoup the loss of funds, such as an even higher wage tax, and then our residents lose.

Councilman Hansen – He is concerned as well. It could end up being a double tax for our residents and Philadelphia residents.

Mr. Kilkenny – Other communities are concerned about this resolution as well. We could have more information to Council before the next meeting.

Councilman Van Dame – The State is considering this and wants Philadelphia to give back the municipalities. We should support this.

Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio. President Burnell made a motion to table this motion and Vice President Fuller seconded to table the motion until more information is supplied to Council. Motion to table unanimously approved.

Councilman Van Dame presented Motion F and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Council President to execute a settlement agreement substantially in the form of the settlement agreement attached hereto as may be amended or revised to the satisfaction of the Borough Manager provided that the Owner executes said settlement agreement, as amended or revised, before the Council President executes the same.

Councilman Hansen – The party that this agreement is for has broken every other agreement the Borough has tried to do with them in the past. Can we make him conform?

Mr. Kilkenny – Mr. Clement handled this agreement, but I believe he believes it has the teeth to it for the person to comply.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion G and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 16-18 granting preliminary and final subdivision plan approval for the subdivision of a tract of land located at 123 South Chestnut Street.

Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and approved 7-1 with Councilman Van Dame voting no.

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion H and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council prepare and advertise an ordinance to provide for Accessory Dwelling Units pursuant to the Montgomery County Planning Commission's recommendations, as amended by the Lansdale Borough Planning Commission comments.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion I and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council prepare and advertise an ordinance for a zoning map change to provide that certain properties shall be subject to the Downtown Business Overlay District and advertising a public hearing on July 20, 2016 related to 43 W. Third Street.

Councilman Hansen – It troubles him that there will be a six-story building on that small lot in a residential neighborhood. He just can't support it.

Councilman Van Dame – This is not approving the building, just expanding the downtown overlay district.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion J and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the use of Memorial Park by Samantha Grebe and David O'Neill for a wedding ceremony on Saturday, June 25, 2016 from 3:45 pm to 4:45 pm.

Motion seconded by Councilman Malagari and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion K and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the use of Railroad Plaza by the Lansdale Swim and Dive Team for their annual Comb Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, June 25 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Motion seconded by Councilman Malagari and unanimously approved.

Councilman Hansen presented Motion L and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the closing of West Main Street from Broad Street to Valley Forge Road, various other Borough roads (on file in the police department) and the use of Madison Parking Lot from 4:00pm to 11:00pm on Saturday, June 18, 2016 (rain date June 19, 2016), for the 26th Annual Under the Lights Car Show sponsored by the Fairmount Fire Company subject to the Borough's receipt and approval of the required Certificate of Insurance. In addition, the Fairmount Fire Company must obtain from all vendors a Certificate of Insurance for the Borough and the Fairmount Fire Company.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Malagari presented Motion M and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize Payment #15 in the amount of \$10,900.80 to Blooming Glen Contractors for work completed on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade Project per the recommendation of Hazen & Sawyer, PC., engineering consultants for this project. This project is being funded through the 2014 General Obligation Bond.

Motion seconded by Councilman Angelichio and unanimously approved.

Councilman Malagari presented Motion N and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve Change Order #6 in the amount of -\$14,563.22 (reduction) for the 2013 CDBG Road Program (East Second Street) per the recommendation of Remington, Vernick & Beach, engineering consultants for this project.

Motion seconded by Councilman Angelichio and unanimously approved.

Councilman Malagari presented Motion O and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize Payment #7 (Final) in the amount of \$12,778.08 to Gorecon, Inc. for work completed on the 2013 CDBG Project (East Second Street) per the recommendation of Remington, Vernick & Beach, engineering consultants for this project. This project is partially funded by the Montgomery County Community Development Block Program and the Capital Reserves Fund.

Motion seconded by Councilman Angelichio and unanimously approved.

Item #10 – Information Items

Mayor's Report: Mayor Szekely

1. Presented proclamations to four Eagle Scouts from Troop 414 based out of St. Stan's.
2. Attended the Angor Bangla School new year's celebration at the Plains Mennonite Church.
3. Helped with the clean-up of downtown Lansdale with former Little Miss Lansdale Danita Kratz, Tom and Anton Meyer and his Boy Scout Troop.
4. Swore in a new part-time police officer Amanda North on May 17.
5. The PA Hero Walk is on Saturday, May 28 starting at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Solicitor's Report: Mr. Kilkenny

1. Working with Code Enforcement regarding amending Borough Code to include in-law suites as an accessory structure.
2. Drafted the motion for the zoning and overlay district change for 43 W. Third Street.
3. Assisted staff with several Right to Know requests.

Borough Manager's Report: Jake Ziegler

1. The County Commissioners will be holding their Conversations with Commissioners here at Borough Hall on Monday, May 23 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers. This is open to the public. All are welcome to attend.
2. The Memorial Day Parade is coming up soon and all Council members are invited to participate in the parade and ceremony.
3. Boardroom Spirits and Round Guys Brewery are having an event on May 21 in the parking lot of Boardroom Spirits.

Comments for the good of Council:

Councilman Van Dame – North Penn School District Elementary Schools Iron Knights Triathlon will be held this Saturday at the high school.

Vice President Fuller – Discover Lansdale Business Directory is now available throughout town. They are working on getting the directory on their website as well. If anyone would like to nominate someone for the Lifetime Achievement Award you can contact her or go to Discover Lansdale's website. To qualify the person must have had 25 or more years of dedicated service to Lansdale.

Councilman DiGregorio – The Farmers' Market starts this Saturday at the Hillcrest Shopping Center.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Movie night at White's Road Park is this Friday night. The movie is Inside Out.

Agenda Item #11 – Old Business

None

Agenda Item #12 New Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.

The Archive
Lansdale Business of the Month
May 2016
Presented by Bruce Schwartz

They say you can't judge a book by its cover, and nowhere is that more appropriate than at The Archive, at 725 West Second Street. From the outside, the former medical supply warehouse could be a windowless, nondescript storage location for nearly anything. Only a sign or two out front clue you in to what lies within. But step inside, and step into the past.

Owner Dale Mechalas, who moved from an East Norriton location to his current Lansdale site in 2007, has compiled and curated a collection of more than 50,000 books, past and current, and more than 100,000 more pieces of collectible paper "ephemera" for sale, collectible offerings from decades-old letters and postcards to nearly complete sets of magazines and newspapers, heralding in headlines the happenings of the day, from local events to the beginning and end of civil and world wars.

One of the first volumes I noticed when I visited the shop last week was a set of encyclopedias from 1798 – the collected knowledge of an era more than two centuries ago, even including early aviation (the hot air kind, of course, well before the Wright Brothers).

Dale welcomes all visitors, and hopes that the diversity of his offerings will entice them to stay a while and return often. But he acknowledges that such a huge collection can be overwhelming – so much so that people visiting for the first time can sometimes be so "paralyzed," he says, that they have to go home and absorb it all before they come back.

But they do come, and from far and near. It helps that he has an ever-changing selection, culled from what are often trailerloads of books, magazines, newspapers, bound volumes, letters and cards, maps and photos, from sources including estates and libraries. He recently brought in trailers from Peoria, Illinois, and Canada.

He sorts through them, carton by carton and piece by piece, all by hand – which explains the white duct tape bands on his fingers, to protect against the drying and splitting that comes from handling large volumes of paper.

Some of the books and papers Dale gives to charity, some he stores, and some he ships to auction. But most of it winds up on the shelves of The Archive. And to help visitors make sense of it all, he diligently categorizes his offerings – not cataloging them all, nearly impossible for one man – but sorting them and separating them into rooms all their own.

There's the children's book room, with Harvey the white rabbit in his cage in the middle, for youngsters to pet. There's the room filled with books about animals, from wild birds to whales and dolphins.

There's a room of antique books and classic authors – complete with a shelf of Cliff's Notes in case you don't really want to slog through some old classic – but you can still spend time with Jane Austen if you wish. There's the room with ephemera – single copies in plastic sleeves of

memorable magazines, advertising, cards, photos and ads, and 19th-century tabloid newspapers from Police Gazette to Harpers Weekly.

More magazines a little further back – Life issues dating back to 1936, when it started as a newsweekly, Popular Mechanics and Popular Science, Times and TV Guides, People and Mad, decades-old and great potential birthday gifts. Fantasy and Science Fiction from the ‘50s and ‘60s, specialized publications for fans from model railroading to pony cars.

There’s a room for non-fiction – and if you’re not too squeamish you can touch the skin and teeth of an alligator on a table in the room, a souvenir of Dale’s from when he worked for an auction company. He notes he’s “partial” to gators, and doesn’t like seeing one killed. (In fact, for a while, he had a living, small foot-long gator as an attraction in the shop, but he says not every shopper took it the right way when the gator hissed with hunger.)

And there’s a room for fiction, contemporary and classic, for those who just like to read and for folks who are completists for collections of authors from Clancy to King. In the back are non-paper collectibles – from coins and jewelry to CDs and LPs, both from Dale and from third-party vendors. Upstairs is a small area for bargain books, and a larger area for storage.

If you have a specific interest, just let Dale know and he’ll call you when he finds it. He’s got a long list of wants with rights of first refusal. And he understands a collector’s passion – it’s his passion as well, a labor of love, or a hobby gone wild, he calls it.

In an era of digital posts, Twitter feeds and Google aggregation, we sometimes forget the value of the published word– not just as a report of the moment, but as that first rough draft of history. The printed word can transport us back to our childhood, our grandparents’ childhood, Okinawa or Gettysburg. Holding history in your hand, Dale calls it. Non-fiction extends our understanding of the world, and novels take us to worlds without limit.

This is how we preserve and pass our culture through the generations, and it certainly deserves an archive as vast as The Archive.