

July 6, 2016

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 9:09 pm by Council President Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

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

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, Jake Ziegler  
Asst. Finance Director, Brian McGowan  
Asst. Borough Manager, 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  
Lieutenant, Alex Kromdyk  
Library Director, Tom Meyer  
IT/GIS Coordinator, Ross Becker  
Cust. Svc/Records Mgr., Pat Chapman

Residents

None

Agenda Item #5 – Committee Reports

**Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Van Dame**

1. Reviewed the financial reports. There was a spike in real estate transfer taxes.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Support for the municipal finance caucus from AMP that keeps municipal bonds tax exempt.
  - Municibid resolution to allow the selling of Borough personal property.
3. Discussed capital items:
  - Three quotes were received for video recording equipment for Council meetings. The prices range from \$26,000 to \$52,000. Four cameras are needed in Council Chambers. The Communication Commission will look into possible financial assistance from Verizon and Comcast through our current franchise agreements.
4. Discussed the sewer bills customer service charge. This charge brings in \$1.5 million per year from all customers for infrastructure maintenance. The Borough will save about \$80,000 per year when NPWA takes over the sewer billing. This doesn't offset the cost of maintenance and we can't decrease the charge. There is more to that charge than just billing. The

committee does not recommend removal or a change to the charge at this time.

5. NPWA will be testing their billing software soon. The transfer should happen in January 2017.
6. The electric rebate will be in the June electric bills which is \$21.96 for residential customers.
7. The Borough received a \$6,500 check to offset the cost of the unbudgeted brackets for the Hometown Hero banners. Those that contributed are Rex Heat Treat, The Eagles Club and Hometown Heroes group. A map of where each banner is located is coming from the GIS Department soon.
8. Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> is the second Open House from 6:00 to 8:00pm regarding trash hauling in the Borough.

**Councilman Hansen** – So the switch to NPWA will save the Borough about \$80,000?

**Councilman Van Dame** – Yes, which is basically the cost of an employee.

**Councilman Hansen** – He remembers being told that the added sewer customer service charge was just for billing. What is the customer service charge used for if not just billing services?

**Councilman Van Dame** – He was never told it was just for billing and it is more for more including fixed operational costs. We may want to consider calling this something other than a “customer service charge” to avoid confusion.

**Councilman Hansen** – He remembers Dan Dunigan saying it was just for billing costs. He didn’t realize that that charge was for more than billing costs.

#### **Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman Angelichio**

1. WB Homes – Proposed a new project on N. Cannon Avenue of forty townhouse/stacked homes. This would be on the property across the street from Cannon Square.
2. This month’s review of permits was pool permits. Discussion of when they are needed and why they are important to get before getting a pool took place.
3. A Comprehensive Plan Task Force will meet soon to start working with Montgomery County to create the Borough’s new comprehensive plan. This plan is updated every ten years.
4. The committee discussed stacked parking and adult daycare Centers within the Borough.
5. A public hearing will take place during Council’s business meeting on July 20 regarding a zoning map change to add a Business Overlay District.
6. The precast of the SEPTA parking garage is finished and they are now working on the inside.

**President Burnell** – How many structures is WB Homes proposing?

**Councilman Angelichio** – There are four structures with forty units total. WB Homes will most likely make a presentation to Council at some point.

**Councilman Hansen** – WB Homes found very little contamination on the property of their proposed project.

**Communication Commission – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton**

1. The Commission discussed video cameras for Council Chambers to record Council meetings.
2. Civics 101 – signs up will be coming soon for fall classes.
3. Discussed the need to have a specific contact for special events and discussed getting the word out to different media outlets for events held in the Borough.

**Economic Development Committee – Councilman Van Dame**

1. New businesses for the month of June are:
  - Straightens Wheel Repair—Penn Street
  - Hawaiian Reef LLC—Main Street
  - The Total Look—Broad Street
  - Foot Spa Body Work—Broad Street
  - Lansdale Massage Therapy & Wellness LLC—Broad Street
  - Branch Banking & Trust Company—Broad Street
  - Sculpture Workshop—Cannon Avenue
2. Discussed the task force for the Borough’s Revitalization Plan. Some members to be included are from EDC, LAFS, the Chamber, etc. The task force will meet soon.
3. April Donahue from QNB (Quakertown National Bank) will address the committee at a future meeting about possibly making low interest loans available for small businesses in the Borough.
4. Discussed the Borough’s website and possible setting up a page for business owners can go to and find realtors within the 19446 zipcode.
5. The interactive business map is now available on Discover Lansdale’s website.

**Electric Committee – Councilman DiGregorio**

1. Motion to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Prepare and advertise breakers and switches needed for the main substation. There is about \$180,000 in the capital reserves for these items.
2. The Electric Department will participate in PYAP which is a program with North Montco Technical School to hire an intern from the school to work with the department during the school year two days a week during the 2016/2017 school year. If all goes well we may participate the following year.
3. Mr. Krauss and Mr. Ziegler attended the PMEA meeting in Harrisburg last month.
4. AMP is partnering with the PMEA Eastern Group to bring solar renewables to eastern PA. Lansdale does not have the land for this, but we can benefit from some of the solar power purchases because we are a part of the PMEA Eastern Group.
5. The department has an intern for the summer and he will be doing a feasibility study on remote substation monitoring and will present it at the end of the summer.

6. The committee discussed decorative street lights from Richardson Avenue to Valley Forge Road. The estimated cost for materials and construction would be \$600,000. At this time there is not funding for this project.

**Councilman Hansen** – The breakers that have to be replaced are \$60,000 each?

**Councilman DiGregorio** – The total for all of them is \$180,000.

**President Burnell** – The decorative street lighting?

**Councilman DiGregorio** – It was just a new idea we thought of doing if we could.

#### **Library Committee – Councilman Malagari**

1. The last time the committee met was June 6. We did not have a meeting in July because of the holiday.
2. The estimate for the new movie screen in the community room is \$3,385.
3. Summer programs have begun.
4. Mike Sobel started his Korean War presentations on June 2. They will run every other week through the summer.
5. The new flooring was installed in various parts of the library but it did cost more than the estimate.
6. This year the library did not receive the VNA Mental Health grant.
7. The Clean and Green event is on Saturday, July 16. TV's cannot be recycled this year.
8. The library will have a fundraiser in the form of a Beer Garden on Founders Day from 3:00 to 7:00pm on Green Street.
9. The Oktoberfest 5K Furkin Run will start and end at White's Road Park.

#### **Parks and Recreation Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton**

1. The Craig Thatcher Band concert was cancelled due to inclement weather and have been rescheduled for August 4.
2. Motion to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Authorize the use of Memorial Park for the Lansdale Festival of the Arts.
3. The next First Friday is on August 5.
4. Three-foot stabilization bags have been temporarily placed along the creek bed in White's Road Park near the bridge to help stabilize the creek bed.
5. Liberty Bell Trail update – signatures are still needed but we continue to move the project forward.
6. Skate Park update – Potential locations were proposed. It can't be in a too secluded area and should be in a more active area. Some possible locations are: 4<sup>th</sup> Street Park, Hancock Street Park (not many amenities in the area) 9<sup>th</sup> Street (where the former Borough Hall trailers were) and Wissahickon Park (not the best area). They committee is thinking of having a community meeting regarding locations.

**Councilman Van Dame** – Until we have a site for the skate park we can't move forward with the project.

### **Public Safety Committee – Councilman Work**

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Library Beer Garden street closures on Founders Day.
  - Authorization of remaining road closures for Founders Day.
2. An appeal was brought before the committee regarding a handicapped parking space on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. There is adequate parking in the rear of the home. The committee denied the request again.
3. There are some traffic issues at Lakeview Drive and Norway Drive. Lt. Kromdyk will research reportable and non-reportable accidents in that area. We may be able to add some yield signs at this intersection.
4. Councilman Hansen brought up the pedestrian bridge on Knapp Road and the feasibility study that was done a couple of years ago.
5. A request for a handicapped parking spot was received for Franklin Street. The committee needs me more information from the requestor.
6. There are some concerns about a pedestrian crossing at the Andale Green development. There will be a crossing at that development.

**Councilman Angelichio** – He received some complaints about excessive speeding in and out of the Madison Parking Lot in the mornings and evenings. If we could keep an eye on that it would be great.

### **Public Works Committee – Councilman Malagari**

1. Final paving will begin on Perkiomen Avenue this month.
2. A public community meeting regarding the road project for Crestview Road was well attended. The project will begin soon with North Penn Water Authority starting their work first.
3. 2016 CDBG – We did not receive this grant this year but we can appeal to the Commissioners to reconsider our application. This project was for E. Third Street between Broad Street and Ridge Street.
4. NPWA pipe lining on East Main Street should be completed next week.
5. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Award bid for patch paving; this project will not exceed \$100,000.
  - Final payment for the WWTP Capacity Project in the amount of \$212,252.09.
6. The Wissahickon Alternative TMDL municipal intergovernmental agreement deadline to sign the agreement is the end of August.
7. Mr. Shinskie will do a presentation of the capacity upgrade to show Council all the work that has been done to improve the treatment plant.
8. The NPDES renewal permit was received by the Borough.
9. At the next committee meeting there will be discussion about future road projects.
10. There was public comment about the vegetation on Line Street near the train tracks and how to prevent people from going on the tracks. There was some talk about asking fencing from SEPTA in that area.

**Councilman Work** – When will Broad Street be paved by PennDOT. It is terrible.

**Mr. Ziegler** – PennDOT is in the process of getting a contract for this year.

**Councilman Malagari** – Will they pave curb to curb or just the driving lanes.

**Mr. Ziegler** – He heard it would be expanded from Main Street to Rt. 309 and it will be curb to curb.

Agenda Item #6 – Announcements

**Councilman Van Dame** – Brian Shapiro has resigned his position as Finance Director and will be leaving soon. Thank you to him for his accomplishments during his time at the Borough such as the many financial awards, the move to the new municipal complex and the CAFR awards from 2008-2016 and instituting the OpenGov website.

**Mayor Szekely** – He swore in Lt. Kromdyk this week.

Agenda Item #7 – Public Comment

None

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:12pm*