

January 6, 2021

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 online via Zoom Meeting and called to order at 8:46pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilman Angelichio
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- (X) Councilman Henning
- (X) Councilwoman Currie Teoh
- (X) Mayor Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst
Finance Director, John Ramey
Police Chief, Mike Trail
Parks & Rec., Karl Lukens
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss
Public Works, Rick Delong
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, not present
Borough Engineer, not present
Library Director, Tom Meyer
IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie

Residents

None

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Angelichio

1. Financial Reports - General Fund revenues and expenses are up through then end of November. Revenues are up \$192,000 and expenses are up \$162,000 or 2%. We are at 94% of revenues this year. November revenue is very little. We are at 86% of expenses at this point this year and were at 88% last year. The reason may be limited events and very little snow. Real estate taxes are up \$223,000 and we are exactly at where we should be for the transfer tax. We are down \$26,000 and still rebounding. In November, we made \$25,000 more and thirteen more properties sold than last year. In the Electric Fund revenues are down 3.1%. For business, in October this was \$627,000 and November it was \$689,000 This is mostly due to restaurants and business being closed and we can see this starting to grow. For expenses, these are also down 6.9% and that is due to the purchase of power and less usage. Penalties are down \$114,000 and that is something to keep in mind.
2. Update on Manna and the distribution of funds for residents in need. Manna is hoping to keep the program going if they can continue to get funds from the County.
3. Recycling grant money - For 2019 recycling pickups, we expect a little over \$33k in grant money which is down \$45k from previous year and \$50k from prior year.
4. Lansdale Post Office – Mr. Ramey has been in consistent contact with the Post Office and regional manager of Philadelphia. Other issues are how long it takes a physical

check to get to us when put in the mail. We see that it take 25 days and we are constantly making the Post Office aware of this delay. These are circumstances beyond our control and we need to keep working with the Congressman to and the Post Master.

Councilman DiGregorio – Can the bills be emailed to residents, so they don't have to wait for their bill in the mail?

Councilman Angelichio – Yes, they can get their bills emailed and pay online on our website as well.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Ordinance to approve the Commercial Inspection Program.
2. Permit updates – In for 2020 the Department of Code Enforcement issued 1,308 permits compared to 1,049 the prior year. Year-to-date, this is an increase of almost 25% and a \$33,500,00 construction value. The department contributes this to the new construction of Andale Green and the Curb & Sidewalk Permits issued that correlate to the street improvement projects. The Department also had an increase in permits related to home improvements completed for 2020.
3. The Zoning Hearing Board meeting on January 19 will be about adding cell towers to the NPWA water tower.

Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. No report, the committee did not meet in December.

Electric Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Our solar panels generated their first electric in the Borough since 1972.
2. A focus group that met to interview the energy consultants will be meeting again soon and hope to have a recommendation for our new energy consultant.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Approve proposal from Keystone for the WWTP SCDA system for a new switchgear.
 - Prepare and advertise bid specifications for the HVAC replacement for the electric services complex.
 - Prepare and advertise bid specifications for replacement of Circuit Breaker at the Main Substation.
4. Discussed replacing the town's holiday décor as the current decorations are over 30 years old.
5. Department Operations – discussed customer owned generation ordinance, tree trimming, pole transfers, the PV system and Verizon pole ownership.
6. 2021 Capital Budget – discussed two large capital items which were talked about earlier: the circuit breakers and the HVAC in the electric building.

Library Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. New and updated policies that need to be approved at the January board meeting. These policies are required to receive federal grant funding. We will continue to look at and update policies throughout the year.
2. Banking Documents - As the slate of officers will be changing in 2021, we will need to update banking documents with the new signatories. Mr. Meyer will get the documents prepared and ready to sign.

3. The 2021 draft budget at the January board meeting.
4. Discussed ideas of how the library and Parks and Recreation Department can work together holding story times in the park and possibly adding more Books in motion locations and Storywalks.
5. Library committee meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month unless the first Monday falls after the First Wednesday. In that case, we will meet on the last Monday of the month. Meetings will be at 4pm on Monday on Zoom until further notice.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. North Penn Valley Girls Softball – Request the use of Schweiker Park for 2021 tournament play. Committee agreed to ten tournaments, no more than three fields and no more than twelve teams per tournament for the 2021 season.
2. There will not be a bike rodeo or egg hunt in 2021. The department is planning on resuming programming in late April with our T-Ball Program. The department is planning for our summer programs, such as concert series, movies, camps, pools, arts festival and will proceed in accordance with COVID-19 safety guidelines.
3. The Skatepark dedication and ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for April 10.
4. The bowl in the Skatepark has been fixed and is now draining as it should.
5. Work has stopped for the winter in the White’s Road Park playground and the Liberty Bell Trail; work will resume once the weather gets warmer.
6. Mr. Lukens reached out to North Penn Water Authority and they would like to partner with the Borough on the bottle filling stations. Cost for each station is approximately \$1,400 plus installation. Mr. Lukens will report back with the installation cost and then the committee can decide on locations.
7. Stony Creek Park Ice Skating – DIVIT recommended that skating at Stony Creek Park be offered only if staffed and the committee agreed. The department will continue to measure ice thickness throughout the winter and if the ice thickness reaches eight inches will schedule a community skate.
8. Memorial Park Tennis Courts – The courts will be resurfaced and, barring any major weather issues, should be ready for play in May. All courts will be lined for pickleball and tennis.
9. Gazebo in Memorial Park – The 150th Anniversary Committee is proposing to build a gazebo in Memorial Park in honor of former Mayor Michael DiNunzio. Bricks will be sold to pay for the gazebo. Committee agreed it was a good idea and plans will continue.
10. RVE will move forward with a grant submission to DCNR for a comfort station, pavilion and path repaving at White’s Road Park at a cost of \$2,000. The cost of the project would be in the \$250,000 range. The grant would require a 50% match by the Borough if the grant is accepted. The project would look to start in 2023.
11. Bob Johnson got is certificate of completion for pesticide applicator for the pools.
Councilman DiGregorio – At Wissahickon Park the logs in the back had been removed, was this done by staff?
Mr. Lukens – Residents picked them up and there are some at White’s Road Park as well for people to grab.
Councilman Breish – What about replacing the Kugel Ball cover?
Mr. Lukens – The cover was vandalized and cannot be fixed. It will cost \$6,000 to replace and the tarp is working fine. The cover is difficult to place and weeds grow under it.
Councilman Breish – We should prioritize the area as it is unsightly and needs to have bricks and concrete fixed.

Mr. Ernst – We have looked at the overall design of Railroad Plaza and we may redesign in the future. This is a long-term project.

Mayor Herbert – When was the last rehabilitation of the park done?

Councilman Angelichio – Wasn't there a talk of a redesign when the Madison lot was developed by Equus.

Mr. Ernst – It was, but was taken off the table in the design stages of that project.

Councilman Breish – Will fencing be put around the White's Road Playground?

Mr. Lukens – The playground needs to be completed first then we can get quotes and think about fencing if that is something the committee wants to consider.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - 2020 Microsurfacing Program - payment request #3 (Final) from Marino Corporation for the 2020 Microsurfacing Program in the amount of \$16,647.52.
 - Cost sharing agreement with NPWA for the Columbia Avenue Rehabilitation project.
 - Cost sharing agreement with NPWA for the Laurel Lane Storm Sewer Project.
2. A payment was made for the 2020 Mill and Overly program to Harris Blacktopping.
3. Christmas tree pickup will be on Saturday, January 9 or residents can take to the utilities complex to drop off.
4. Traffic Signal Inspection & Maintenance – We received a draft RFP from Pennoni Associates and the basic concept of this RFP is to enter into a contract with a traffic signal company that would inspect the traffic signals in town on a yearly basis. This contract would allow the contractor to repair and/or replace the traffic signals in the event of any damage. Having documentation of inspections and repairs will be beneficial for the Borough.
5. WWTP
 - Fire Alarm & Security System Upgrade – The fiber security cards and the patch cable were installed. They found this did not resolve the communications problem over the existing fiber. The solution is to run a new Cat6 internet cable from our Main Building to the Maintenance Garage using the telephone poles that the fiber is attached to. The Cat6 wire was delivered and the contractor will start the installation on Monday.
 - A payment was made to LandTech for the White's Road Streambank Stabilization in the amount of \$257,053.40.
 - The Pennbrook sanitary sewer lining will take place in January.
6. A resident inquired about the memorial at Hancock Street and Church Road. Out of respect for the family, this will be handled with care a sensitivity about the right time to take it down.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh

1. Discussed the hiring process. Interviews will take place January 19-21 and then background checks will take place for those qualified applicants.
2. The Chief is working on restructuring the command staff and is looking to promote another Lieutenant.
3. Letters have gone out for renters to sign up for a parking permit and applications are coming in to the PD.

Mr. Ernst – The permits will be for the Parking Authority owned parking lots; one pass per residence would be issued. This does not mean someone with a permit is

guaranteed a spot, only that they can park in the designated spots without getting a ticket.

4. The annual Police Department report will be issued next month.
5. Recognition awards will be presented at the January 20 meeting, but done different this year since we can't meet in person.
6. There was discussion about requesting more lighting on the Liberty Bell Trail behind Andale Green development.

Councilman DiGregorio – Can something be done during the school zone times as people are flying down the street on Knapp Road.

Chief Trail – We can look at our side of the street, but we cannot enforce on the Montgomery Township side of the street.

Appointments Committee – President Burnell

1. There will be motions at the business meeting to reappoint members to the Human Relations Commission, the Economic Development Committee and the Treasurer.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

Councilman Breish – Code Blue Shelter will be at Immanuel Church at 1260 Welsh Road instead of Trinity Church this winter. Women and children are allowed at Immanuel Church too. If anyone wants to volunteer, please reach out to Mark Lanan at codeblue@tinitylansdale.com.

President Burnell – Tonight is John Ramey's last meeting with us. Thank you for a job well done.

Mr. Ernst – John Crawford will be helping us out while we are in the process of hiring a new Finance Director. He has helped us in the past.

Mr. Ramey – Thank you to Council, staff and residents for a rewarding learning experience.

Chief Trail – John has been a godsend, especially in 2020 when it came to the Borough's finances.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

Ms. Fritz of 531 Pennbrook Avenue – She suggested we come up with a name for the Kugel ball area. Also, the police should step up surveillance skateboarders.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:06pm