

February 15, 2023

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 7:06pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilwoman Bollens
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Councilman Carroll
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- (X) Councilman Ladley
- (X) Councilwoman Currie Teoh
- (X) Mayor Garry Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst
Finance Dir, Glenn Dickerson
Police Chief, Mike Trail
Parks & Rec. Director, not present
Electric Superintendent, not present
Public Works Director, Chris Kunkel
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, Patrick Hitchens
Borough Engineer, Tyler Williams
Library Director, not present
IT/GIS Dept., Kevin Kissinger
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
WWTP Superintendent, Greg Rapp

Residents:

Rose Chapman – 316 W. Mt. Vernon Street
Dominic Vasturia – 436 Lansdale Avenue
Dominic Frascella – 319 Green Street
Mike Scola – 825 Pennbrook Avenue
Charles Maxfield – 724 Derstine Avenue
Megan Kochersperger – 324 Green Street
Anne Scheuring – 220 S. Line Street
Ed Scheuring – 220 S. Line Street
Harry Henning – 201 & 225 S. Line Street

Agenda Item #5 – President’s Comments

None

Agenda Item #6 - Petitions

None

Agenda Item #7 – Presentations

1. **Business of the Month** - White Jasmin Thai Cuisine by Doug Bellenger
 - Meeting Matt, the owner of White Jasmin, for the first time was a true pleasure. He was clearly an owner that took pride in his business, his product, his team,

and his service. Something as an entrepreneur myself I truly appreciate, and as a part of the community I'm very thankful for.

- Their story is like many that have come back to Lansdale. They had been living in California, and moved back in 2016, but had challenges finding the type of Thai Food they had been accustomed to in Santa Barbara. Janya had trained there under two of the very best restaurants in town and when they moved she was inspired to bring back the authentic Thai cuisine she learned to make alongside the Thai culture and hospitality she loved.
- She started having family members and close friends act as taste testers for a wide array of offerings, which lasted for about two years as she worked to develop a good understanding of what would appeal to people in this area. A path many entrepreneurs take as they test and tune their craft. Those that focus on the customer and experience tend to thrive as White Jasmin has been.
- At the end of 2020, during a pandemic, they saw a sign go up on the window of 5 West Main Street indicating that the space was available for rent, and at the end of January 2021 they decided to call about the space.
- After meeting the owners, they decided to make a go of it and started renovating the space to meet their needs. Never having run a restaurant before, this was a huge challenge for them, but they kept moving forward like entrepreneurs need to do to break through the never ending ceilings we face to start and grow our businesses.
- On May 22, 2021, White Jasmin opened for business and, in Matt's words, the real learning began and continues to this day.
- Reflecting on the last few years, they are proud of the dining experience they have brought to downtown Lansdale and so is the town. So many people when I mentioned they would be the business of the month for February expressed to me what great people they are and what a great place White Jasmin is. Something that entrepreneurs can often credit to hard work, but also that comes with great leadership, a great environment, and great product. At 4.8 stars, their reviews not only highlight the quality of their food, but also their drive for great service and authenticity.

2. **Lansdale Police Department 2022 Annual Report** – presented by Chief Trail

- Mayor Herbert started the report with the following letter:

Members of Borough Council,

It is my honor to present to you the Lansdale Borough Police Department's Annual Report.

2022 was a year of celebration and change. As a community we stepped out from the shadows of COVID and embarked on the tall task of celebrating our 150th birthday. Lansdale Police, and our Community Services Unit, were there helping to plan, execute, and support events like the Strawberry Festival, the 150th parade, the Mardi Gras Parade, Picnic in the Park, and so many others. The dedicated and professional work of Sgt. Bubnis, Rick Lesniak, and the entire department helped make our 150th celebration a huge success.

Their work and their service stand as the example of how dedicating resources within the police department to community development and community event management can help foster the community we want Lansdale to be. Our CSU

helps us break down the barriers that can exist between our PD and the community that we serve. It allows officers to celebrate with the community, share the same joyful moments as them, and get to know residents, and the community, more intimately. Great policing is built on these shared positive experiences. Both residents and officers get to see each other helping the community thrive, they get a chance to connect as people, and it helps build a lasting trust that is the hallmark of every safe and flourishing community.

Beyond community events, Public Service events, classified as where officers are not dealing with any type of threat or criminal act, comprise over 40% of all the calls received in 2022. Consider that statistic again, over 40% of all calls in our community are not related to crime and instead someone who simply needs our assistance. In these moments our police are called upon to appear with empathy and kindness to see how they can help aid the person in need. These small, but incredibly consequential, moments are what help define and build the character of both our police department and our community.

Residents remember the kind words that were shared with them when they were in need, they appreciate the calm strength of someone who is there to help them see their challenge out, and they share that story to their friends and neighbors when the moment has been resolved. One kind act, one act of public service, creates a positive ripple in the community that helps shape the way our whole community is perceived. In 2022 alone, over 11,000 of these positively charged ripples were made in Lansdale, an increase of over 33% from 2021. Their impact on our community is enormous and highlights our dedication to community policing.

Looking ahead, 2023 is going to be a year of transformation for our police department thanks to the continued and steadfast support of Council and the community. Already we have hired and are training three new police officers who will enhance our ability to serve our growing population. Specifically, their hiring will allow us to build a Traffic Management Unit that will be dedicated to helping create a more seamless and cohesive community that, as our slogan indicates, embraces and keeps life in motion.

Finally, in 2023 Lansdale will once again be paving the way in our approach to mental health assistance. Over the last few years our HUB program has helped connect all the mental health and public assistance programs across North Penn allowing us to quickly, and in some cases proactively, assist people in need. This year, we have received grant funding to hire a mental health expert who will be participating in active responses with police officers. We will, for the first time ever, have a professionally skilled employee who will be able to help in the field as we manage mental health calls. This will save lives and it will make us more effective in that moment of response for the over 250 calls yearly we receive related to mental health.

As a department, and as a community, Lansdale is leading in ways that we would not have imagined only a decade ago. However, policing is a constantly evolving profession and we must continue to explore new ways to enhance and improve the service of our community. Together, one small ripple at a time, we will build Lansdale into the community we want it to be and keep all of us moving forward together.

- **Chief Trail** presented his report which is attached at the end of the minutes. Some highlights of the report are:
 - The department became accredited in 2022 and it was a lengthy process, but it established a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures.
 - The department responded to or had interactions with the public 26,012 times in 2022.
 - When looking through our stats, we are the most busy at 7:00am on Tuesday mornings.
 - Mental health is a big issue across the nation and it is here in Lansdale as well. We responded to 228 mental health calls in 2022. It is a trend that keeps going up.
 - Our officers attend a tremendous amount of training each year. Last year 1,743 hours were spent in various trainings.
 - We also experienced many milestone anniversaries in 2022.
 - The LPD acquired the Live Scan Processing Booking center from Towamencin Township in April 2022 to serve the North Penn area police departments. By doing this we have brought \$66,000 in revenue to the department.
 - We also did a random survey to 600 residents and compiled that information (Presentation on website). The survey results were broken down by Ward and according to those results, most people feel safe in our community. Two of the biggest concerns for residents were traffic and litter.

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

Dominic Frascella of 319 Green Street – He noticed that when riding his bike recently that 37 cars passed him and 10 were going over the speed limit. People stop or slow down when they see a police officer, but other times they just speed along and don't share the road. Please consider bike lanes in the Borough. A bi-partisan law was passed to provide a lot of funding called Safe Streets for All.

Mike Socla of 825 Pennbrook Avenue – He was wondering about the solar panels in Willow Street Park. He saw an article in the paper.

President Burnell – The Electric Committee is just starting to discuss this and it is extremely early in their discussions.

Charles Maxfield of 724 Derstine Avenue – Bike lanes are needed for safe travel. He and his wife rode to over 60 destinations this past year. Bike lanes would be good for businesses in the community too. We need a safe way to get around.

Megan Kochersperger of 324 Green Street – People drive at speeds where they feel safe, but there is a large portion of people who don't drive safely. Most of the traffic here is probably just driving through town. Many community members live here for the walkability.

Dominic Vasturia of 436 Lansdale Avenue – You don't need just one point to allow for safe bike riding. Narberth and Pottstown have great ways for people to ride safely.

Rose Chapman of 316 W. Mt. Vernon Street – In the cemetery there are broken stones and sagging stones. Maybe a committee or fundraisers can be started to take care of the cemetery.

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Will work be done on the alleys or you can allow people to purchase stones from the Borough to add to the potholes. Trash hauling was brought up again and you want a survey, but where is that money going to come from to do that? Other trucks besides trash trucks use the alleys and streets like school busses, delivery trucks, oil trucks. Fix the sidewalks that need to be repaired.

VP Fuller – We do have a cemetery board that takes care of those stones.

Anne Scheuring of 220 S. Line Street – It will cost a few million to do municipal trash as you will need trucks, a place to store them, drivers, laborers, etc. Residents don't want a single trash hauler.

Ed Scheuring of 220 S. Line Street – ditto to what Anne said. Bike safety is important in this area, but there is not enough space to add bike lanes that should be there.

Agenda Item #9 – Action Items

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton presented Motion A and read as follows:

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

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton presented Motion B and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Work Session: January 4, 2023

Business Meeting: January 18, 2023

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton presented Motion C and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council enter into the attached agreement with F.X. Browne, a division of Bogia Engineering, Inc., for administration of the curbside recycling program and to authorize the appropriate officials to execute the performance grant documents.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion D and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the use of White's Road Park for the Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 9, 2023 from 7:00am to 9:00am by St. John's United Church of Christ subject to the Borough's receipt and approval of the required Certificate of Insurance.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion E and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the 44th Annual Lansdale Day sponsored by the North Penn Rotary Club on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 10:00am to 4:00pm (road closures and times on file at the police department) upon final review by the Lansdale Fire Marshal.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion F and read as follows:

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I move that Borough Council authorize the closing of West Main Street from Broad Street to Valley Forge Road, S. Cannon Avenue for staging cars and various other Borough roads (on file in the police department) from 2:00pm to 12:00am on Saturday, June 17, 2023 for the Under the Lights Car Show (event to start at 7:00pm) sponsored by the Fairmount Fire Company per the recommendation of the Special Events Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion G and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the 11th Annual Lansdale Beer Tasting Festival on Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm to take place at Cannoneers Football Field located off of West Fifth Street sponsored by the Knights 4 Life Foundation per the recommendation of the Special Events Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion H and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and the Borough Manager to advertise an Ordinance, amending Ordinance 985, to establish a Handicapped Parking Zone at 15 West Second Street.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion I and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt the attached Ordinance 1963 amending Chapter 336 titled "Special Events" including sections 336-1, 336-2, 336-10, 336-13 through 336-16 to provide additional procedures for the issuance of permits for special events and block parties, to provide administrative fees and reimbursement of Borough expenses where applicable, to provide for additional definitions and to provide procedures and guidelines for block party permits and noncompliance.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion J and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve Change Order #2 for the 2022 NOVA Chip Resurfacing Program per the recommendation of Remington & Vernick Engineers. This change order reflects adjustments to the scope of work including additional crack sealing that is required to prepare the roadway for placement of the Ultra-Thin Bonded Wearing Course.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion K and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize Remington & Vernick Engineers to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the 2023 Microsurfacing Program.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

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Councilman Breish presented Motion L and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize Remington & Vernick Engineers to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the 2023 Mill & Overlay Program.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion M and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt Resolution 2023-02 to submit Merck Sharpe & Dohme LLC Act 537 Comprehensive Sewage Facilities Plan to the Department of Environmental Protection for their approval as a revision to the original plan of the municipality.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion N and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council reappoint the following individuals to the Building Code Board of Appeals:

Kevin Dunigan: Reappoint for a four-year term expiring on February 28, 2027
Michael Panachyda: Reappoint for a five-year term expiring on February 28, 2028

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion O and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council reappoint the following individual to the Civil Service Commission:

Kristen Moore: Reappoint for a six-year term expiring on February 28, 2029

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion P and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council reappoint the following individuals to the Economic Development Committee:

BJ Breish: Reappoint for a two-year term expiring on February 28, 2025
Mark Ladley: Reappoint for a two-year term expiring on February 28, 2025
Rafia Razzak: Reappoint for a two-year term expiring on February 28, 2025
Rachael Bollens: Reappoint for a two-year term expiring on February 28, 2025

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and approved 8-0. Councilman Breish did not vote because he was on the motion.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion Q and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council reappoint the following individuals to the Human Relations Commission:

Hannah Vargo: Reappoint for a three-year term expiring on February 28, 2026
Jessica Rice: Reappoint for a two-year term expiring on February 28, 2025

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion R and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council reappoint the following individuals to the Planning Commission:

Sam Carlo: Reappoint for a four-year term expiring on February 28, 2027
Chris Millheim: Reappoint for a four-year term expiring on February 28, 2027
Michael Beuke: Reappoint for a four-year term expiring on February 28, 2027

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion S and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council reappoint the following individuals to the Police Pension Board of Trustees:

Adrienne Gori: Reappoint for a three-year term expiring on February 28, 2026
Bill Allen Jr.: Reappoint for a three-year term expiring on February 28, 2026
Ray Liberto: Reappoint for a three-year term expiring on February 28, 2026
Carrie Hawkins Charlton: Reappoint for a three-year term expiring on February 28, 2026

Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion T and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council reappoint the following individual to the Zoning Hearing Board:

Kristen Moore: Reappoint for a three-year term expiring on February 28, 2026

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #10 – Information Items

Mayor's Report: Mayor Herbert

1. On January 27th I attended the soft opening of Kub Kao Thai. One of the owners shared with me that they relocated their whole family here from Connecticut to begin their dream of owning their own restaurant. The other shared that this is her second restaurant and that she knew immediately that Lansdale was the best place in Montgomery Co. to open, what she hopes will be, her flagship location. The commitment and positivity of the Kub Kao team is infectious and I highly recommend everyone take a moment and try their new restaurant.
2. On February 4th I attended and cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Retroarcade on Main St. alongside Borough Manager John Ernst, Main Street Consultant Stephen Barth, and many council members. I cannot speak highly enough of this event and the immediate impact the business has had on our downtown. As I said that day in my speech, I look forward to all the family friendly joy their business will bring to our community and I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that it will attract residents and visitors alike to get out and spend more time downtown.

3. Office hours are Tuesdays 9-5 and Saturdays 9-12 by appointment.

Solicitor's Report: Patrick Hitchens

1. Communication and related follow-up work regarding Ordinance matters. – Approximately 3.5 hours.
2. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding litigation matters including tax assessment appeals and insurance related matters. – Approximately 3.0 hours.
3. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding right to know matters. – Approximately 2.6 hours.
4. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding lien matters. – Approximately 2.4 hours.
5. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including code, real estate and compliance matters – Approximately 6.2 hours.

Borough Manager's Report: John Ernst

1. No report

Comments for the good of Council:

President Burnell – Bryan Poster will be leaving the borough after twenty-two years of employment between the IT Department and Wastewater Treatment Plant. He will be the new Borough Manager at Rockledge Borough. Congratulations!

Councilwoman Currie Teoh – She loved seeing a room full of people tonight and being engaged in the meeting.

Councilman Breish – The bike lanes issue will continue to be discussed in Public Works Committee. Thank you, Bryan, for all you did for the borough.

Councilman DiGregorio – Thank you for your help over the years.

Vice President Fuller – Just a clarification, if you don't say yes when voting is it implied that you are voting yes?

Mr. Hitchens – That is correct.

Vice President Fuller – On February 21 there will be an informational session at 6:00pm at the Library about restructuring of the Library Board.

Agenda Item #11 – Old Business

None

Agenda Item #12 New Business

Mr. Harry Henning of 201 & 225 S. Line St. – At the street corner in front of his house where the ADA ramp is collected water when it rained. He complained about it and the next day it was fixed. Nothing was done on the other corner and water is still gathering there.

Councilman Breish – Did the engineers go out and look at it?

Mr. Kunkel – The crown is too high and they will have to mill it down.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.