

March 1, 2017

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 9:19 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
- (X) Councilman Work
- (X) Mayor Szekely

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, absent  
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, not present

Borough Solicitor, not present  
Borough Engineer, not present  
Police Chief, Bob McDyre  
Library Director, Tom Meyer  
IT/GIS Coordinator, Ross Becker  
Cust. Svc/Records Mgr., Pat Chapman  
HR Director, Nancy Shaw

Residents

Alan Silfies – Edgewood Avenue  
Paul Cutajar – 504 E. Fifth Street

Agenda Item #5 – Committee Reports

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

1. The finances for month ending January are trending normal.
2. The single hauler trash bid opening has been pushed back to March 17, 2017 per the request of multiple potential bidders.
3. There has been discussion on changing our liability and property insurance carrier to DVIT. DVIT is currently reviewing our application for consideration.
4. Act 172 – Staff retained a sample ordinance from another municipality that has activated the program for volunteer fire fighters and EMS workers.
5. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Update to the Police Pension Board of Trustees related to the make-up of Board members.
  - Update the Police Pension Board of Trustees investment policy.
  - Motion to approve the Borough Manager to attend a future County Commissioner's meeting related to the sale of a property at 311 N. Broad Street. The organization that was in that building no longer exists and the County helped them purchase the building.
6. Bids are due March 17, 2017 for the fire escape at 421 W. Main Street.

7. The local organization sign that sits near the railroad tracks on Main Street is in disrepair and some of the organizations no longer exist. It was suggested that the old sign be taken down. Staff has to find out whose property the sign sits on and if anyone has ownership of the sign before it is taken down.
8. Reviewed the monthly professional service reports.
9. Discussed creating an official elected official Facebook usage policy.
10. Some residents have said that it is difficult to read the bills over \$1000 on the website and asked if the font could be larger. It was also suggested to add the various agendas to the TV channels.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Is the 311 N. Broad Street property in arrears to the Borough?

**Councilman Van Dame** – There is approximately \$16,400 in liens for non-payment of electric and sewer bills.

**Councilman Hansen** – How long has the building been vacant?

**Councilman Van Dame** – About two years.

**Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman Angelichio**

1. Discussed snow removal guidelines as one of the monthly code topics.
2. Motion to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Amend the fence permit fee. The fee should be the same whether it is a six foot or eight foot high fence.
3. There has been a sixty percent increase in permits since this time last year because of the Andale Green Development.
4. Madison Lot project – Equus may seek final land development at the Planning Commission meeting on March 20.
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> & Walnut apartments – a formal application has not been submitted yet.
6. Staff is reviewing a draft medical marijuana ordinance.
7. Continue discussions regarding accessory building definitions.
8. Habitat for Humanity applications are due to Habitat by March 15.

**Communication Commission – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton**

1. The commission meets again in April.
2. The next Civics 101 class will be held at the Police Department on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The judicial class will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> at Judge Levine's office.

**Economic Development Committee – Councilman Van Dame**

1. No report. The Committee did not meet in February.

**Electric Committee – Councilman DiGregorio**

1. GIS is documenting the substation upgrade map which will make it user friendly to be put on the website.
2. DVRPC Street Light Program – The LED lights should hopefully be delivered in April so the department can start to install the lights.
3. The GIS presentation in Florida at Next Gen ERA went great.
4. Green Light Go project update given.

5. Fiber Optic project Phase 2 is almost complete and should be done by the end of March.
6. IRBY testing is set to be done in March. A mobile testing unit will be brought to the Electric Department to test all safety gear.

**Councilman Hansen** – How much is the Green Light Go grant for?

**Mr. Ziegler** - \$250,000 which includes the match so that is the total amount.

**Vice President Fuller** – Most of the project is being done by the Borough.

#### **Library Committee – Vice President Fuller**

1. The budget is tracking normally.
2. Mike Sobel will do another series this summer which will encompass the entire era of the 1960's, including the Vietnam War, for ten weeks starting June 8 through September 14 on Thursday nights at 7:00pm. The Library's website will list the exact dates of each presentation.
3. Staff is planning the following events for the year:
  - International Spring Festival – April 22
  - Clean & Green Extravaganza – July 15
  - Oktoberfest – October 14
  - Trivia Night – November 11
  - Beer Garden during Founders Day – August 26.
4. Looking to hold a test drive fundraiser for the Library.
5. Discussed purchasing another bike rack and white board for the Community Room.
6. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8 at 6:30pm instead of Monday, March 6.

#### **Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller**

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Approval for Easter Sunrise service in White's Road Park for St. John's Church.
  - Use of Railroad Plaza for First Fridays May through December.
  - Bid award for the construction of the Liberty Bell Trail through the Andale development to Grace Industries. This is a grant for \$261,000 and the Borough will pay about \$31,000 as a match for the grant.
  - Bid award for work to be done on the grandstand at Weaver Field to McCarthy Masonry which came in below the estimate.
  - Recommendation for the skate park to be in Fourth Street Park.
2. Staff has almost finished the scheduling of summer programming.
3. Due to the milder weather so far this winter, staff has started their seasonal prep work. They are also looking to enhance the lighting at the amphitheatre.
4. The committee is considering a group rate for user groups to the pools if requested.

**Councilman Hansen** – He attended the skate park meeting Monday night and found it very informative and he heard what everyone had to say. What troubles

him is that the members of the Parks & Rec. committee would go against what the neighbors of the park want.

**Vice President Fuller** – We serve all the residents of the Borough not just those that live near the park and they didn't disregard what those residents had to say. They can share their score sheets on the website for all to review and maybe that will help people understand why Fourth Street Park is the best location for the skate park.

**Councilman Van Dame** – The committee did not discount their petition. There are close to 200 homes in close proximity to the park. He went to some of the homes near the park himself and he heard from those who are for and against. There is also support for the skate park being in Fourth Street Park not just all against it. Those who are against it cite that there will be even more problems than what they already see in the park because they assume there will be more problems.

**Councilman Hansen** – He doesn't think putting the skate park at another site will discourage people from using it. Fourth Street Park has green space and we should keep it green space.

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

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Prepare and advertise an Ordinance to amend commercial vehicle parking on Borough streets.
  - Support and assist the Farmers' Market at Penndale Middle School from May through December.
2. There were some residents in attendance regarding parking issues on W. 6<sup>th</sup> Street near Elm Terrace Gardens. The committee will work to try and resolve the issues.

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

1. Crestview Road project – The ADA ramps on the sidewalks are being done by the contractor due to the nice weather.
2. Staff got quotes for a leaf vacuum truck and the prices range between \$30,000 and \$42,000 depending on the kind of truck purchased; there are several different types. Also, where the leaves would be dumped to make compost would have to be inspected by DEP. The whole process will be time consuming for the crews. Questions were asked if the Borough could outsource this kind of service or rent a vacuum truck to try it out and see how the whole process works. Staff will look into these possibilities.
3. Knapp Road Bridge – Reviewed signage and how are the signs are working to direct people to the pedestrian bridge. They will look at the RVB report again.
4. Staff is compiling a list of patch paving projects for the summer.
5. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Approve an easement agreement with Lansdale Hospital to update the Ridge Street Pump Station and the force main from the pump station. The pump station is on the hospital's property even though the Borough owns the pump station. The force main needs to be done before PennDOT paves N. Broad Street.

6. The Clean Water meeting was rescheduled to March 9 due to the snow storm in February.
7. There was some public comment regarding the vacuum truck.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Could the leaf vacuum truck contribute toward the MS4 program?

**Mr. Ziegler** – We already have a leaf pick up program so we may not get much more credit than we already do.

**Councilman Hansen** – When will the final paving of Crestview Road be done?

**Councilman Malagari** – Residents have until the end of June to have any curb or sidewalks replaced then the contractor can pave the road.

Agenda Item #6 – Announcements

None

Agenda Item #7 – Public Comment

**Mr. Alan Silfies** of Edgewood Avenue – Thank you Mr. Hansen for your comments. Parks & Rec. crew put stakes in the ground to demonstrate where the skate park would go and how large 9,000 square feet is and it is worse than they thought. Go out and look at the staked off area yourself. You use Ambler Skate Park as a positive and you went on a sunny day. There is an illusion that it is accessible but it really is not in the center of things. Fourth Street Park is an active park and at one time all, except White's Road Park, were passive and the Borough has made the parks active.

**Councilman Hansen** – He grew up in Ambler and moved to Lansdale 30 years ago. That area was not nice when he was young. We could develop a nice area in another part of town like 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Mr. Paul Cutajar** of 504 E. Fifth Street – If you build something that people want they will come out for it no matter the location. A larger number of people in that neighborhood who are not on the petition are not in favor of the location. It is a positive for those who want the skate park and they don't care where it is located. They just want that skate park. A remote location is deceiving since Fourth Street is remote to those that live on the other side of town.

**Mr. Krauss** – He wanted to follow up on the grant for the Green Light Go and the total cost for the project is \$370,000 range with \$185,500 in grant money and \$185,000 match from the Borough.

**Vice President Fuller** – Thank you to those who live near Fourth Street Park. You have been persistent but respectful.

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:26pm*