

March 6, 2019

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 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
- () Councilman DiGregorio – other commitment
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- (X) Councilman Hansen
- (X) Councilman Henning
- () Councilman Work – other commitment
- (X) Mayor Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, not present

Finance Director, John Ramey

Police Chief, Mike Trail

Parks & Rec., not present

Electric Superintendent, not present

Public Works, Rick DeLong

WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie

Borough Solicitor, not present

Borough Engineer, Chris Fazio

Library Director, not present

IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster

Cust. Svc. Manager, Pat Chapman

HR Director, not present

Project Manager, Chris Kunkel

Residents

Jonathan Farmer – 300 York Avenue

Cory Ruby – 347 York Avenue

Anne Scheuring – 220 S. Line Street

Agenda Item #5 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Angelichio

1. Budget – EIT is up \$23,000 from last year due to timing of payments. Expenses are as we expected for this time of year.
2. Discussed a way to add a new revenue source to the Borough through franchise fees. The questions to ask are what, who, where and why. We should look at other services besides Verizon and Comcast for franchise fees. A suggestion was to institute a fee to trash companies or other businesses that effect infrastructure. Mr. Ernst will have to get an opinion from the Borough Solicitor regarding an impact fee like this.
3. A request came in from Richard Buttacavoli of the LGBT Business Council to have their LGBT traveling exhibit be displayed in Borough Hall at Founders Day. The committee will ask the organizer to coordinate with Discover Lansdale.

Vice President Fuller – Is there a concern that if a franchise fee is imposed would the company just pass along that fee to the consumer?

Councilman Angelichio – It is a forgone conclusion that they would pass the fee on, but that is the cost of doing business with any company. Fees are always passed on to the consumer no matter the business.

Vice President Fuller – The franchise fee is essentially a hidden fee.

Mayor Herbert – You are raising valid questions. We don't have a solution yet, but we have to have the conversation at least and explore our options on how to recoup costs for such large trucks.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman Hansen

1. A brief presentation was made by Jason Smeland regarding the Conditional Use Hearing for 43 W. 3rd Street on March 20.
2. In the month of February, 54 permits were processed. The department also responded to 48 complaints and an additional 25 snow complaints.
3. New businesses coming to the Borough are:
 - Small Batch Kitchen – 711 W. Main Street
 - Backyard Beans expansion to W. 5th Street and more seating at the Main Street location.
 - Blue Mountain (Psychologist Office) – 415 W. Main Street
 - Marco (SEPTA Signaling Engineers); Elton Thompson, PC; Steve Malagari, State Representative; Cellphone Repair Business and an accounting business – all at 100 W. Main Street
 - An inquiring was made about the former Anytime Laundry Property on W. Main Street.
4. A conditional use hearing for 301 N. Broad Street will be held March 20, 2019. The new owner wants to change the building back to a church.
5. A representative for 1000 N. Cannon Avenue gave an informal presentation to demolish a 56,000 square foot building and construct four new light industrial buildings.
6. An application for a minor subdivision was submitted for 512 Green Street.
7. Motion to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Authorize an ordinance to regulate mobile food vendors (food trucks).
8. Continued discussion of the adoption of the 2015 International Fire Code and Commercial Safety Inspections. A new position would be needed to do the inspections and also be the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Vice President Fuller – What is the timeline for this position?

Mr. Ernst – We are currently going through resumes that we have received. This is a budgeted position.

Councilman Angelichio – What are the logistics for 1000 N. Cannon Avenue since the property is in two different municipalities?

Mr. Ernst – There has not been a formal application at this time. If an application is submitted, then they would have to notify Hatfield Township as well and get their comments.

Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Discussed the façade improvement grant application for 320 Madison Street.
2. Business map – there are more questions that still need to be answered before we can move forward.
3. It was suggested in the past to get the property owners of empty store fronts to “pretty” them up until they have a tenant. There aren’t many empty store fronts to do that to anymore.
4. Discussed how to market the Borough to potential new businesses.
5. There is an open seat on the EDC. Applications are being taken until March 29.

Councilman Breish – Could we let businesses put commercials on the Borough’s cable channels?

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – We would have to figure out how to do that with staff or volunteers, etc.

Electric Committee – Councilman Henning

1. Lansdale Electric Facebook Page - The committee looked at the recently launched Lansdale Electric Facebook page. If you haven’t liked or followed the page yet, please do. Lots of great information to check out.
2. Solar Project Update - Reviewed the first set of plans for the proposed solar grant project for the Borough prepared by the Borough engineer.
3. PMEA Board of Directors - Lansdale was nominated to hold a seat on the Pennsylvania board of directors. This is a seven-member board made up of municipal electric communities. Only seven out of the thirty five municipalities were nominated to sit on the board and we will make sure we represent Lansdale well at the table.
4. Street Lamps on Knapp Road - The Borough is currently waiting for a response from Montgomery Township as the new lights would need approval from both the Township and the Chief of Police.
5. Department Operations- The department has been busy this last month with the following projects: Storm damage repair work; Pole relocations for the Liberty Bell Trail; Traffic signal coordination for sections of the Liberty Bell Trail; Taking delivery of the new bucket truck and 3500 dump truck and Andale/Green new units and street lighting.

Library Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. Met tonight at 6:00pm for the first time. Welcome Councilman Breish to the Library Committee.
2. December minutes were not approved since Councilman DiGregorio was not present to vote.
3. Budget Review - In looking at the budget, 16% through the year, overall revenues are at 15% and expenses are at 10% No single expenditure category is over 24%. Expenditures for ISF is currently at 24%.
4. The CCAT subscription is purchased. Emails will be sent to library board, staff, key users and volunteers; about 30 people will be asked to take the assessment. We will allot three weeks for the assessment to be completed and then the report will be generated. The library had this CCAT done in 2008 and 2010 and Tom found it to be very helpful. It's like a 360 evaluation.

This assessment is part one in the grant we received for capacity building. Part two is to bring in a consultant to help create a strategic plan.

5. Community Room Use policy review - Policy needs to be updated currently cost to use room is \$50 for profit and \$35 for individual and non-profit. The current terms of use are pretty sparse. The committee will help define guidelines. We need to review and begin to amend. Tom will send the committee library bill of rights, current policy and an example policy from Martin library in York. We will need to define what a library sponsored event is. We will have the Solicitor review and comment when we are ready.
6. Old Business - In 2018 we had a new roof put on and made one furniture purchase; there is still some money allocated to furniture to be spent.
7. Events for 2019 - Clean and Green is July 20 and most likely we won't do the car wash. BJ has a contact that may do hazardous wastes. We will investigate trying to accept TV's at a cost. The International Spring Festival is April 27.
8. A request came in for the Library to sponsor the Odyssey of the Mind group. Tom is reviewing what the request entails.
9. Last year we cut \$11,000 in database costs by switching to accessing Power Library resources through Norristown Library. Now Tom is reviewing another database renewal and planning to not renew at a cost of \$5,500. Instead he will be putting these funds toward adding digital magazines to the services offered online.

Councilman Angelichio – Was it the one event that triggered the community room policy review?

Vice President Fuller – That was one of the events, but there are other reasons too.

Mr. Meyer – The last time the policy was reviewed as a group was about two years ago.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. LAFS put in a request to use the 5th Street Park for Beerfest. The request will go through Public Safety.
2. Pool Membership – Over the years there have been requests to update the department's definition of family unit. The committee discussed options and in a 3-0 vote updated the definition to include all individuals residing at a residence. All adults must prove residency.
3. Winter programs are all in session. Summer camps are being scheduled but will have to wait to finalize the start of camps until NPSD announces the last day of school.
4. The maintenance staff remains busy with general park cleanup, snow/ice removal, tree work, etc.
5. A conditional offer for the new Director has been made and an announcement on that position will happen soon.
6. Port-O-Lets - The maintenance staff moved the port-o-let at Stony Creek Park next to the shed. The handicapped unit for White's Road will be in place in May.
7. The department has received two sponsorships for the 2019 White's Road Park Concert Series. Bryan Poster, the Borough's IT Coordinator, secured

\$8,000 from the Borough's copier supplier, Atlantic. Also, Linda Thudium called the office to offer her condolences on Carl Saldutti's passing and said that her foundation, The Pharo Family Fund of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, will be supporting the series again this year with a \$2,000 grant.

8. The 2019 White's Road Park Concert Series, *A Salute to Saldutti*, is being dedicated to Carl.

Councilman Angelichio – He is glad to see that there is a new definition for family pool memberships.

Public Safety Committee – Councilman Hansen

1. The Chief advised the committee of several issues related to unregulated parking, improper signage and wayfinding issues that once addressed will help with parking concerns in the business district.
2. The LPD responded to 3215 events so far in 2019, made 46 physical arrests and issued 218 citations for various offenses. Total revenue generated from fines, fees and prisoner lodging in 2019 is \$18,884 dollars.
3. Motion to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Approve the Lansdale 10th Annual Beer Tasting Festival on June 22.
4. A complaint was received regarding the safety of the intersection at 9th and Walnut Streets since the new traffic pattern was put in place. A check of the data did not reveal any increase in accidents at the location and the Chief personally inspected the area but did not find any issues.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Angelichio

1. 2017 CDBG E. Third Street – Phase I (Chestnut Street to Ridge Street) – SJM Contractors started the curb and sidewalk work the week of February 25 but had to stop work due to the recent bad weather. They are still on schedule to complete this project on time.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Prepare and advertise bid specs for ADA sidewalk ramps. We have identified getting the ADA ramps installed prior to the start of a proposed road project in order to alleviate some of the construction congestion.
 - Payment #4 in the amount of \$17,138.80 for the Ridge Street Pump Station project.
 - Purchase a new dump truck for the department; this is a budgeted item.
3. NPWA will be installing a new water main and services on North Wales Road between Berberry Drive and Sycamore Drive within the next few months. The County will be responsible for final paving of the roadway. The Borough has no work associated with this project.

Councilman Hansen – If we are buying the dump truck in pieces, who assembles it?

Councilman Angelichio – The dealer who we purchased the sections from puts them together.

Agenda Item #6 – Announcements

Vice President Fuller - April 6 is Variety's fundraiser Vegas Night at Montgomery County Community College in Community Hall.

Mayor Herbert – His office hours on Saturday, March 16 are cancelled.

Councilman Angelichio – Congratulations to Ray Liberto for receiving the Freedom Foundation Medal of Honor.

Agenda Item #7 – Public Comment

Mr. Farmer of 300 York Avenue– They have a big problem with their alley. It is a mess. It doesn't work for the homeowners to have to do the work on the alley. Alleys don't get taken care of by homeowners and there is nothing to compel us to do so. We can't get the buy in from all the neighbors to do the work that needs to be done.

Mr. Ruby of 347 York Avenue- He has tried to spearhead and get all the neighbors on board to have the alley paved and it never works. Some are renters and the landlords really don't care what is happening in the alley. He would like to set up a meeting with the neighbors and Borough staff and Council to try and figure something out. We need to work together.

Councilman Angelichio – We are glad that you are here at the meeting because complaining on social media is not the way to get something done. We have to have face-to-face discussions. Most alleys issues involve more than just stoning and paving them. Engineering of each alley would have to be the starting point.

Ms. Scheuring of 220 S. Line Street – Since there is a handicapped port-o-pot at White's Roads Park can one be added to Stony Creek Park?

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17pm