

April 5, 2023

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:38pm 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 Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst  
Finance Director, Glenn Dickerson  
Police Chief, Mike Trail  
Parks & Rec., Courtney Meehan  
Electric Dept., Joe Green  
Public Works, Chris Kunkel  
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, not present  
Borough Engineer, not present  
Library Director,  
IT Dept., Kevin Kissinger  
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame  
WWTP Superintendent, Greg Rapp

Residents

Jack Hansen – Knapp Road  
Leon Angelichio – 548 Edgemont Avenue  
Carole Farrell – 39 E. Blaine Street  
Ed Scheuring – 225 S. Line Street  
Dominic Versella – 345 Green Street

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

**Administration and Finance Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton**

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Resolution to approve the destruction of personnel records.
2. Financials are tracking normally.
  - Since there was no snow this season there were no parking tickets for not removing vehicles from snow alert streets.
  - Real Estate Tax is a little behind year-to-date, but they will catch up.
3. ARPA funding – staff recommends spending \$745,000 this year to avoid an audit by spending too much in one year. The balance will be dispersed in 2024.
4. Continued discussions regarding electric deposits. We are looking to have Portnoff Law attend a future council meeting to discuss their services.
5. Due to an increase in residential apartments in the borough, staff will reach out to voter services about equal representation and if there may be a need to update voting wards.

### **Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio**

1. Motion to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Resolution for preliminary and final minor subdivision for 11 N. Broad Street -- Koehler's Jewelers expansion.
2. The department approved 83 permits last month.
3. Continuing training on the Caselle software. We hope to be fully implemented and ready for residents to use this summer.
4. The Planning Commission will review the proposed dog park at the Luxor property and the propane station on Moyers Road.
5. Zoning Hearing Board: 500 York Avenue: Accessory Dwelling Unit; seeking relief for a non-family member to reside in the unit and relief for two front doors. 523 West Second Street: looking for relief to allow a structure in a side yard setback.
6. May is Building Safety Awareness month.

**President Burnell** – Is the dog park at Luxor just for their residents?

**Mr. Van Dame** – It is just for Luxor residents, but they will allow the dog wash station to be used for emergency services if ever needed.

### **Economic Development Committee – Councilman Ladley**

1. Reviewed Barth Consulting Group monthly report that was in One Drive.
2. Proposed commercial signage for businesses that would direct patrons to their location. Each sign would have the business logo on them.
3. Doug Bellenger has relaunched the Business Association across the Borough.
4. New business: NPSD Health Center, New Dream Inc., Wister's BBQ new location in the Pavilion shopping center.

### **Electric Committee – Councilman Carroll**

1. A brief update from the EAC was given to the committee about Ready for 100. They would like to see the Borough adopt the very aggressive timeline and generation numbers. We have been working the last 5-6 years to implement lowering our carbon footprint and generating our own renewable energy onsite.
2. Currently the EV chargers we have around the Borough are free for people to use. Our sponsorship has ended and we are looing to charge for the usage now. Staff is also looking for a new sponsor to keep charging free for citizens.
3. Discussed the Blue Sky and Lucent proposals for solar panels at Willow Street Park. Both options will cost money to gather information. The committee voted to table the discussion for now as there may be better opportunities elsewhere in the Borough.
4. Electric bills will have a new look due to the new billing software through Caselle that will be more user friendly.
5. Reviewed department operations from last month.
6. Reviewed the budget and staff will reclassify some expenses. Supply expenses are up and there is a long lead time to get equipment and supplies.

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

1. The committee did not meet this month.
2. We are currently searching for a new Library Director and we have received some applications. We will be working with the County library to assist with the search.
3. We are also working on the reorganization of the Library Board with the assistance of Alex Turock.

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

1. The White's Road Park trail improvement project will start in the next week or so and should be completed by May 31. There will be times when portions of the park may be closed so work can be completed safely. Signs will be posted as necessary.
2. The position for a Recreation Specialist has been advertised. We hope to have the position filled before the pools open.
3. Well Crafted Brewery would like to offer beer service at the concerts in the park. Ms. Meehan will get more information from Well Crafted and possibly try it on a limited basis.
4. Reviewed the proposal from 5<sup>th</sup> Pocket Skateparks for Wedgewood Park. New equipment should be professionally installed. The skate community has raised over \$10,000 so far for this park.
5. Well Crafted Brewery would like to do a spring beer Garden and from April 15 to May 20 and another one in the fall from September 16 to October 28.
6. North Penn Softball would like to add more teams and tournaments for the 2023 season. The committee has decided to stay with what we have in place currently.
7. Maintenance activities were reviewed.
8. Discussed the Stony Creek signpost and labyrinth. Also discussed the Cannoneers field and upgrades that are needed for the snack stand.
9. The Easter Egg Hunt was cancelled due to weather.
10. The North Penn Rotary Club would like to donate an informational kiosk near the Santa House to commemorate their 100 Anniversary.
11. The old-time baseball teams will play again at Weaver Field on July 22 like they did for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. There will also be the Picnic in the Park again.

**Councilman Breish** – Is there an update regarding the White's Road Park pedestrian signal that was taken out by an accident?

**Mr. Ernst** – The aluminum arm mast is still on order. Hopefully it will be here in the spring.

### **Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh**

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Approval of Discover Lansdale's Founders Day on August 26.
  - Approval of Discover Lansdale's 2023 First Friday season.
  - Approval of block parties on Madison Street by Well Crafted in July, August, September and October.
  - Prepare and advertise a handicap parking space at 356 York Avenue.
  - RFP request for a mental health co-responder. This position will be funded by a grant for two years.
2. Tabled the discussion regarding the road directional change for Courtland/Susquehanna Avenues.
3. Fairmount Fire Company report – Their second annual craft show will be on Saturday, April 29. They will also host the Strawberry Festival again on June 3.

**Councilman Breish** – Will there be any obligation to keep this position after the grant runs out?

**Chief Trail** – It will be a two-year contract. We would like to include other municipalities in this so that we can keep it going after the grant ends if we have their support.

### **Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish**

1. Motion to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Resolution to approve the Chamber of Commerce banners.

2. We will be doing the NOVA Chip this year and it should be completed by the end of the month.
3. If the Courtland/Susquehanna Streets conversion goes through Public Safety, Public Works staff will do the work in house.
4. The bids are due April 28 for the Hancock Street pedestrian crossing at Stony Creek Park entrance.
5. The custom manhole covers for the E. Main Sanitary Sewer project are currently being made for the project.
6. The Mircosurfacing and Mill and Overly projects are currently out for bid.
7. There has continually been an issue with the contract for the street sweeper. The company has not repaired it according to the contract so there has not been street sweeping done due to this issue.
8. More sinkholes have popped open around the Borough. Staff is currently looking for grant opportunities to help defray costs to fix these issues.
9. Discussed a Road Degradation ordinance. Rules need to be established regarding cutting roads after road work has been done to the road. We would have to determine what is necessary by a contractor to fix an emergency.
10. The committee continued discussions on trash collection. They are considering looking for RFP/proposals to explore various types of trash service in the Borough. They want to look at things differently and not only rehash what was completed in the past. We need to narrow the focus on one particular model such as possibly an electric vehicle fleet to take care trash pickup from Borough owned buildings and the street waste cans.
11. WWTP updates – Received a \$500,000 through Representative Steve Malagari to go towards the aeration project.
  - The motion for the White’s Road Pump Station was tabled.
  - Reviewed the sewer rate study from RVE that is in One Drive for all of Council to review.
12. Public Comment – Alley maintenance is being done even though it was announced it wasn’t in the budget for 2023.
  - Why is the work being done and money spent? What about the wear and tear of construction vehicles on roads? Can that be in the ordinance?
  - There were several people there in opposition of the trash discussions.
  - Bike lane discussion continues.

**Mr. Ernst** – We’ve checked with DVRPC and what their timeline is and he has not received an answer yet. Bike lanes on Broad Street poses some safety challenges. Funding will be needed for an engineer study.

  - How much money was spent on single hauler already?

**Mr. Ernst** – We have not sent a check to anyone, but we do spend staff time talking about it. In regard to the alley maintenance, we did talk about not doing it during budget talks. Small cost savings that we have seen from several areas has allowed minimal maintenance. Plus, we did not have to purchase salt and that was a huge savings.

**President Burnell** – What about the MS4 credit for street sweeping?

**Mr. Ernst** – We are aware and have been discussing internally.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Can we go with another company to lease another street sweeper?

**Mr. Ernst** – Leasing again may not be the best option.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Let’s let the trash discussion die and focus on our infrastructure.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

None

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

**Jack Hansen** of Knapp Road – Single hauler trash was debated three times already. Residents don't want it and they have spoken against it every time. Don't waste money on another study. He paid his electric bill online and was charged \$3.50. Customers already pay a \$13.25 customer service charge.

**Mr. Dickerson** – Prior to COVID customers did pay \$3.50 to pay online as it is a merchant processing credit card charge. We are looking at other vendors to eliminate that charge. If you set up to pay online via ACH there is not a charge.

**Leon Angelichio** of 548 Edgemont Avenue – You don't want to repeat the last trash hauler survey and meetings. Master what we already do and then take on something new. Table this discussion for the time being and see if the residents really want it. Put a plan together for the street sweeper for efficient use; create quadrants and have people not park on the streets according to the schedule you create. The softball association brings youth and their parents to town for long days. Neighbors of the field don't want more tournaments because it takes their parking away. Street parking is public parking. Residents in that area don't park behind their homes even though they can in most cases.

**Carole Farrell** of 39 E. Blaine Street – researching single hauler is taking money from taxpayers. Employee time could be better spent on something else.

**Ed Scheuring** of 225 S. Line Street – Discussing single hauler trash does cost money and you will have to hire professionals in that field to give their opinion. Forty percent of residents are renters and they don't care but those who attend meetings are homeowners and we do care. Don't try to take credit for doing something important just because you feel like you want to do something important while on Council.

**Dominic Versella** of 345 Green Street – There are other ways to handle trash besides the standard methods. The street sweeper is inefficient moving around cars. Parking in the Borough can be difficult at times. Sometimes Code requires too much parking.

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:04pm*