

June 7, 2023

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:38pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- ( ) Councilwoman Bollens - sick
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Councilman Carroll
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- ( ) Councilman Ladley - vacation
- (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, not present

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

Residents

Dominic Frascella – 318 Green Street  
Blake Champlain

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

**Administration and Finance Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins**

1. An update to the Borough's new software will allow real time budgeting for Department Heads.
2. Reviewed current information about the Sterling Act Reform Bill. Local municipalities do not get money back from Philadelphia for wage taxes that residents pay. If legislators change/pass this bill, then Lansdale potentially could get \$190,000 back that our residents paid to Philadelphia.
3. Reviewed sewer rate increase study as an informational item only.
4. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Motion to approve the ARPA funding for \$749,500 to be used for infrastructure projects which will free up capital funds for the police department dispatch console and other items as needed.
  - Motion to approve the lease-to-own agreement for two police vehicles.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Are we replacing two old police cars?

**Councilwoman Hawkins** – We are replacing one vehicle and adding another to the fleet.

**Mr. Dickerson** – One of the Dodge Chargers engines blew and it is not worth getting fixed so we had to do a replacement for one vehicle instead of two being added to the fleet.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – When we hired two new officers it was said that you wouldn't need new vehicles.

**Chief Trail** – We ended up hiring four officers, so we need the extra vehicle. We have seven officers out everyday from 4:00pm to 1:00am.

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

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Motion to approve preliminary and final land development for 874 & 901 Moyers Road for propane storage.
  - Motion to approve preliminary and final land development at 608 E. Main Street for the YMCA's new gymnasium.
  - Resolution to approve disposition of records for the Code Enforcement Department.
2. A conditional use hearing will be held at the July 19 business meeting regarding 17 West Second Street.
3. In May, 127 permits were processed by staff.
4. The Zoning Hearing Board meeting on June 20 will hear about 490 Wade Avenue. They are looking for a variance for an inground pool and patio.

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

1. No Report

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

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Renewal of the Comcast franchise agreement by Cohen Law Group.
  - Purchase of a digger derrick truck for \$350,000 to be delivered in 2028.
  - Purchase of a thermal imaging camera.
  - Approval of the Crown Castle fiber agreement.
2. Two crew members, Sam and Matt, were promoted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Lineman. CDL and rubber glove training was completed recently.
3. Crews are working on the Walnut Street tunnel to move electric under the road.
4. The White's Road Park pavilion and handicap parking area lighting is complete as well as fiber to the cemetery and fire house.
5. Regarding the budget, there is a rise in material costs and longer lead times for equipment which is causing the budget be off balance.
6. Still working on getting grant money for level 3 electric chargers through DVRPC. Will be applying in the next round of funding.

**Councilwoman Hawkins** – It takes five years to get a truck like that?

**Mr. Krauss** – Yes, it does.

**Councilman Breish** – Could you partner with the fire company on the thermal camera?

**Mr. Krauss** – They are probably two different pieces of equipment. We will be using ours quite a bit and all year long.

**Councilman Breish** – One of the poles was charred on the Liberty Bell Trail near where the brush fire was in Andale.

**Mr. Krauss** – We did look at it and it was fine, but we will look again.

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

1. We met with potential new board members to replace Council as the Board of Trustees. They were Alex Turock, Brianna Breish, Ryan Weiss and Darian McKenzie.
2. Some furniture in the library needs to be replaced so we are looking at the budget to see what we can afford to change out.
3. We will be interviewing two more candidates for Library Director. The person we made an offer to accepted a position elsewhere.
4. Staff has been running the daily activities and Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Ernst have been taking care of the financials along with other administrative items that staff is not able to complete.
5. Discussed memberships and e-books.
6. Staff is working with Mr. Hitchens on a new handbook to be used when board changes take place.

**Councilman Carroll** – Could payroll savings be used to offset the cost of some of the furniture?

**Vice President Fuller** – There is some money in the budget to replace or clean up for now.

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

1. Cannoneers requested some improvements to Weaver Field such as upgrading the dugouts, the warning track fence and the batting cage.
2. Both of the pools snack stands will be run by Little's Ice Cream.
3. White's Road Pool – the baby pool needs to be replastered and the cost is at least \$30,000. Unfortunately this has to be done more often the rest of the pool because of the ages of those using the pool. It was discussed to possibly convert the baby pool into a splash pad which would be all inclusive.
4. Working on updating park rules to institute no smoking or tobacco products anywhere in all of the parks.
5. The parking lot at Stony Creek will be paved quicker than anticipated so the lot will be closed until June 19.
6. The committee discussed that there be a fee in lieu of planting trees on development projects be used in the parks so that any developers could plant trees in the parks instead of paying a fee.
7. Montco's Pride Event will be held in Memorial Park on June 11 from 1:00 to 4:00pm and Juneteenth event will take place on June 17.
8. The White's Road Concert series will kick off in two weeks.
9. New employee Lisa Pearsall started as our Recreation Specialist.
10. Ms. Meehan will attend the PECO Green Region award ceremony on June 26.

**Mayor Herbert** – Were any of the trees along the Liberty Bell Trail damaged from the basin fire at Andale?

**Mr. Van Dame** – Any damaged trees will be replaced.

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

1. Susquehanna/Courtland realignment project – signage will start to go up between June 30 -July 17 to start notifying people of the change. August will be the kickoff of construction.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Approval of Bike Night on September 9.
  - Approve Fairmount Fire Company's new ladder truck ceremony on September 16.

- Approve Cannoneers Block Family Block Party contingent on the Public Works Department approval for road blockage on September 16.
  - Approval to remove permit parking on the unit blocks of North and South Richardson Avenue.
  - Award of the RFP for the LPD Mental Health Co-responder to Merakey.  
**Councilman Breish** – It may not be wise to use the term mental health.  
**Chief Trail** – We are trying to differentiate it as they are not a police officer.
3. The Black Reserve Bookstore requested the closure of Madison Street on August 27<sup>th</sup> for a Back to School Bash. The committee wanted to see if another date could be chosen because it is the day after Founders Day. This was tabled for further discussion.
  4. The FFC gave their report. The new ladder truck is at the station and crews are training on it. The Under the Lights Car Show will be on June 17.

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

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
  - Sewer rate and fee increase over a fifteen year period to spread out the capital plan for improvements with a gradual increase. A ten percent increase in 2023 to start in September. The last increase was in 2015.
  - Bid award for the White’s Road Pump Station project to Eastern Environmental Contractors.
  - Prepare and advertise bid specifications for the Chemical Feed Upgrade project.
  - Prepare and advertise bid specifications for the Bio-solids study.
  - Bid award for the Hancock Pedestrian Flashing Warning Device to Armour & Sons Electric.
2. Working on the last phase of the 2022 ADA project. 2022 NOVA Chip project is done.
3. 2023 Mill & Overlay – working on trying to add in the fire company’s parking lot to the project. A handicap ramp was damaged along Vine Street which connects to the stamped concrete crosswalk which will cost \$15,000 to fix.
4. Microsurfacing project – discussed the work being done. Greenwood Road was patched paved.

**Mr. Ernst** - \$15,000 is for stamped concrete not just the ADA ramp?

**Mr. Kunkel** – He encourages Council to look at decorative features in projects. The crosswalk needs to be fixed, not the ADA ramp. It is an aesthetic issue only.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – With the sewer rate increase in the fall, will there be another increase in January?

**Mr. Ernst** – It will be the same time every year.

**Mayor Herbert** – Would the work that needs to be done happen on a schedule like the rate schedule?

**Mr. Kunkel** – We have shovel ready projects in the capital plan.

**Councilman Breish** – Can we look and see the projects that have been pushed off five years?

### Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

None

### Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

**Dominic Frascella** of 318 Green Street – At the trail crossing, can there be more signage pointing it out to drivers? Think about using an artist to paint the crosswalks. Add signs and

post on social media where money is spent on projects so people know where their tax money is going.

**Blake Champlain** – He is in favor of the sewer rate increase. Most people wouldn't come to a meeting and say that but it's a good idea.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:42pm*