

June 21, 2023

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 7:06 pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilwoman Bollens
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- ( ) Councilman Carroll - vacation
- (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, not present  
Finance Dir, Glenn Dickerson  
Police Chief., Mike Trail  
Parks & Rec. Dir., Courtney Meehan  
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss  
Public Works Director, Chris Kunkel  
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, Patrick Hitchens  
Borough Engineer, Chris Fazio  
Library Director, not present  
IT/GIS Dept., Darwin Zehr  
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame  
WWTP Superintendent, Greg Rapp

Residents:

Dominic Vasturia – 436 Lansdale Avenue  
Dominic Frascella – 318 Green Street  
Valerie White – 414 Perkiomen Avenue  
Rob Kirchner – 425 Perkiomen Avenue

Agenda Item #5 – President’s Comments

None

Agenda Item #6 - Petitions

None

Agenda Item #7 – Presentations

- **Business of the Month** – Sultan Indian Cuisine – Rafia Razzak
  - It is my absolute honor and privilege to choose Sultan Indian Cuisine, which is located at 860 W Main Street.
  - It is a family-owned business, I had the chance to meet one of the owners Amrit Singh who also manages the restaurant. He came to the United States 20 years ago like any other immigrants, with big dreams and high hopes. He lived in Maine where he was part of a restaurant named ‘Taste of India’. This was the place where he found his passion for the restaurant business. He moved to New Jersey through marriage and while he was in New Jersey, he was trying to open

his own business. Unfortunately, he was running into difficulties to find a suitable place and that's what brought him to Pennsylvania. He opened Sultan Indian Cuisine in North Wales back in 2015. I went there with my family and friends several times, it was a beautiful place with big chandeliers hanging from the ceiling! It was big enough place where he was able to offer buffet for lunch and events on the weekends. Everything was going great until the pandemic happened. Just like any other family-owned businesses, Sultan had to take a hit. Amrit had to downsize his business, he looked for a new location and that brought him to Lansdale. The owner of the building for this Lansdale location happened to be a regular guest at Sultan, so he was excited to have Sultan move to Lansdale from North Wales. After going through the formalities, Sultan Indian Cuisine opened its doors in Lansdale in January 2021.

- Since he has moved into this new location, he has been doing well and I was very pleased to hear that. As part of Economic Development Committee, that is one of the biggest goals--to keep existing business profitable, so they do not have to move to another location.
- Besides serving ninety different kinds of authentic Indian dishes, this place has food options for vegetarian, non-vegetarian and Halal along with Indo-Chinese. It also has options to choose from very spicy to not spicy at all. Sultan is trying to offer its authentic Indian food to everyone depending on their taste buds, life choices and religious beliefs. I'm so glad to have an Indian restaurant on our Main Street, which represents our Borough so well in such a diverse way. I would highly recommend everyone visit Sultan Indian Cuisine.
- As a token of his appreciation, Amrit provided us with some food, and it was well enjoyed by everyone. Even though he was not there during the presentation, we were able to provide him with the certificate for Business of the Month while he was here and we give our utmost gratitude to him for his generosity.

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

**Valerie White** of 414 Perkiomen Avenue - Why did block party permits go from \$10 to \$200 for Borough expenses? The blockades for the car show were wooden and were what was previously used for block parties. Why are the barrier costs not in the Borough budget? With the savings from no snow last year, why didn't that money go toward barricades? She is requesting that Council supports block parties and right now they are not affordable for residents. Use tax money for block parties.

**President Burnell** – The best course of action is attend a Public Safety Committee meeting as that is where the detail are discussed for action items.

**Dominic Vestura** of 436 Lansdale Avenue – He reached out to PennDOT about adding a stop sign on Lansdale Avenue at 5<sup>th</sup> Street. He was told by Don Celentano that the Manager can request a survey of the area from PennDOT.

**Vice President Fuller** – That is not all it will take to get a stop sign added to an intersection. It is not just as easy as doing a survey.

**Rob Kirchner** of 425 Perkiomen Avenue – He is here to support Val's statement, but he has a question about the stop sign statement. What is the criteria to get a stop sign added to a street? How does the Borough track accident data? If an intersection hits that threshold, then how does the Borough decide to move forward to get a stop sign installed?

**Chief Trail** – We do know where most of the intersections are that would have high accident counts and they tend to be on Broad Street and Main Street. We have a record system that

tracks all of our accidents; we do review the data, it is an ongoing operation. If we do see issues, we recommend to Public Safety and Council to make the necessary changes.

**Mayor Herbert** – Just proof of accidents and crash concerns is not enough to warrant changes to an intersection. Proof of remediation not working is also required.

**Dominic Frascella** of 318 Green Street – This month in Public Safety it was brought up about the active safety plan and it seems that steps are being put in place, not just putting up stop signs and he appreciates the effort. He also appreciates and hopes the Hancock Flashing device will be awarded tonight.

Agenda Item #9 – Action Items

**Councilwoman Hawkins** presented Motion A and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of May 2023 which shows the expenditures listed on the attachment.

**Councilwoman Hawkins** – Last month the balance was off; it is now corrected.

*Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Hawkins** presented Motion B and read as follows:

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

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Hawkins** presented Motion C and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Work Session: May 3, 2023  
Business Meeting: May 17, 2023

*Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Hawkins** presented Motion D and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to purchase two new police vehicles not to exceed \$170,000 to be financed through the Uninvest lease to own option.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Hawkins** presented Motion E and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to allocate up to \$759,500 of ARPA funds to support road projects in 2023. The Capital Projects fund will retain \$759,500 and \$134,959 will be used to update the Police Console. The Borough Manager will allocate the remaining funds, as needed, for equipment and/or projects per the recommendation of Department Heads.

**Councilman Breish** – He supports the use of money for road projects. What is the “police console” and what does “...the Borough manager will allocate the remaining funds with the consultation from the department heads” mean?

**President Burnell** – That \$759,000 will 100% go to road projects. Money not used in the budget for road projects that are now using ARPA funds will be reallocated for specifically a new console for the dispatch staff at the police department. The system they are using is outdated. The remaining funds not being used from capital funds because of using ARPA funds will be allocated against that capital plan. Council will still need to approve capital funds as they are needed and used.

**Mr. Dickerson** – The motion should be \$749,500 how do we change to approve the correct number?

A motion to amend the motion to change to \$749,500 is made and Vice President Fuller seconded the amendment.

**Councilman Breish** – Where does this leave us with the remainder of ARPA funds?

**Mr. Dickerson** – We have \$240,000 that we need to spend in 2024.

*Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.*

**Councilman DiGregorio** presented Motion F and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt the attached Resolution 23-12 for the disposition of Borough records.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins and unanimously approved.*

**Councilman DiGregorio** presented Motion G and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt the attached Resolution 23-13 granting preliminary and final land development approval to the Lansdale Propane Plant, LLC for the development of a propane retail sales, showroom, office and distribution facility at 874 and 901 Moyers Road.

*Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.*

**Councilman DiGregorio** presented Motion H and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt the attached Resolution 23-14 granting preliminary and final subdivision and land development approval to the North Penn YMCA for the development of a two story gymnasium addition at 608 E. Main Street.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Bollens** presented Motion I and read has follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 23-15 authorizing execution of a Cable Franchise Agreement between the Borough of Lansdale and Comcast of Pennsylvania, LLC.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Bollens** presented Motion J and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to purchase a digger derrick truck through the Pennsylvania Costars Purchasing Program for the Electric Department not to

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exceed \$350,000.00. This purchase is on the Capital Improvement Plan and will be funded through Capital Reserves.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Bollens** presented Motion K and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to purchase an Advanced Thermal Camera in the amount of \$5,900.00 from KJ Lang Sales, Inc.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Can other departments use this camera too?

**Mr. Krauss** – Yes, WWTP and Parks could use too. The fire department can't use this camera as it wouldn't work for what they would need it for. He spoke with Mr. Lesniak and the fire company has cameras on their trucks that they use.

**Councilman Breish** – I am assuming that this is a very specific piece of equipment so a place like Cardinal Camera couldn't provide it?

**Mr. Krauss** – No, it is a product specific to the electric industry.

*Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Bollens** presented Motion L and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to execute the Pole Attachment License Agreement between the Borough of Lansdale and Crown Castle Fiber, LLC.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins and unanimously approved.*

**Vice President Fuller** presented Motion M and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the 2023 season for pools snack stand lease with Little's North Wales, LLC.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins and unanimously approved.*

**Vice President Fuller** presented Motion N and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and the Borough Manager to advertise an ordinance amending the codified ordinance of the Borough of Lansdale to ban all forms of tobacco use in all Borough owned parks and recreational facilities.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Didn't we do this a few years ago?

**Vice President Fuller** – That was for just smoking and Young Lungs at Play. This expands on that to include all forms of tobacco products such as vaping, chew, etc.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion O and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the closing of West Main Street from Valley Forge Road to Broad Street and other appropriate Borough streets (on file at the police department) on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 3:00pm to 11:00pm (3:00-5:00pm is set up time) for the 26<sup>th</sup>

Annual Lansdale Bike Night sponsored by the Blue Comets Motorcycle Club 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 P and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the closure of various Borough streets in the downtown area (on file at the police department) for the Zombie Walk hosted by Discover Lansdale during First Friday on November 3, 2023 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Additionally allow a brief vehicle parade on W. Main Street, without closing the street, per recommendation of the Public Safety Committee.

*Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion Q and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the Special Events application submitted by Cannoneers Club for the closure of W. Fifth St. between N. Cannon Ave and N. Mitchell Ave between the hours of 12:00pm to 7:00pm (set up time 7:00am) for their Family Block Party on Saturday, September 16, 2023. Set up cannot commence until the roadway is closed by the police department and secured by Public Works and Cannoneers agrees to reimburse the borough \$1,150 for the installation and removal of traffic barriers.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion R and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council award the contract for the mental health co-responder to Merakey Services according to the RFP submission for a period not to exceed 24 months.

**Councilwoman Hawkins** – Why are we contracting for this position and not just hiring outright?

**Chief Trail** – A position like this is a significant investment for the Borough and these programs are new. We received a grant for two years for this position so we will see how it works and then maybe consider hiring outright in the future.

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** – The contract gives us more resources if a person decides to move to another job.

**Mayor Herbert** – This is a very important and comprehensive way to implement this program.

*Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion S and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council prepare and advertise an ordinance to remove permit parking requirements on the unit blocks of N. Richardson Avenue and S. Richardson Avenue.

*Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion T and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the closure of various borough streets near the firehouse (on file at the police department) for the Fairmount Fire Company's Ladder Truck Housing

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Ceremony on Saturday, September 16 from 1:00pm to 5:00PM (set up time 9:00am, clean up done by 8:00pm) per the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Will barricades be put up?

**Chief Trail** – Fire trucks will be used as physical barriers.

*Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.*

**Councilman Breish** presented Motion U and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council award the contract for the Hancock Street Flashing Warning Device to Armour & Sons Electric, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder per the recommendation of Pennoni Associates, Inc.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

**Councilman Breish** presented Motion V and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize Keystone Engineering to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the Chemical Feed Upgrade Project.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins and unanimously approved.*

**Councilman Breish** presented Motion W and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council award the contract for the Whites Road Pump Station Improvements in the amount of \$510,500.00 to Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. the lowest responsible bidder per the recommendation of Eastern Engineering Management Associates.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bollens and unanimously approved.*

**Councilman Breish** presented Motion X and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 23-16 establishing sewer rates and customer service charges.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – That is a 10% increase correct?

**President Burnell** – Yes, effective in September.

**Vice President Fuller** – She wanted to comment that Councilman Breish gave a good explanation as to why we need to do this.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins and unanimously approved.*

**Vice President Fuller** presented Motion Y and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council appoint Jason Wood to fill the unexpired term of Beth Benyishay on the Environmental Advisory Commission through July 31, 2024.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

Agenda Item #10 – Information Items

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### **Mayor's Report: Mayor Herbert**

1. On May 29th I joined most of our community as we commemorated Memorial Day in our annual Memorial Day Parade and ceremony. As I noted in my speech that day, it is important for us to "mourn for those that died serving, but also to recognize and remember that within their sacrifice lives the inspiration for someone to pick up their mantle and to continue their journey. Their inspiration of others transcends death and through it they help us continue to grow." I would like to thank all of our Veteran organizations for pulling such a moving event together every year.
2. on May 30th I joined a multitude of my fellow Mayors from across Montgomery County to celebrate and honor Mayor Jenna of Royersford who will be relocating to South Korea with her family. Mayor Jenna and I were elected together in 2017 and throughout that time Mayor Jenna has helped build a network of Mayors that can learn and lean on one another to better all our communities. We wish Mayor Jenna all the best in Korea and look forward to her return in two years.
3. On June 10th I attended Master Yang's Martial Arts School for their annual Black Belt Ceremony where eight students earned their first black belt after years of passionate dedication, tenacity, and focus. Additionally, I was given the humbling honor of receiving an honorary black belt alongside several other local and state leaders. Congratulations goes out to all the new black belts in our community and thanks goes out to Master Yang for all the intrepid community work that he regularly provides all of Lansdale.
4. On June 11th I attended our annual Pride Walk and celebration. Pride, as an event, is about the celebration of being who you are, as you are and it was heartwarming to see so many people come out to share their support for our LGBTQ+ community. Thanks goes out to all the organizers and everyone who took the time to join in the celebration.
5. On June 17 I participated in our annual Under the Lights Car Show organized by Fairmount Fire Company. The show, per usual, was exceptionally well attended and helped bring our community to life. This year's winner of the Mayor's Choice Award went to a stunning black and chrome 1969 350 Chevy Nova. Again, I would like to thank and congratulate Fairmount Fire Company for their incredible work on the car show and their continued partnership.

### **Solicitor's Report: Patrick Hitchens**

1. He used a word in the motion for Resolution 23-14 for 608 E. Main St (YMCA) subdivision in the title. There will not be a subdivision of the property. It is just a new gym for the YMCA. He should have omitted the word subdivision.
2. Communications and related follow-up work regarding land development matters (including 117 S. Broad, 151 E Mt Vernon, 874/901 Moyers, 608 E Main and the RACP Grant for Discover Lansdale/Freight House). – Approximately 6.0 hours.
3. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding Right-to-Know matters. – Approximately 3.4 hours.
4. Communication with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding contract review, procurement, and related matters. – Approximately 1 hour.
5. Communications and related follow-up work regarding litigation matters including tax assessment appeals, liens, and insurance related matters. – Over 10 hours.
6. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including library matters, zoning enforcement, compliance and ordinance matters – Approximately 5.5 hours.

### **Borough Manager's Report: read by President Burnell**

1. I'd like to introduce and welcome our new Director of Technology, Darwin Zehr, to the Borough and Council. Darwin comes to us with over 20 years experience as the Director of Technology at Dock Mennonite Academy (formerly Christopher Dock). He's had

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experience working with numerous end users, security systems, cyber-security integration, audio- visual technology and everything in between. So far, he has proven to fit in quite nicely.

2. I'd like to congratulate Rick Lesniak on receiving his recertification of the title "Certified Emergency Manager" CEM.
  - Congratulations! Richard M. Lesniak, CEM®, has this year earned recognition from the International Association of Emergency Managers by being among the group of professionals who have maintained their Certified Emergency Manager® (CEM®) designation. This is the highest honor of professional achievement available from the Association which has in its membership more than 6,000 emergency managers representing professionals whose goals are saving lives and protecting property and the environment during emergencies and disasters. Previously Richard qualified as a CEM® by submitting an extensive credentials package giving personal and professional background achievements and a written examination. In order to maintain certification, Richard must continue a program of professional development over successive five-year periods. Thus, this is an honor neither easily earned nor maintained. The CEM® designation presently is held by 2,272 individuals in the emergency management profession. As a CEM®, Richard Lesniak demonstrated a high level of competence and ethical fitness for emergency management. Your organization is to be commended for having a professional of this caliber on staff.

**Comments for the good of Council:**

**Mayor Herbert** – His office hours are every Tuesday from 9am to 5pm and Saturdays by appointment only.

**Vice President Fuller** – The White's Road Concert series started June 17 and the Well Crafted Beer Garden was successful. First Friday will be on July 7.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

*Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.*