

August 7, 2019

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 9:12 pm by Vice President, Mary Fuller.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilman Angelichio
- (X) Councilman Breish
- ( ) President Burnell - vacation
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- (X) Councilman Hansen
- (X) Councilman Henning
- (X) Councilman Work
- (X) Mayor Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst  
Finance Director, John Ramey  
Police Chief, Mike Trail  
Parks & Rec., Karl Lukens  
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss  
Public Works, not present  
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie

Borough Solicitor, not present  
Borough Engineer, not present  
Library Director, Tom Meyer  
IT/GIS Coordinator, Kevin Kissinger  
HR Director, not present  
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame

Residents

None

An Executive Session was held earlier this evening regarding a personnel matter. No action to be taken.

Agenda Item #5 – Committee Reports

**Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman Hansen**

1. For the month of July 107 permit applications were received, and 120 permits processed. This is a thirty-two percent increase year to date.
2. The department continues to be extremely busy with excess vegetation complaints. Reminder that trees and shrubs, especially with all the rain, should be trimmed to clear walkways and sight lines. In addition to this recommendation, the department is requesting residents and business owners to clear vegetation that is growing up along curbs and in cracks in walkways.
3. Interviews for an Emergency Management Coordinator is will take place later this month.
4. The department continues to receive police reports regarding violation in single family rentals. This month a call was received from North Penn Water Authority regarding an excessive amount of water usage at a premise. Single family rental inspections would be valuable to the community.

5. Small Batch Kitchens located at 711 W Main Street had their grand opening. Great local eatery and market for lunch and dinner.
6. Attending this evenings meeting, Mr. and Mrs. George Balock of E. Hancock Street, offered to share their beekeeping information with the Borough of Lansdale.
  - They have been bee keepers for three years and they have a total of five hives. Three hives produce honey and the other two hives are colonies.
  - They do their best to prevent rogue bees. One queen bee can lay 1500 to 3000 eggs per day.
  - There is always a risk of colony collapse through out the United States.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – There is one queen bee per hive?

**Mrs. Balock** - The queen lays the eggs in the hive and she normally makes worker bees.

**Mayor Herbert** – How do you handle swarms when they happen?

**Mrs. Balock** – You move the queen to another hive but that doesn't always work. They swarmed to a tree in our yard and we just scooped them up with our hands and put them in box and took them back to the hives.

**Mr. Balock** – They do their best to prevent swarms but sometimes you can't stop them. Sometimes they try and separate the colonies so they think that they swarmed when they actually didn't.

**Vice President Fuller** – It sounds like swarms look scarier than they actually are.

**Mr. Balock** – When bee bellies are full of honey, they don't have anything to protect so they don't want to sting you.

**Councilman Angelichio** – How can neighbors help to keep the bees healthy and thriving?

**Mr. Balock** – Let dandelions grow in your yard and plant native plants.

7. On August 20 the Zoning Hearing Board will hear from three applicants and one of them is NPSD who is requesting a special exception to allow a school in a Residential District, allow a front yard setback of ninety-seven feet where fifty feet is the maximum required and the applicant is requesting a Changing Electronic Variable message sign (CEVMS) greater than twenty square feet.
  - We would like the Borough Solicitor to appear at the hearing on behalf of the Borough regarding the CEVMS.

8. Just a reminder to not blow grass clippings into the street. Blow them back onto your property or bag them up.

### **Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Angelichio**

1. Financial Report - As of 06/30, revenue is looking good and up \$220k which is a 4% increase and it's also right in line with last year. We are also right in line with the budget at 68%. EIT and transfer taxes are the reasons we are up. We are looking at a \$541k increase in expenses this year which is up 5%. We have \$50k for chargers, but we are being reimbursed. Police personnel costs are up \$300k. For 2019, we have 4 officers that we didn't have last year. The department has been at full staff for all of 2019 compared to prior year where three officers were hired in July. We are at 43% so far this year for expenses and not far off the pace of last year for expenses.
2. 2020 Budget – The first draft should be ready in September for Council to review. Civics 101 on November 12 will be focused on the Budget.
3. Debt Refinancing - We start with bond rating and we got an AA rating. The bonds were sold on Monday at a savings of \$1.186 million over 18 years. We are not extending the terms of the debt. The rate was at 3.2% and we got 2.35% and we are paying only 2% for the next ten years and the highest that we will pay is 3.2%. The process works where we sell new bonds and pay off the old ones.
4. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Resolution to start the alley maintenance program again.
5. Discussed submitting an application for grant money to extend the Liberty Bell Trail from 9<sup>th</sup> Street to Moyers Road.
6. Line Street Paving – Ten feet paving will be put down on Line Street to mitigate some of the unevenness. The vast majority of the concrete work is done with the final paving to be done by the end of October. The contract deadline is November 15th and we have very little ability to hold contractor before deadline. We can use the savings from the N. Cannon Avenue project to do this temporary paving.
7. Homestead Tax Credit - The school district approves us telling people to sign up for the credit. It is based on existing incomes and those making under \$35k along with renters who make under \$15k. For the Homestead Credit, you own or live in the home. Only 63% of residents are taking advantage of the credit. The school district has to mail it out by the end of the year and residents have to complete it by the end of the year.

**Councilman DiGregorio** - What was the savings from N. Cannon Avenue?

**Mr. Ernst** – He doesn't have the exact number, but it is enough for the \$30,000 temporary paving.

**Councilman Breish** – Will the EV Chargers reimbursement be reflected in this year's budget?

**Mr. Ernst** – All paperwork has been supplied to get the reimbursement so we have to wait and see how long it takes for the reimbursement.

### **Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton**

1. Motion to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Approving Elm Terrace Gardens for the electric incentive program.

### **Electric Committee – Councilman DiGregorio**

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Bid award to Armour & Sons Electric for the ARLE grant. Construction for this project is 100% funded from the \$216,000 Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE) Grant.
  - AMP is recommending that the borough subscribe to 9.0 MWs. Staff and the engineers for this project are recommending participation in both these peak shaving efforts. By participating in both peak shaving generation projects, this will allow the borough to start to stabilize transmission rates and capacity peak rates.
2. Department Operations – Staff is continuing to work with the developer on the Madison Project as well as replacing a couple poles along Cannon Avenue.
3. Osmose, a contractor for Verizon, has been working throughout the borough checking Verizon owned poles for wood rot and structural issues. This work is contracted by Verizon.
4. Both air handler units original to the Electric Services Building failed due to the extreme hot temperatures. Multiple price quotes were procured and we are now in the process of completing all work. This project will cost the borough roughly \$16,000 and will be funded out of the Capital Fund.

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

1. Budget review - Revenues at 64% and Expenses at 51%. This year's Clean and Green event was the best ever for donations collected at \$1,384 and 2nd best ever overall.
2. Fall programs - There will be a discussion on Internet Safety, a discussion on how to fall safely geared towards seniors and children but useful for anyone. There will also be a discussion on the Making of the Modern Middle East by a retired professor from Montgomery County Community College on Tuesday evenings, Oct 8, 15, and 22.
3. Reformation Lansdale would like to use some space outside to setup a table to give away King James bibles. We discussed guidelines for use of space outdoors covering location and number of times a group can request use.
4. CCAT Review scheduling - Tom Meyer will send out a Doodle Poll to council and schedule the review for the time that works best based on the poll.
5. Fire Alarm and Security System – Keystone came back with an estimate that is \$654 for install and \$590 annually to monitor fire alarms. The committee wants to move forward with this.
6. Painting estimates – Sinn Painting gave an estimate of \$4,885 to paint the canopy of the front entrance. So far, they are the only company willing to do the job.
7. We will plan to have a yard sale in October to go along with the 0.5K run.

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

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:

- Motion to approve the use of Memorial Park for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival of the Arts on August 24.
  - Motion to submit an application for the PECO Green Region Grant for the rain garden project.
  - Motion to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the skatepark project.
  - Resolution to request funding for Phase III of the Liberty Bell Trail from 9<sup>th</sup> Street to Moyers Road.
  - Resolution to request funding for the White's Road flashing warning device.
2. Update on programs for the month of August are the department's White's Road Park Concert Series "A Salute to Saldutti", Children's night out – Tom Sawyer the musical, Movie in the Park and the Lansdale Festival of the Arts.
  3. Maintenance activities included work at 4th Street Pool, Maintenance to the playground fall zones, tree removal at White's Road Park and York & Susquehanna Park.
  4. Reviewed the budget and everything is on target and inline with what the numbers were last year at this time.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – There was a post on Facebook that trees were sprayed in a park.

**Vice President Fuller** – If there was a concern for the public, signs would have been posted about spraying. What was sprayed was safe.

**Councilman Angelichio** - There was a Facebook post that the skate park was dead and not happening. It is important that concerned citizens call and ask questions and not post on Facebook. Follow the proper protocol to get your questions answered.

**Councilman Hansen** – We all want the Skatepark to happen, but we want it done right so if it takes extra time then it takes extra time.

**Vice President Fuller** – We also want it done fiscally responsibly too.

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

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Motion to approve Discover Lansdale's Cruise Night on September 14.
  - Motion to approve Discover Lansdale's 0.5K race on October 26.
  - Motion to approve the promotion of two officers to Sergeant.
2. The Chief is working with the borough's traffic engineer to relocate the stop sign on Line Street from the intersection with East Fifth Street to the intersection with East Fourth Street. This move was made to accommodate the pedestrian crossings at East Fourth and North Line Street.
3. LPD is working with Abington Hospital to host a community event for first aid entitled "Stop the Bleed" to focus on the triage of persons suffering injuries requiring blood stopping techniques for survival.
4. There were several residents who spoke during public comment on various issues.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – People are speeding down the side streets on his neighborhood. Could we get more officers to monitor that area during rush hour? In Silverdale speed bumps were added to some neighborhoods to prevent speeding. Maybe we should do that too.

**Chief Trail** – We are looking at all streets in the borough regarding speeding.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Can we put signage up to limit turns during certain times of the day so people are deterred from cutting through developments?

**Chief Trail** – No, we can't do that.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – Has there been any more complaints about fireworks?

**Chief Trail** – We haven't had too many complaints recently and he was not prepared to speak about that tonight so he doesn't have a number of calls to refer to.

#### **Public Works Committee – Councilman Angelichio**

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - 2017 CDBG E. Third Street Phase I - change order to balance the contract and a final payment request in the amount of \$44,066.82.
  - Whites Road Rehabilitation - received a final payment request from the contractor in the amount of \$9,249.89.
  - N. Line Street Rehabilitation - received a payment request in the amount of \$25,938.64.
  - Influent Pump & Piping- received payment request #3 in the amount of \$25,515.00.
2. W. Third Street Rehabilitation – All infrastructure and curbing and sidewalk have been completed. Final milling and paving is scheduled to take place in October.
3. 2019 Mill & Overlay Program – James D. Morrissey has been issued the notice to proceed.
4. 2019 N. Cannon Avenue Road Rehabilitation – Curb and sidewalk work is currently taking place. Marino has also started some of their sanitary work.
5. 2019 ADA Improvement Project – A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for August 27th with the contractor
6. Pennbrook Avenue Base Repairs - Base repairs for this project will take place when SJM Construction starts to replace the service lines in this area. A projected start date for this work is September or October.
7. 2018 CDBG E. Third Street – Phase II (Broad Street to Chestnut Street) – This project is in design phase with projected advertising for bids in September.
8. White's Road Streambank Stabilization – RVE has submitted the permit package to DEP and we are waiting to hear back from them.

9. Alley Program – The Borough Manager received a draft resolution from the solicitor for review by staff and council. Public Works staff repaired a couple of the worst alleys near N. Towamencin and Shaw Avenues as “test” alleys to assure all equipment is in good working order.
10. Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership - There was a presentation and discussion of funding formulas for the projects included in the Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP). Several documents were placed into Dropbox including the minutes from the July meeting, the WQIP final draft for committee review, and the funding memos created by the Environmental Finance Center (EFC).
11. Fire Alarm & Security System Upgrade - We had some trouble with the existing fire and security system in the past month that may require a modification to the scope of work. We will make these modifications, if necessary before advertising the project.

**Councilman Breish** – In regard to the alleys and single hauler trash, we can't mix the two items. We need to start the program and then have a conversation about future maintenance and single hauler. Some of the alleys are in such bad shape they are dangerous. There was also some concern about only a 30-day notice to residents on Derstine to get their curb and sidewalk upgraded before paving. He knows that is what the ordinance says, but maybe we should change that ordinance.

#### Agenda Item #6 – Announcements

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Be careful driving at dusk this time of year because it is deer season.

**Mayor Herbert** – The St. Stan's Festival is next week and he will be in the dunk tank one night. He just doesn't know which night yet.

**Councilman Henning** – First Friday activities and attendance have been off the charts good this year.

**Councilman Hansen** – The recent tragic mass shootings are motivated by hate. We have to do more to prevent these shootings.

**Councilman Breish** – There will be a park clean up on Saturday, August 11 from 1:00 to 4:00pm and we will meet at Stony Creek Park. We will once again do a Lantern Spotted Fly egg clean up when they are laid on October.

**Vice President Fuller** – The steam engine train will NOT be a Founders Day this year due to a safety issue they are having with the tracks. The Lifetime Achievement Award recipients this year is Frank and Georgette Koehler.

#### Agenda Item #7 – Public Comment

None

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:37pm*