

January 4, 2023

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:30pm by Vice President, Mary Fuller.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilwoman Bollens
- (X) Councilman Breish
- () President Burnell - sick
- (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., not present
Electric Dept., Joe Green
Public Works, not present
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

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

Residents

Rafia Razzak – 602 Kenilworth Avenue

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Reviewed the financials from December 2022. Projected to be \$300k to \$500k under budget excess and the trailing things not included here. We are up \$3.5 million in revenue and up \$2.2 million in expenses. There is a payroll timing in expenses. Property Tax is up \$422k, EIT & LST is up \$600k, insurance is up \$183k, Parks & Rec revenue is up \$61k and Capital is up \$1.6 million. Admin costs are up \$181k due to financial software. We are transferring everything over to the new system with transferring of meters remaining. Assets are up \$9.9 million; it combines asset depreciation and claim on cash for Electric and Sewer. This makes perfect sense where we are currently, but this is not final for 2022.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Resolution re: Equal Opportunity Employer
3. Mr. Dickerson is looking into switching banks from TD Bank to another bank. TD Bank charges us monthly fees that we would prefer not to pay if there are banks that we can use without them. He has reached out to three other banks and will report back when he hears from them.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. Staff is currently working on implementing the new Caselle software. It is a work in progress, and we hope to be live to customers soon.
2. Staff has been working on digitalizing old records and reorganizing the records room.
3. At the December Planning Commission meeting the following was discussed:
 - A sketch plan was presented for a proposed Propane Storage and Distribution along with retail sales on 874 & 901 Moyers Road. Applicant received zoning relief in November 2022.
 - Amendments to the Downtown Business Overlay District were presented and this is an ongoing discussion item. Amendments to the Zoning District including expanding the district, parking requirements and updating the proposed allowed uses are being reviewed.
4. The Zoning Hearing Board had a hearing in December regarding 321 Columbia Avenue. The owner would like to convert the single-family home to a duplex.

Councilman Carroll – We are looking to expand the overlay business district.

Economic Development Committee – Councilman Ladley

1. Stephen Barth was at the meeting and gave his report since he came on board last spring. He has reached out to a lot of potential businesses and has been working with current business owners on ideas and how to apply for small business loan grants, etc. He also assisted with some beautifying measures in the downtown.
2. Discussion about having informal sub-committees of the EDC to work on things like marketing, wayfinding and aesthetics.
3. Some businesses that opened in December were classic game junkie, a clothing store at 711 W. Main Street and the German Club reopened after their fire a couple of years ago.
4. Richard Strahm resigned from the EDC at the end of December. He had been on the committee since 2015 and was the Vice Chair.

VP Fuller – Richard did a great job on the EDC.

Councilman Breish – He won't miss having to follow Richard's incredible business of the month presentations.

Electric Committee – Councilman Carroll

1. Discussed updating the Electric Ordinance to allow for commercial businesses to have EV chargers and resell Lansdale Electric to their customers the electric used at the charger.
2. Capital Projects – A meeting with PP&L will happen to open the relay design for possible cost savings.
 - Finishing final design of 2023 bucket truck to take delivery in November of 2023.
 - Both unit substation drawings have been approved by engineering and will move forward to manufacturing. We hope to take delivery of these units later this year.
3. Discussed department Operations: Freight House parking lot project, pole relocation and lighting.
 - Cannon Avenue - move pole line to other side of Cannon for apartment complex located at 501 N. Cannon.
 - Electric layout and preparation for the new pavilion at White's Road Park.

Library Committee – Councilman Breish

1. The committee will move forward with the restructuring of the Library Board.
2. The end of year budget was reviewed with revenues at 97% and expenses at 100% for calendar year 2022. Committee recognizes that this shows a deficit of just over \$40k; however, two projects were approved and completed in 2022 that were not included in the original budget including the painting of the façade awning and rewiring/upgrading the library networking cables.
3. Fundraising was up over 30% year over year.
4. The International Spring Festival (ISF) now have their own 501(c)3 so they will be separating from the library and moving out all of their supplies and transferring their funds to their own bank account.
5. This year is the 95th Anniversary of the library. Celebrations will be planned this year. Mr. Meyer also hopes to hold two Clean and Green events this year.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Congratulation to Courtney Meehan on the birth of her daughter Maeve Fox Meehan.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Final payment for the White’s Road Pavilion.
 - Advertise bid specifications for the White’s Road Park Improvements project.
 - Update the 2023 seasonal wage and salary schedule.
3. Staff is looking at getting water for bathrooms at White’s Road Park near the pavilion and playground.
4. The Santa House was open again this year and it was well received.
5. Winter programs are currently happening and going well.
6. The White’s Road Park concert series entertainment has been booked. New programs will be available for the spring and summer as well.
7. Winter maintenance continues within the park system.
8. The Fifth Street Park snack stand roof was replaced. Looking into adding security cameras to the area as well.
9. Thank you to the P&R and Electric crews for setting up the pickleball courts to be useable at night.

Councilman Ladley – If doing plumbing at White’s Road Park for bathrooms could a water filling station be added as well and possibly explore misting stations too.

VP Fuller – We will definitely want water filling stations and we can explore the misting stations as well.

Mr. Ernst – We have not discussed misting stations, but if we can get water run up there that opens up more opportunities.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh

1. New signs were added at E. Second Street regarding one-way direction. Waiting for an update from Public Works about road painting.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Approval of the Manna on Main Street Race to End Hunger in April 2023.
3. Chief Trail reported that commercial vehicles were getting stuck while turning onto S. Chestnut Street from E. Main Street because cars are parked too close to the intersection. More enforcement will take place and Chief will work with traffic engineer on this.
4. There have been additional complaints about speeding on Delaware Avenue near Cannon Avenue. Chief Trail will have more enforcement in the area as well as work on more speed studies.

5. Chief Butler from the Fairmount Fire Company gave a company update to the committee.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Change order, time extension for the ADA Curb and Ramp project.
 - Change order and final payment for the CDBG N. Richardson Avenue project.
 - Change order for the Ridge Street Generator Upgrade project time extension.
2. A brief update regarding an on call process for Public Works crews similar to how the other departments work. There was also a discussion about adding bike lanes on a portion of S. Broad Street.
3. WWTP – DEP did their annual inspection.
4. It was suggested by Councilman Ladley that the Christmas tree pick be a week later in January next year. He also recommends that the committee begin discussing single hauler trash or municipal owned trash again. The committee can review the previous studies.

VP Fuller – Will the old reports be on One Drive?

Councilman Breish – Yes.

VP Fuller – Is there a time frame to review the old studies?

Councilman Breish – This is not something that we are moving forward with at the next business meeting. We need time to review the old studies.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

None

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

Rafia Razzak of 602 Kenilworth Avenue – She wanted to echo what Councilman Ladley said about the misting station at White’s Road Park. It would be a great addition.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04pm