

January 20, 2021

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 online via Zoom Meeting and called to order at 7:01pm by Council President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilman Angelichio
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Andrew Carroll
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- (X) Councilman Henning
- (X) Councilwoman Currie Teoh
- (X) Mayor Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst  
Finance Dir, John Crawford  
Police Chief, absent  
Parks & Rec. Director, Karl Lukens  
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss  
Public Works Superintendent, Rick DeLong  
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, Patrick Hitchens  
Borough Engineer, Chris Fazio  
Library Director, Tom Meyer  
IT/GIS Coordinator, absent  
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame  
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie  
Asst. WWTP Superintendent, Greg Rapp

Residents:

None

Agenda Item #5 – President’s Comments

**President Burnell** – Reviewed the Zoom meeting process and procedures. Chief Trail was to do a brief presentation, but he wasn’t able to be at the meeting.

Agenda Item #6 - Petitions

None

Agenda Item #7 – Residents to be heard on any item

None

Agenda Item #8 – Action Items

**Councilman Angelichio** presented Motion A and read as follows:

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

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

**Councilman Angelichio** presented Motion B and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Work Session: December 2, 2020  
Business Meeting: December 16, 2020

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.*

**Councilman Angelichio** presented Motion C and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-01 to authorize PennDOT to request railroad crossing upgrades at Cannon Avenue from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

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

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

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Ordinance 1948 amending Chapter 204 titled Fire Prevention Code to authorize and set forth procedures for annual fire inspections of non-residential properties and to set forth additional requirements for placards required by the Fire Prevention Code.

**Councilman Breish** – He wants to verify that we will be reasonable with fees and requirements that could be costly for businesses.

**Mr. Ernst** – Yes, we will work with every business as needed.

**Mr. Hitchens** – The ordinance says that the fees are set by resolution in the fee schedule. That fee schedule needs to be updated at a later date.

**Mr. Henning** – What is the time frame to roll out this program?

**Mr. Ernst** – We will not be starting the program immediately. Mr. Lesniak is working business owners now and explaining how the program work sand how they can prepare for the slow roll out. A hard date to start has not been set.

**President Burnell** – We did receive one letter in opposition of the program particularly about fees.

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

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

I move that Borough Council authorize Utility Engineers to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the replacement of six circuit oil filled breakers at the Main Substation.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – This is long overdue for the safety of the lineman.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** presented Motion F and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize Remington & Vernick Engineers to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the HVAC Replacement at the Electric Services Building.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** presented Motion G and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to accept the proposal to provide professional services to perform SCADA Updates at the Wastewater Treatment Plant submitted by Keystone Engineering Group in the amount of \$38,750.00.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council approve Payment #3 (final) in the amount of \$16,647.53 to Marino Corporation for work completed on the 2020 Liquid Fuels Microsurfacing Program.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Did they do the seal work on the road?

**Mr. Van Dame** – They did the Microsurfacing work.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – At Lombardy and North Wales Road there are cracks that need to be sealed.

**Mr. Van Dame** – He will have to check with RVE about this.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council have the Borough Manager to prepare and advertise a Request for Proposal for the purpose of a Traffic Signal Inspection and Maintenance Program.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-02 to authorize a cost sharing and reimbursement agreement with North Penn Water Authority for water main and service replacement in conjunction with the Columbia Avenue Rehabilitation Project.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council reappoint the following individuals to the Economic Development Committee:

Bruce Schwartz for a two-year term expiring on July 31, 2023.

Mark Ladley for a two-year term expiring on July 31, 2023.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Angelichio and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council reappoint the following individuals to the Human Relations Commission:

Juliane Ramic for a two-year term expiring on February 28, 2023.

Jessica Rice for a two-year term expiring on February 28, 2023.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council reappoint the following individuals to the Lansdale Planning Commission:

John Chirico for a four-year term expiring on September 30, 2025.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Angelichio and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council appoint Rosanne Schussler as the Treasurer for the Borough of Lansdale effective immediately.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Angelichio and unanimously approved.*

#### Item #9 – Information Items

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

1. On January 8th I attended a meeting of the Lansdale Equality Coalition. In it we discussed ideas around how to celebrate Lansdale's diversity and how to foster productive conversations around race in our community. Ideas included formalizing a celebration for Juneteenth, public readings of contemporary authors, and video viewings of related material. I look forward to the ongoing conversation we have had with the Equality Coalition and how we can continue to work together to help foster equality and equity.
2. On January 12th I attended the first monthly meeting between Lansdale Borough and the regional Post Office staff and Congressman's Fitzpatrick's. Post Office staff shared their hiring update with me. They have added several new staff members in order to try and address delivery needs in the area. However, they are still dealing with many people on leave due to COVID concerns.
3. This past Monday was the celebration of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. I deeply appreciate everyone who spent the day volunteering their time in our community and honoring the memory of Dr. King. Lansdale thrives because of the passions of all of our residents and their commitment to improving our home. As Dr. King said, everybody can be great, because anybody can serve.
4. Congratulations to President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris on their inauguration today. The presentation was deeply moving and I hope we are able to achieve some of the unity that was mentioned throughout the day and that we can continue to move our nation forward. As our new poet laureate said:  
"We will not March back to what was, but move to what shall be a country that is bruised, but whole, benevolent, but bold, and free. We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation. Our blunders become their burdens. But one thing is certain, if we merge mercy with might and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright."  
-Amanda Gorman

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

1. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work on ordinance and resolution matters including tax/millage levy for 2021, fire code updates and commercial fire inspection program - Approximately 3.2 hours
2. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work on various land development matters including 320 Madison, 315 W Main (DeCastro), 1000 Cannon (North Penn Business Campus) and 117 E Hancock – Approximately 6.6 hours

3. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work relating to easement and real estate matters including cost sharing with NPWA– Approximately 3.3 hours
4. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work relating to Right-to-Know appeal matters – Approximately 2.5 hours
5. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work relating to lien matters – Approximately over 10 hours
6. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including compliance/legal updates, litigation, zoning and code and assessment appeals. – Approximately 8.3 hours

### **Borough Manager's Report: John Ernst**

1. Many thanks to The Boston Legacy Foundation and their work this week – on Martin Luther King Day - for their inservice day at the Borough Parks. They organized a park cleanup that included: White's Road Park, 4th & 5th Street Parks, Memorial Park and the Moyers Road ballfields. Upwards of 80 participants collected 40 bags of trash throughout those parks. The Boston Legacy Foundation is a local group who is dedicated to honoring the life of Dr. Frank E. Boston, who was a WWI vet, founder of the original Lansdale hospital and Lansdale resident.
2. Rick Delong shared with me this week that we received our final 2020 statistics for the street sweeper quantities: 9 tons of trash, 152 tons of sifted material (not leaves), i.e. dirt, cinders, paving remnants, etc., 480 Cubic Yards of leaves.
3. We're getting ready to begin our Spring road improvement projects and on the list this year is Laurel Lane and much needed drainage improvements along that roadway, along with the entire length of Columbia Avenue from Susquehanna to Valley Forge Road. Both projects will be performed with the cooperation of the NPWA. We are looking to set up our typical neighborhood 'charette' meetings where we invite the impacted neighbors of these projects to learn and discuss the projects so there is a better understanding of the goals, timeline, expectations and disruptions to daily routine. The fact that Borough Hall is closed to public meetings has forced us to re-think how we proceed with the meetings, but we are looking at several options and will be moving forward with one in the very near future.

### **Comments for the good of Council:**

**Vice President Fuller** – Thank you to for the volunteers who helped clean up the parks. Welcome back John Crawford and thank you for helping us again.

### **Agenda Item #10 – Old Business**

None

### **Agenda Item #11 New Business**

None

*Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.*