

February 5, 2025

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:34pm by President Mary Fuller.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilwoman Bollens
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) Councilman Carroll
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) President Fuller
- (X) Councilwoman Oglesby
- (X) Councilwoman Razzak
- (X) Vice President Currie Teoh
- (X) Councilman Yetter
- (X) Mayor Garry Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, not present
Finance Director, not present
Police Chief, Mike Trail
Parks & Rec., Courtney Fox
Electric Dept., Andy Krauss
Public Works, Vacant
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

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

Residents

None

Agenda Item #5 – Action item

Councilwoman Oglesby presented Motion A and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt the attached Ordinance 1979 amending Sections 87-1 and 87-2 of Chapter 87 titled salaries and compensation of the Lansdale Borough Code to increase the compensation provided to Council members and the Mayor.

Councilman DiGregorio – How much will it be per month?

President Fuller – Approximately \$530 a month for those elected or re-elected in 2026.

Councilman Yetter – When was the last time this was increased?

Councilwoman Oglesby – Not since before record keeping started on payments to elected officials.

Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #6 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilwoman Oglesby

1. We discussed the new format for financial reports that will be available at next month's meeting.

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2. We are still working out the logistics with our Solicitor for the consent agenda that will include bills to be paid, Treasurer's Report and meeting minutes.
3. Ed Murray from Stifel Public Finance attended our meeting to talk about bond borrowing. Official action to continue with bond borrowing would take place at the March 19 meeting. There are options for the borrowing: A 20yr or 25 yr with a tight wrap around or two separate bonds to be paid off by 2034. The projects to potentially be included are the White's Road Pool, Edgemont Avenue, N. Cannon Avenue, Poplar Street and W. 3rd Street. We currently have a AAA- rating with Moody's.
4. Staff is working on policies for our Debt Service and General Funds.
5. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Resolution re: the Borough as an Equal Opportunity Employer
 - Motion to approve the recycling contract with FX Browne/Bogia Engineering.
6. Our audit consultant says we are ahead of schedule on getting the 2023 audit submitted to the auditors.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilwoman Razzak

1. The ordinance regarding vacancies should be coming before Council soon.
2. There were not a lot of business items for tonight's meeting. There was public comment regarding some concerns about the proposed vacancy ordinance. Some people feel we should not be doing this at all or will charge too much and others feel we won't charge enough. The payments would be semi-annual. There is a draft in One Drive for all of Council to review.
3. In the month of January, sixty-nine permits were issued.
4. Staff is currently completing interviews for Apartment Inspector.

Economic Development Committee – Councilman Carroll

1. Each subcommittee gave brief updates on what they were working on.
2. The Lansdale Business Alliance (LBA) had a meeting with more attendees than they expected.
3. The committee has been discussing ideas of how to use the money saved from not renewing Barth Consulting Group's contract.
4. They would like to improve the façade grant improvement parameters. Businesses should present to the entire committee, not just Jason Van Dame.
5. The EAC presented to the committee about single use plastic ban; further discussions are necessary on this topic.
6. A façade grant application for 15 W. Main Street was presented and approved.

Councilman Breish – What came out of the EAC discussion about bags?

Councilman Carroll – It was more like a pledge than a full ban.

President Fuller – Phoenixville implemented a plastic bag ban starting January 1, 2025.

Electric Committee – Councilman Carroll

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Purchase/lease of a Ford 150 Lightning Pickup truck.
 - Prepare and advertise an electric ordinance update.
 - Radar detection devices for traffic lights on the Main Street corridor.
2. The EAC will present their Ready for 100 resolution for sustainable, renewable energy to the committee.
3. Staff is preparing the fee schedule for 2026.

4. Staff is in a learning phase of the QPHL corridor resilience within our own corridor. The other municipalities within our corridor are Hatfield, Quakertown and Perkasié who are all working together.
5. We started a program for Linemen accreditation 4-year apprenticeship this year.
 - Councilman DiGregorio** – Is this done at nighttime?
 - Mr. Krauss** – They study on their own and get on-the-job training during the day.
 - Councilman Breish** – Kudos on wanting to eliminate the electric deposits for rental properties. The commercial component seems like a lot to eliminate.
 - Mr. Krauss** – It is hard to calculate for commercial businesses as sizes and uses are so different.
 - Mayor Herbert** – It's good to get rid of the deposits to make it more affordable. It is wonderful about the corridor with the other municipalities. What about power resale for electric car uses?
 - Councilman Carroll** – there will be a separate rate for that, but we are not there yet.
 - Mr. Krauss** – We will have a separate ordinance for electric car charging and usage.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Councilwoman Bollens

1. Discussion was had about the Charlie the Cat memorial in White's Road Park for a memorial bench and little library. It was also thought to replace worn out equipment rather than purchasing new equipment.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Resolution to apply for the Montco 2040 grant for trail paving in various locations.
 - Proposal from RVE for the W. 5th Street playground rehabilitation project.
 - Bid award for the White's Road Pool renovation project.
 - White's Road Park bid award for the restroom facility.
3. The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy Sustainability in Practice program will assist the Borough with sustainability planning.
4. Courtney Fox and Seth Thomas both attended and graduated from P&R Maintenance Management school.
5. The department is gearing up for the spring/summer season. A list of all the upcoming events is available on our website.
6. There have been some questions about the Goose Chaser company that the department uses to keep the Canadian geese out of Stony Creek Park. They are worth the cost as these geese are dirty and can be violent toward people and other animals.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh

1. Discussion about the ordinance regarding trailers parking on residential streets determined that the ordinance is fine as it is.
2. Traffic study meetings for the final results will be coming soon; we are still waiting for the final version for staff and Council to review.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Motions to approve handicapped parking spaces at 823 W. 3rd Street and 325 Columbia Avenue.
 - Motion to approve nine special events for the 2025 season.
 - Motion to move forward with hiring a new police officer.
 - Motion to adopt a revised Emergency Operations Plan resolution.
 - Motion to enter into Mutual Aid agreement for Emergency Services.
4. FFCO report – 2024 was their busiest year to date. They responded to 634 Alarms, 500 Fire Alarms with 84 EMS related with a response time of 5.2 minutes. They also logged

3,000 training hours. They received a \$160,000 grant from Rep. Malagari for garage doors and upgrades to the HVAC system. They recruited 15 new members with 2 junior members.

5. During the month of January, the Fire Marshal inspected more than 120,000 square feet of commercial properties for fire safety inspections.
6. A resident requested that more signage be added to the crosswalk at W. Main Street and Susquehanna Avenue. Cars are not stopping when the crossing lights go on. Another resident commented that there is a lot of dog poop along Madison Street near Main Street.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Amend the proposals from RVE for the N. Cannon Avenue and Poplar Street rehabilitation projects to add bidding, construction management and inspections.
 - Motion to purchase through COSTARS an electric Ford 150 Lightning Pickup truck.
 - Motions to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the Edgemont Avenue and W. 3rd Street sanitary sewer upgrades.
2. There will be a negative change order for the E. Main Street Streetscape project. No action is needed.
3. Staff is looking at future paving projects for Highland Avenue, Frederick Road and Greenwood Road along with some other potential roads.
4. An update was given on the White's Road Pump Station project. They have added chemicals and are monitoring the hydrogen.
5. Rep. Malagari secured a \$32,500 grant for the Neshaminy Streambank project which does not require a match.
6. There are 42 Borough residents whose sewers are serviced by Towamencin Township and they are not being charged the same rate. Currently working with the Finance Department to fix this and will be followed by communication to these residents.
7. Questions were asked by residents in attendance about who pays for the curbing on the W. 3rd Street project? Past practice has been that the Borough pays for the curbing and homeowner pays for sidewalk replacement, but there is no guarantee that that practice can continue.

President Fuller – I noticed that 8th Street was being dug up by PECO after we just paved it. Was that an emergency?

Mr. Van Dame – Yes, there was a gas leak.

Councilman Breish – We still have the road degradation on the agenda, but we are holding on that until we hire a new Public Works Director.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

Councilman DiGregorio – Go Birds!

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42pm