

March 3, 2021

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 online via Zoom Meeting and called to order at 8:47pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

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

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst
Finance Director, Melissa Gemelli
Police Chief, Mike Trail
Parks & Rec., Karl Lukens
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss
Public Works, Rick Delong
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, not present
Borough Engineer, not present
Library Director, Tom Meyer
IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie

Residents

None

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Angelichio

1. Introduced new Finance Director, Melissa Gemelli. She previously worked for the Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority as Finance Director and then as Paratransit Services Director. She has municipal auditing experience.
2. The financial reports were reviewed and we are starting to see the effects of the pandemic now. The reports are consolidated and easier to review; they are located in Dropbox.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Resolution re: Equal Opportunity Employer
 - Resolution re: Berkheimer liaison change to Melissa Gemelli
 - Resolution re: Melissa Gemelli to become the Montgomery County Tax Delegate
4. Discussed the upcoming 150th Anniversary of the Borough which will be in 2022. There is a small group that are developing plans right now for the multi-event celebration. A lot of volunteers will be needed and a budget will need to be set by the borough to fund the celebrations.
5. There was some general public comment.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman Henning

1. Discussed the best course of action of enforcing snow removal on sidewalks. Staff issued 300 door hangers. It was recommended that a fine process be done similar to a parking ticket so people clean the sidewalks immediately. It is a lengthy process to actually get a fine for not shoveling and by then the snow has melted.
2. Less permits have been issued since this time last year. This may be caused by the cost of construction materials rising.
3. The department is currently in the testing phase in Energov for online permitting.
4. We are actively looking for a building inspector for the department.
5. Westrum Development Group applied for the Economic Incentive Program to receive a discount on permits and electric for three years. EDC will need to approve for this to go before full Council.

Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. The February Meeting was cancelled – no report.

Electric Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Mr. Krauss attended the APPA rally virtually this year. This is the first time the Borough has attended because it is usually in Washington DC and is very expensive to attend. He was on the PMEA Board panel to talk about the challenges electric municipalities face.
2. Motion to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Bid award for replacement of five oil circuit breakers at the main substation.
3. The electric charging stations have completed 815 charges of 16,700 kw, 20 kw per car, for a total of \$1,200.
4. A brief update was given on the progress with PP&L on the interconnection protection relay project. We are moving forward with the isolation relay design with a not to exceed price tag of \$16,000.
5. The committee reviewed the final pole count for Utility Pole ownership between the Lansdale and Verizon. Verizon and Lansdale have agreed to the final number of Poles owned with Lansdale coming in with just over 1100 Poles. In the next month or so Council will be reviewing the final joint use agreement between the Borough and Verizon.
6. Discussed holiday decoration replacement; proposed decorations are in Dropbox.
7. Reviewed the Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association newsletter. This is the second newsletter of the series. This is a new monthly newsletter program that will continue to help the association grow. A future issue will focus on Lansdale and our solar projects that we are currently 99% completed.
8. The kick-off meeting with Blue Sky Power will be March 10 at 6:00pm with the subcommittee.
9. Since we started the tree trimming with Patriot Tree Service in December, trouble calls have drastically dropped to almost non-existent for tree trouble in high problem areas. We will continue to move forward with this project and hope to complete all the high problem areas by early summer.
10. Reviewed department operations with the committee.

Library Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. Reopened for browse and borrow on February 8. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am to 3:00pm. After March 16 hours will increase to 10:00am to 7:00pm Monday through Friday and same hours on Saturday.

2. March 15 will be an in-service day for staff for training.
3. The fire alarm system is complete and grant money received last year was used to help pay for the system.
4. Book request forms will be on the website soon.
5. Overdrive e-books will be replaced with cloudLibrary on March 18.
6. The Fire/Security system was inspected on February 12. Councilman Breish suggested that LED lights be installed for emergency lighting and that we should create a security alarm policy. Mr. Meyer will work with the insurance company.
7. The Advisory Committee met for the first time on February 24. There are six members who are volunteers. They received the strategic plan to review before their next meeting on March 24.
8. Discussed whether they should apply for a PPL loan. Mr. Meyer found out the library is eligible and they will need a resolution to apply.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Use of White's Road Park for St. John's UCC Easter Sunrise Service on April 4 at 7:00am.
 - Resolution to apply for a DCNR grant for White's Road Park improvements.
2. The committee gave Mr. Lukens the ability to schedule groups to use the parks for public use during the pandemic as long as nothing interferes with Borough events.
3. Discussed how T-ball could be run safely and move to the fall when COVID will most likely be better with more people vaccinated and it won't compete with other T-ball programs.
4. Maintenance crews were busy doing snow clean up as well as doing some maintenance to the garage.
5. Skatepark dedication will start at 10:00am Saturday, April 10.
6. Weather has delayed the White's Road playground and Liberty Bell Trail projects.
7. The bottle stations costs came in higher than anticipated. Mr. Lukens will ask NPWA to split the cost at 4th Street and Stony Creek.
8. The committee will take a parks tour with Mr. Lukens to discuss capital projects and improvements.
9. New business – the stone dust coating to the tennis court at Memorial Park will be postponed until the weather is better. Congratulations to Joanne Grubb on 40 years of full-time service and Louie DeGroot will retire in April after 46 years of service.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Has the swim team been discussed at all?

Mr. Lukens – He is waiting to hear from the leagues and what they want to do. If they don't want to hold a season this year, it may be possible to do an in-house league.

Councilman Breish – Will there be handicapped parking spaces in the upper lot for the White's Road playground? Was that part of the original scope?

Mr. Lukens – Yes, there will be and it is part of the original scope of the project.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Hiring of two new police officers.
 - Approval of the 2021 Farmers' Market Season.
 - Prepare and advertise and ordinance to include the entire length of Main Street and Broad Street, no parking both sides during snow alert; Increase parking fine to \$50 during snow alert; Remove parking restrictions on Hemlock Street.

2. The Lansdale Day application will be reviewed again in April. This is a very highly populated event and they need to have a COVID-19 safety plan in place before the committee can consider.
3. Mr. Lesniak, EMC, announced that 4,700 masks were donated and 400 PPE kits have been distributed to local businesses.
 - President Burnell** – Will we consider Lansdale Day closer to the event?
 - Councilwoman Currie Teoh** – We will need a safety plan from them and they will have to follow the State safety protocols.
 - Councilman Breish** – Could they come to the business meeting and we could discuss it then?
 - Councilwoman Currie Teoh** – Since they did not submit a safety plan, we will discuss again at committee level when they do.
 - Mayor Herbert** – They did not even acknowledge the pandemic in their application at all. We really need Mr. Lesniak to have time to review too. This event will be very dense with people it could be a super spreader.
 - Councilman Breish** – He thinks we should approve them and then let them submit their safety plan.
 - Councilman Carroll** – Having planned events on a smaller scale during COVID, he knows how difficult it can be but they need to have a safety plan first. Vendors need to have a plan as well.
 - Chief Trail** – We can go back to the Rotary Club and have them resubmit their application with a safety plan included for the committee to review again.
 - Vice President Fuller** – She knows it takes time to plan an event from experience, but they didn't even acknowledge that we are still in a pandemic.
 - Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – What is expected of any group who submits an application?
 - Chief Trail** – If there are restrictions in place set forth by the Commonwealth, groups need to acknowledge them and let us know that they will work within those restrictions.
 - Councilman Breish** – He doesn't want us to punish them by not approving tonight because with event planning timing is everything.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. Motions to appear before council at the next business meeting:
 - Bid award to Joao Bradley Construction for the Columbia Avenue Rehabilitation project.
 - Bid award to Joao Bradley Construction for the Laurel Lane Rehabilitation project.
 - Purchase of a small dump truck to replace an old truck in the fleet for about \$86,000.
 - Replacement of the sewer truck for about \$157,000.
2. Snow plowing – if it snows greater than 6" the crews will plow alleys after all main and side roads are done and after the storm is over. We will have to purchase some V plows in order to do this as the larger trucks do not fit down the alleys. Residents will be expected to dig out their garages and parking areas. This will become a policy.
3. WWTP – The fire & security system is installed and having some issues. There are punchlist items to be completed as well. They will keep troubleshooting the issues.
 - Once the weather gets better the White's Road Streambank project can be completed.
 - The lining of the sewers in the Pennbrook neighborhood will be done next week.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Is NPWA paying for a portion of the Columbia Avenue project?

Councilman Breish – They will pay about \$770,000 toward the total cost of the project.

Appointments Committee – President Burnell

1. Recommendations will be made for Planning Commission at the business meeting.
2. The committee will be reengaging the prior applicants for the Environmental Advisory Committee so we can get that up and running.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

None

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03pm