

April 19, 2023

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 7:04 pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilwoman Bollens
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Councilman Carroll
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- (X) Councilman Ladley
- (X) Councilwoman Currie Teoh
- (X) Mayor Garry Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst  
Finance Dir, Glenn Dickerson  
Police LT., Ryan Develin  
Parks & Rec. Dir., Courtney Meehan  
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss  
Public Works Director, Chris Kunkel  
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, Patrick Hitchens  
Borough Engineer, not present  
Library Director, not present  
IT/GIS Dept., Kevin Kissinger  
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame  
WWTP Superintendent, Greg Rapp

Residents:

Dominic Vasturia – 436 Lansdale Avenue  
John Darab – Spruce Street  
Jean Fritz – 531 Pennbrook Avenue  
Carole Farrell - 39 E. Blaine Street

Agenda Item #5 – President’s Comments

**President Burnell** – An Executive Session was held earlier this evening regarding litigation. No action will be taken tonight.

Agenda Item #6 - Petitions

None

Agenda Item #7 – Presentations

Lansdale Catholic High School Girls Basketball Team are being recognized for their remarkable year as Philadelphia Catholic League champions, District 12 title holders and PIAA-4A girls basketball state title champions.

Coach Eric Gidney thanked Council and the Mayor for honoring their student athletes. The love and support from the community has been great. Thank you!

Agenda Item #8 – Residents to be heard on any item

**Jean Fritz** of 531 Pennbrook Avenue – Thank you to the Parks and Recreation staff for fixing the sign at Adams Park the day after calling about it.

**John Darab** of Spruce Street – He has heard about solar panels possibly going in at Willow Street Park and if something does go in there, please make it look beautiful. Look into doing solar garages which are build over top of parking lots.

**Carole Farrell** of 39 E. Blaine Street – Could you consider at the Work Session for public to speak after each committee report. Sometimes we can forget what we want to say by the end of the meeting.

**Dominic Vestura** of 436 Lansdale Avenue – Thank you to Mr. Ernst for attending the North Penn Bike Group meeting. Bike lanes on S. Broad Street to Hancock Street would be nice and if you can't move forward with that could alternate roads be looked at? Do not convert Susquehanna Avenue to a two-way street. Bike lanes are a social issue not just a bike issue. Cyclists use their bikes as their transportation.

Agenda Item #9 – Action Items

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

I move that Borough Council approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2023 which shows the expenditures listed on the attachment.

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

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** presented Motion B 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.*

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

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Work Session: January 4, 2023  
Business Meeting: January 18, 2023

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council adopt the attached Resolution 23-05 for the disposition of Borough records.

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

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

I move that Borough Council adopt the attached Resolution 23-06 authorizing the approval of an agreement with Xpress Solutions, Inc. for automated clearing house and related electronic and credit card payment processing services.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Can Mr. Dickerson explain what this is.

**Mr. Dickerson** - By changing companies, customers will not be charged for credit card fees. \$0.75 per utility transaction will be paid by the borough, no longer the customer. This company will also manage email billing to customers as well.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Will residents be notified is price ever goes up?

**Mr. Dickerson** – Yes.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Will people be charged if they pay via e-check?

**Mr. Dickerson** – The Borough will not charge for that, but the customer's bank could charge a fee. We can't control what a bank does.

**Mr. Ernst** – With Xpress we will be locked in to a 3-year rate. If credit card companies raise their usage rate we are not able to control or notify customers of that rate change.

**Councilman Breish** – Has the merchant contract been vetted thoroughly? Who supplies the hardware to use with their software? Where is the data stored?

**Mr. Dickerson** – The hardware will be supplied by Xpress which will replace what we currently use. The merchant stores all the data. We don't store credit card information. Mr. Hitchens did review the contract as well.

**Mr. Hitchens** – If the Borough is dissatisfied we can get out of the contract with no penalty.

**Councilman Breish** – Are we still under contract with the current merchant? Will we be breaking a contract with them?

**Mr. Dickerson** – We can expire that contract.

**Councilman Breish** – Will the new terminals be an additional cost and is Parks and Recreation getting this system too?

**Mr. Dickerson** – The terminals are part of the contract with no additional charge for them. The Parks department uses RecDesk and they will not change.

**Councilman Breish** – Is there any value if we combine them both?

**Mr. Dickerson** – Parks do not accept utility payments so it would cost more to add them to Xpress billing.

**Mr. Hitchens** – When doing his legal analysis on the contract the manager can terminate the contract if notified in writing within 30-days. Council could terminate it immediately if you voted to terminate.

**Vice President Fuller** – She likes the 3-year term to lock in a rate with Xpress. She uses them in Phoenixville and the system is easy to use and they have had no issues.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council adopt the attached Resolution 23-07 granting preliminary and final reverse subdivision and land development approval to Lisa A. Koehler for consolidation of four existing, contiguous parcels along North Broad Street and East Main Street into one parcel along with corresponding minor improvements.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion G and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and the Borough Manager to advertise an Ordinance, amending Ordinance 985, to establish a Handicapped Parking Zone at 356 York Avenue.

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

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion H and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Ordinance 1965 amending sections 370-5 of the Vehicles and Traffic provisions to add a handicapped parking space at 15 West Second Street.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion I and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the Special Events application submitted by Well Crafted Beer Company for block parties on the 300 block of Madison Street on July 15, August 12, September 23 and October 14, 2023 from 4:00 to 8:00pm. No set up is to commence until the roadway is closed by the police and secured by Public Works. Well Crafted shall repay the Borough up to \$550 for traffic barriers installation and removal for each date listed above.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Can another event happen with this event like Stove & Tap or Round Guys?

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** – That would be up to the business.

**Chief Trail** – This is for Well Crafted and other businesses can't close the streets.

**Councilman Breish** – Could the motion be amended to approve pending Public Works availability?

**Mr. Kunkel** – The roadway on Madison Street was designed to be closed with the removable bollards for events. Per Pennoni Associates, it is the appropriate level of protection and it was designed that way. Public Works will provide the bollards before the event and the business will install/remove them before and after the event. We will pick up the bollards on the next business day. Effectively this would be an event without any extra money spent.

**Mr. Ernst** – The motion says up to \$550 reimbursement and they will only be charged if extra hands/equipment are needed.

**Councilman Carroll** – Thank you to all involved to do this and, as Mr. Kunkel said, the area was designed for events like this.

**Vice President Fuller** – Well Crafted asked for four days. Other businesses can apply for themselves.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion J and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the closure of various borough streets in the downtown area (on file at the police department) for First Friday events hosted by Discover Lansdale the First Friday of each month beginning May 5, 2023 through November 3, 2023 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Additionally, authorize the use of Railroad Plaza as a staging area from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, set up time and road closures to begin at 4:30pm per the recommendation of the Special Events Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

**Councilman Breish** – He wants to make sure that Public Works has the staff to assist with these events?

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**Mr. Kunkel** – We are ready to go and have it mapped out. We have the mobile stage that we made ourselves which will make these events a lot easier to set up and break down.

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

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion K and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the closure of various borough streets (on file at the police department) for the Borough of Lansdale's Founders Day event on Saturday, August 26, 2023 per the recommendation of the Special Events Committee and the Public Safety Committee. Additionally, authorize the closure of the following streets: S. Line Street between E. Main Street and Penn Street; Penn Street between S. Line Street and Church Road; Park Avenue between E. Main Street and Penn Street from 8:00pm until the conclusion of the fireworks display.

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

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion L and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Lansdale Police Department to advertise a Request for Proposal to collaborate on the provision of a co-responder program to assist the department with hiring a full time clinician to assist police officers in calls where a mental health or substance abuse component exists.

**Vice President Fuller** – She is so proud that the LPD is going to institute this in the Borough.

**Mayor Herbert** – Thank you to the Chief for making this happen. Not many other departments are doing this.

**Chief Trail** – This position will be for 24 months for free through the grant. No Borough tax money is being used.

**Councilman Carroll** – Is there any component to the grant that included domestic violence?

**Chief Trail** – It is a crossover within mental health and substance abuse.

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** – Data shows that this will only add value to our community.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bollens and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 23-08 to temporarily display banners that will portray both the Borough and Chamber of Commerce for Greater Montgomery County symbols from April 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023 on streetscape light poles along portions of North and South Broad Streets as well as the Wood/Vine Streets Connector route.

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

#### Agenda Item #10 – Information Items

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

1. On March 16th I met with Jennifer Graham the executive director of the Delaware Valley Red Cross. In our meeting we discussed the needs of the Red Cross in our area and how the Borough can continue to support their efforts. Shockingly, Montgomery Co. and the Delaware Valley provides over 60% of both blood donations and monetary donations for the Commonwealth. I fully expect that Lansdale will continue to have a strong

relationship with the Red Cross and I look forward to partnering with them in events in the future.

2. On March 29th I attended the General Nash Eagle Scout Recognition at Trinity Lutheran Church where we honored all the scouts that achieved the highly prestigious rank of Eagle Scout after years of dedicated service to scouting and to their communities. 26 scouts, in total, earned their Eagle, accounting for over 3,600 hours of volunteer work for the community or around 152 twenty-four hour days worth of work. Special thanks goes out to Jacob Curlett who helped complete the landscaping around our new Gazebo as his final Eagle Scout project and dedicated hundreds of hours to this endeavor. Scouting aides our community, and specifically our non-profit organizations, in so many different ways and I would like to thank all the scouts and parents that make so much of this work possible.
3. On April 11th Chief Trail and I met with a resident and the director of the Boys and Girls Club to discuss the possible changes to Susquehanna and Courtland Streets. Both conversations were highly productive and helped add perspective to the impact of the proposed changes. I look forward to continuing the conversation with the Public Safety Committee and remain supportive of moving this project forward to help improve access to parking and traffic flow in our Main Street area.
4. Finally, on April 15th I attended the opening of our beer garden at White's Road Park which is a collaboration between Imprint Brewing and Well Crafted Beer Company. The weather was excellent, the beer was fantastic, and it was great to see so many people come out and enjoy the park. I look forward to this coming weekend's festivities and the continued support of our local businesses and our community in general.

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

1. Communication and related follow-up work regarding ordinance, resolution and motion matters. – Approximately 2.5 hours.
2. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding code compliance and enforcement matters including fire code, zoning, and property maintenance. – Approximately 5.8 hours.
3. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding professional service contract review, utility easements, and request for proposal process. – Approximately 9.5 hours.
4. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding litigation matters including tax assessment appeals and insurance related matters. – Approximately 6.8 hours.
5. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including right-to-know, compliance, utility liens, and land development matters – Approximately 7.4 hours.

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

1. There continues to be no lost time due to work-place accidents since the last quarter of 2022.
2. Representatives from North Penn School District, Fairmount Fire Company of Lansdale and Lansdale Borough participated in a tabletop exercise today. The exercise, which simulated an incident at Knapp Elementary School, gave participants the opportunity to have an informal discussion about their roles and responsibilities during the emergency. The lessons learned from this exercise will be used to improve preparedness plans and responses to future incidents. I was able to participate and support the messaging and communication needs of the district as they would need to provide accurate and timely information to the community.

3. During this "National Volunteer Week", I'd like to take a minute and thank all the volunteers who tirelessly work behind the scenes to make sure that Lansdale Borough continues to be the great community we all have come to know that it is. Whether it's the "official" Committees, Commissions, Authorities or Societies; volunteer groups from both inside and outside the Borough that work in our parks to help ensure the streambanks and raingardens are clean and working properly, or those dedicated volunteers who support Discover Lansdale in continuing to provide the wonderful events that are enjoyed by residents and visitors from around the region...all these important activities could not happen without an army of volunteers. The Borough is appreciative of all your efforts.

**Comments for the good of Council:**

**Councilman Breish** – Thank you to the Task Force for homelessness being on board with this year's Code Blue Shelter. Trinity is wrapping up the shelter for the season.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Thank you to Public Works for adding the yellow line near Knapp Elementary School so people can't park in front of the crosswalk.

**Vice President Fuller** – The Freight House parking lot is almost finished. Discover Lansdale received a RACP grant for \$1 million to refurbish it. Work will begin in a few months. The Borough will be asked to be the pass through for the grant. Also, if anyone is looking to volunteer Discover Lansdale can always use people especially for First Fridays.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

*Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.*