

May 3, 2023

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:33pm 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 Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst  
Finance Director, Glenn Dickerson  
Police Chief, Mike Trail  
Parks & Rec., Courtney Meehan  
Electric Dept., Joe Green  
Public Works, Chris Kunkel  
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

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

Residents

Dominic Frascella – 318 Green Street

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

**Administration and Finance Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton**

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Resolution to allow digital signatures for official documents.
  - Resolution for Borough to be a pass through for Discover Lansdale's RACP grant for the Freight House project.
2. Revenues are up year-over-year 1.8% as tax collection is up right now. Expenses are also up due to the timing of payroll. Both Electric and WWTP year-over-year are flat at this time. Parks & Rec revenue is up due to pool memberships.
3. Reviewed the ARPA list for 2023 and the projects listed are mostly WWTP, Public Works and Police items. Talks will continue on how we will disperse the money.
4. The new Caselle software is set to go live in June for electric and sewer billing.
5. The latest Personnel Manual is in One Drive for the committee to review.
6. Committee discussed sewer rates through 2037. More discussions to happen at Public Works and future committee meetings.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Did you go over the sewer rates at the meeting?

**President Burnell** – We will have the ability to provide April numbers due to the new software in finance.

### **Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio**

1. April was a busy month with 95 permit applications received. Due to the new Caselle software, the department is caught up on projects.
2. Discussion on single family home rentals took place and will continue in combination with the rental inspection program. There has been a lot of calls/complaints about housing issues with owners converting living spaces and/or renting bedrooms.
3. The Zoning Hearing Board meeting was cancelled for May.

**Councilman Breish** – Has the committee considered U&O's for single family homes? I believe this was briefly talked about last year.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – It seems we are headed that way.

### **Economic Development Committee – Councilman Ladley**

1. There was no meeting in April.
2. New businesses opened last month such as Kub Kao Thai Cuisine, Ming's Health and Escapopolis's grand opening.

### **Electric Committee – Councilman Carroll**

1. Congratulations to Andy and his team for being in the top 25% in the country for electric services.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Motion to accept the proposal from Anixter to change out 2,300 electric meters.
  - Motion to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the Main Substation relays replacement project. Last upgraded in 1986. labor and materials for this project will equal one million dollars. The labor has to be outsourced and is included in the project cost.

**Vice President Fuller** – Did the age of the system come into play when we had the recent power outage?

**Mr. Krauss** – The monitor relaying system has a 30-year life to them. Each one is slowly dying and we can no longer get replacement parts so we have to upgrade.

3. Reviewed department operations.
4. DVRPC will be submitting a CFI grant application for electric Level 3 fast chargers for the Freight House Parking Lot.
5. Joe Green from the Electric Department was able to secure sponsorship with TREFZ Mechanical for the current electric car chargers that were previously sponsored by Next Era.
6. Cohen Law Group will be working with the Borough and Verizon to update the franchise agreement through the Montgomery County Consortium. The cost to the Borough is \$7,900.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Are we replacing all meters in the Borough?

**Mr. Krauss** – This is the continuation of the project that we started five years ago. We have those meters in stock and are ready to replace the ones that are necessary.

### **Library Committee – Vice President Fuller**

1. The Director search is still in process and we hope to have a new director in place by the end of May.
2. Operations are running normally right now and the financials are being kept by Mr. Dickerson.

3. We have four possible new Library Board members who will attend the next committee meeting.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller**

1. The updates to the trail in White's Road Park is currently underway. The park is open, but guests are asked to be cautious while construction is taking place.
2. The Electric Department did a trench to add lights to the pavilion in White's Road Park.
3. The committee discussed allowing a beer garden during the White's Road Park concerts. The committee decided to try it on a trial basis for a couple of concerts.
4. Jesse Clayton of 5<sup>th</sup> Pocket Skateparks answered questions about the skate park in Wedgewood Park. He could get started late June/early July depending on when he is done his current project. The skate community is still fundraising for this park.
5. The snack stand at 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park needs a lot of repairs. User groups are thinking about ways to fundraise and help with the costs.
6. The Park After Dark was a successful program and it sold out.
7. New LED lights with sensors were added to Memorial Park courts.
8. The maintenance garage needs some upgrades to the building. This is included in the Capital Projects budget.
9. Girl Scout Kaylee Coley added a bee hotel to Stony Creek Park to complete her Girl Scout Gold Award.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – What is the estimated cost for the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Park snack stand?

**Ms. Meehan** – For the exterior it's about \$112,000. We do not have a quote yet for the bathroom repairs.

**Vice President Fuller** – We will approach Cannoneers to help with the fundraising.

**Councilman Ladley** – Will the beer garden in the parking lot of White's Road Park be the entire summer?

**Vice President Fuller** – No. The beer garden will close at the end of May before the pool opens.

### **Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh**

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
  - Motion to approve Memorial Day parade and ceremony May 29.
  - Motion to approve Stove & Tap's summer kick off block party June 10 from 3-10pm. Cost to be reimbursed to the Borough is \$1,120 for the road closure.
  - Motion to approve the directional change on Susquehanna Avenue and Courtland Street to improve traffic flow, parking and loading and unloading children at the Boys and Girls Club. Will monitor for 90 days.
2. FFCO will be housing their new fire truck on September 16 and will have a community ceremony to celebrate.
3. A speed study will be done on Oakland Avenue as residents requested a speed hump be added.

**President Burnell** – What will the expenses be for the directional change of Susquehanna/Courtland?

**Chief Trail** – We will develop the project after Council approves us to move forward with it.

**Mr. Kunkel** – The design was approved by the traffic engineer. Crash data would be what could change it back to one way.

**Vice President Fuller** – We left the door open to the residents who attended the meeting that we could change it back if we wanted to.

**Chief Trail** – It is a trial period and it will cost money to change it back to one way.

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** – We will need a massive communication campaign so people know what is going on when the direction is changed.

**Chief Trail** – Pennoni is a well-respected firm and they have done this kind of project a lot over the years and they understand and know what they are doing by suggesting the change for better traffic management and flow.

**Mayor Herbert** – Historically, Susquehanna used to be a two-way street.

**Councilman Breish** – Can we look at Wissahickon Avenue and Laurel Lane for a speed study as well? They get a lot of cut through traffic.

**Chief Trail** – Many years ago on Elm and Oak Drives a lot of traffic would cut through from Line Street to Broad Street. Those two roads were made into cul-de-sacs to stop the traffic.

### **Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish**

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:

- Bid award for the White's Road Pump Station project.
- Bid award for the 2023 Mill & Overlay program.
- Bid award for the 2023 Microsurfacing program.
- Bid award for the 8<sup>th</sup> Street storm sewer repairs.

2. The committee discussed the sewer rate study and the need for an increase in rates. Companies like Auqua and PA American Water have increased their rates by 39-50% per year. We are looking at a phased approach to increases and starting with a 10% increase in 2023 and then tapering the increases down for the next ten years.

3. Trash discussion by the committee continues, but they are moving away from residential trash and focusing on Borough owned buildings/areas for trash collection. Staff is looking for grants to help offset cost for municipal collection of our trash.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Did the sewer rates include the upcoming rates for Luxor?

**Mr. Dickerson** – They are not included because we don't know how many units will be in use yet.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – What about Madison apartments?

**Mr. Dickerson** – Yes, they have been included and have been for many months.

**Councilwoman Bollens** – Was a comparison done to other local municipalities?

**Mr. Rapp** – We have compared to other municipalities and we will share that information in the future.

### Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

**Councilman Breish** – Kudos to the Electric Department for getting the electric back on so quickly after the recent outage. The community thinks very highly of them.

**Councilman Ladley** – He will not be at the next two council meeting as he will be visiting family out of the country.

**Vice President Fuller** – First Friday is on May 5. The theme is the 70's.

### Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

Dominic Frasella of 318 Green Street – It is hard to find parking when great things are going on in a town. That is a good thing. In regard to Oakland Avenue it is a wide street that encourages people to go fast.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:39pm*