

May 17, 2023

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 7:05 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
- () Councilman Ladley - vacation
- (X) Councilwoman Currie Teoh
- (X) Mayor Garry Herbert

Borough Representatives:

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

Borough Solicitor, Rebecca Geiser
Borough Engineer, Chris Fazio
Library Director, not present
IT/GIS Dept., Justin Smith
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
WWTP Superintendent, Greg Rapp

Residents:

Dominic Vasturia – 436 Lansdale Avenue
Dominic Frascella – 318 Green Street
Rose Chapman – 316 W. Mt. Vernon Street
Alex Sickler – 109 N. Towamencin Avenue

Agenda Item #5 – President’s Comments

None

Agenda Item #6 - Petitions

None

Agenda Item #7 – Presentations

1. **Business of the Month** – Palermo’s Pizza by Councilman Breish
 - It is my pleasure to present to you the Economic Development Committee’s Lansdale Business of the Month, Palermo’s Pizza, located in the Pavilion shopping center at 531 South Broad Street.
 - Everyone loves pizza, I even wore a pizza tie, need I really say more? I mean, I could stand up here all day and talk about how Palermo’s pizza sauce stands in a league of its own, with its symphony of flavors that delight the senses. I could say things like the infusion of the essence of herbs and spices, like oregano, basil, garlic, and red pepper flakes result in a sweet sauce that is both complex

and delicious. I could ramble on and on and on about the cheese. As a matter of fact, according to legend (or perhaps that was my wife), I could literally talk about *just* cheese for hours. Oh, the melted pizza cheese with flavors that tantalize the taste buds. The mozzarella, provolone, and parmesan cheeses, melting together until they are gooey and stringy. The results of which is a cheese that is both rich and flavorful and a perfect complement to the crispy crust and savory toppings of a Palermo's pizza.

- We can stop all this talk about pizza, after all there are *other* meals during the day, I think these are called “between pizza meals”? But come to think of it, for those special moments Palermo’s also outshines. My personal favorite is their Tuna Panini. The Palermo’s Tuna Panini really sells itself. I mean, I could say things like the fresh, flaky tuna, juicy tomatoes, gooey cheese, & kalamata olives all sandwiched between two slices of flavorful toasted bread result in an experience that overwhelms the senses and is bursting with rich bold flavors. But all you really need to know is that when you order a tuna panini from Palermo’s you don’t just get a sandwich. You get an amazing experience. Complete, I might add, with a side of complementary fries and salad.
- I have been patronizing this establishment for years, all the way back to the 90’s. In the past and the present, Hugo Nova has been a familiar friendly face behind the counter working the oven. And never once during that entire time did he ever question my wardrobe decisions (to my face). With Hugo’s passion for community, he did not hesitate when the opportunity presented itself to purchase Palermo’s and he became the owner in 2019. Although Hugo’s story and family (his wife and two kids) are clearly the heartbeat of the business, if asked he would say the best part of Palermo’s is you, the customer. You bring the element of community by bringing your family and friends in for that slice of pizza. And you make Palermo's feel like home, which is exactly Hugo’s vision. Think of Palermo’s Pizza as a home, with delicious food and drinks. Sit, relax, and enjoy in a comfortable spacious dining area with sports on TV. But if for some reason you can’t make it to dine-in, have no fear, Palermo’s has you covered as you can order delivery through most of the popular food ordering apps.

2. **Trinity Lutheran Code Blue season summary** by Pastor Fritz Fowler

- When the temperatures hit twenty degrees or below, Montgomery County activates their Code Blue shelter.
- Trinity is one of the few shelters in the County and they call Code Blue at 29 degrees below. They shelter men or those who identify as male only. Women and children who show up are sent to other shelters or to a hotel for the night.
- The shelter opens at 8:00 pm and closes at 8:00 am; they provide hot food, clothes, shower and toiletries.
- The shelter was open for forty-eight nights this past season and they housed fifty-three guests total with an average of eleven guests per night. Because of this shelter, four of those guests now have permanent housing in the borough and are now volunteers at the shelter.
- The endless work by Mark Lanan and Leslie Johnson does not go unnoticed. They were able to get seventy-nine volunteers for the shelter this season and get volunteers to prep the shelter before opening.
- Chef Chipper and Lansdale Tavern provided hot meals for the guests and Lansdale Catholic students collected supplies while Clemens Uniform washed the bedding for the them.
- Trinity also works closely with Manna on Main Street to assist those needing shelter.

3. **Fairmount Fire Company (FFCO) new breathing apparatus** by McCord Fancher and Mark Haedrich.

- FFCO purchased new air packs and used grant funding for a portion of the cost; Borough Council provided additional ARPA funds to cover the remainder of the purchase.
- Their old air packs aged out and new ones were desperately needed.
- FFCO received a grant for \$167,000 from FEMA and the Borough gave \$21,000 in ARPA funds to fill the in the gap. FFCO was able to get twenty-five new air packs and additional cylinders.
- The new air packs have a quick connect system and high-pressure technology. The packs provide forty-five minutes of air with thirty to thirty-five minutes in action. They also come equipped with a drag out strap in case a firefighter is in distress.
- With these new packs, FFCO is able to utilize buddy breathing with other fire department air packs because they now have the latest technology to do so. The frames of the pack are also ergonomic which make them more effective and comfortable to wear. The masks on the pack show to the user how much air they have left.

Mayor Herbert – What is the average lifespan of these new air packs?

FF Fancher – The National Fire Association suggests fifteen years.

Councilman DiGregorio – Are there lights in the mask to help the person see where they are going?

FF Fancher – They have lights on their helmets and chest to see. They can purchase Bluetooth capability in the future.

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

Mr. Dominic Vestura of 436 Lansdale Avenue – He has spoken against the conversion of Susquehanna Avenue and Courtland Street. People over cars need to be prioritized. Improve the crosswalks and add bike lanes.

Dominic Frascella of 318 Green Street – People in cars do not yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Vote no for the conversion of Susquehanna and Courtland.

Ms. Rose Chapman of 316 W. Mt. Vernon Street – You moved the traffic off of Main Street via Vine Street; it is not a good idea to change from one way to two way. The fence around the cemetery has been damaged.

Mr. Alex Sickler of 109 N. Towamencin Avenue – Crossing Main Street is a hassle now as it is, don't make it harder by converting the street to two way.

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 April 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: April 5, 2023
Business Meeting: April 19, 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 23-09 authorizing the use of electronic signatures for approved resolutions, ordinances or similar Council authorized documents.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton presented Motion E and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt the attached Resolution 23-10 authorizing the submission of an application for funding to the Commonwealth for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant in the amount of \$1,017,868 for the Discover Lansdale Historic Freight House Improvement Project.

Councilman DiGregorio – Is this a grant that Rep. Malagari got for us?

Vice President Fuller – This is for the Borough to be a pass through for Discover Lansdale's RACP grant for the Freight House.

Councilman DiGregorio – The Borough will be paying the bills?

Vice President Fuller – No, the Borough will not be paying anything. A local municipality needs to be a pass through for RACP grants. We have done this for the YMCA and others in the past.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Carroll presented Motion F and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to accept the proposal from WESCO to provide AMI Meter Change-Out Services in the amount of \$49,305.00.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Carroll presented Motion G and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize Utility Engineers to prepare and advertise bid specifications or the Main Substation Relay Project.

Vice President Fuller – We talked about this a couple of weeks ago. This is somewhat of an emergency?

Councilman Carroll – We have never used equipment like this before and had no idea what the cost would be, but it is something that we have to do.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion H and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Ordinance 1966 amending sections 370-5 of the Vehicles and Traffic provisions to add a handicapped parking space at 356 York Avenue.

Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion I and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the use of Memorial Park from 10:00am to 12 noon and the closing of the various streets in the borough (on file in the police department) for the annual VFW Memorial Day Parade to be held on Monday, May 29, 2023 from 8:00am to 10:00am per the recommendation of the Special Events Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion J and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the Special Events application submitted by Stove & Tap for the closure and use of a portion of North Wood Street between the hours of 3:00pm to 10:00pm for a Summer Block Party on Saturday, June 10, 2023 with the conditions that they have the Fire Department Connection be maintained free and clear of any obstructions. Set up cannot commence until the roadway is closed by the police department and secured by public works and Stove & Tap agrees to reimburse the borough \$1,150 for the installation and removal of traffic barriers.

Councilman Carroll – Is that a flat cost?

Chief Trail – It is an estimate from Public Works to put out the barriers and then take them away after the event.

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 re-directional traffic on Susquehanna Avenue from Vine Street to West Main Street and allowing for bi-directional on Courtland Street from Green Street to South Wood Street. Said revisions to be for a trial period not to exceed 90 days following the revisions. Final adoption of the roadway revisions will be effective at the end of the 90 day trial period, provided there is no action on the part of Council to revert the roadways back to one-way streets.

Chief Trail – In 1995 this street changed to one way. It historically was a two-way street. Wells Fargo is closing their branch right there and maybe if they had better access to the branch they wouldn't be closing? We are also creating a 4-way stop sign at Courtland and Susquehanna which we don't have now.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh – This change will also improve safety at the Boys and Girls Club.

Chief Trail – Currently busses drop kids off onto the street side and cars are always passing the busses to get into the Wells Fargo parking lot and cross in front of cars. The directional change will allow the busses to drop kids off on the sidewalk side in front of the building which is much safer. A narrower roadway forces people to slow down.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – What prompted this change?

Chief Trail – There was not one catalyst to start this. He doesn't like that kids are dropped off on the wrong side of the street. Also, the parking lot at The Reporter building empties onto Courtland Street and there is no stop sign there.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – She is weary of the traffic backups on Main Street.

Chief Trail – There can be a drop off for busses or a loading/unloading zone on Courtland Avenue if needed.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Parents park in the Wells Fargo lot even though they shouldn't and now they will cross the street with two-way traffic.

Chief Trail – The parents and the Boys and Gild Club will have to be educated about it.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Who decides if the roads should be changed back to one way?

Chief Trail – We will work with Pennoni, the traffic engineer, on measuring if there would be a need to revert back to one way. In all the conversions that they have done, not one municipality has asked to have their changes reverted back. This is a model nationwide to increase revitalization by removing one way streets.

Councilman Breish - A child was hit by a car recently. Is there anything in this project that would increase a risk like that?

Chief Trail – The child crossed the road midblock in traffic and they shouldn't have. There will also be added lighting to the area as well. No one should ever be crossing midblock anywhere.

Councilman Breish – With the new stop signs will there be flashing lights to highlight the change?

Chief Trail – Once this is approved then we can get into the details of the project.

Councilman Breish – Additional light is great and that should get done ASAP. We are doing this in house to save money but adding lighting costs more. He doesn't see this as being a trial project as it does cost money to change.

Chief Trail – We have to do something with Courtland Street no matter what.

Vice President Fuller – Do you know why the change was made in 1995?

Chief Trail – There was a circle at Susquehanna and Main Street to direct traffic by officers at the time. Then a light was put in but moved when the Wood/Vine Streets connector was added. Also, there were a lot of trucks going to The Reporter back then and the fire trucks used Susquehanna Avenue for calls, but they don't anymore.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – She is still struggling with making this change.

Roll Call Vote:

Rachael Bollens – yes

BJ Breish – yes

Mary Fuller – yes

Andrew Carroll – yes

Rich DiGregorio – yes

Meg Currie Teoh – yes

Denton Burnell – yes

Carrie Hawkins Charlton – no

Mark Ladley – absent

Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and approved 7-1.

Councilman Currie Teoh presented Motion L and read as follows:

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I move that Borough Council authorize the installation of traffic control devices to improve the intersection of Susquehanna Avenue and Courtland Street to a four-way stop intersection.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion M and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council award the contract for the 2023 Liquid Fuels Microsurfacing Program - Base Bid, Alternate 1, and Alternate 2 in the amount of 1,251,919.00 to Marino Corporation, the lowest responsible bidder per the recommendation of Remington & Vernick Engineers.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion N and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council award the contract for the 2023 Liquid Fuels Mill & Overlay Program - Base Bid, Alternate 4, and Alternate 5 in the amount of 1,290,459.40 to James D. Morrissey, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder per the recommendation of Remington & Vernick Engineers.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion O and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 23-11 authorizing the emergency repair work of the broken storm sewer pipe on W. Eighth Street.

Councilman DiGregorio – Is this being done with money that Rep. Malagari got for us?

Mr. Ernst – Yes.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion P and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to accept the Proposal from Remington & Vernick Engineers to provide construction management and inspection services for the Whites Road Pump Station Improvement Project not to exceed \$41,000.00.

Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion Q and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to enter into a finance agreement to purchase a used street sweeper through the Pennsylvania Costars Purchasing Program or Municibid for the Public Works Department not to exceed \$115,000.00.

Mr. Ernst – The street sweeper is out of commission and we are looking at various options. The MS4 program obligates us to sweep the streets. There are two local sweepers that staff have looked at and have reasonable expectations that they will meet our needs. We will have to bid on them through Municibid when they become available and by approving this motion that gives us the opportunity to bid.

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Councilman DiGregorio – Is there a hose vacuum attachment option?

Mr. Ernst – No.

Councilman DiGregorio – He saw about using a vacuum in the inlets.

Mr. Ernst – He does not believe it has that capability.

Vice President Fuller – Where is the funding coming from?

Mr. Ernst – We would take a loan, for a five-year term is the preference, or we use money that we didn't use to purchase salt this season.

Councilman Carroll – What is the savings over purchasing a new sweeper?

Mr. Ernst – A new one is about \$250,000 and will take eight to ten months to receive it in the Borough. If we want the hose option, then it increases to \$350,000.

Councilman Breish – We have an existing contract with a company. Are we obligated to pay that contract if the machine is not working?

Mr. Ernst -We are still working through that with the solicitor and the company.

Councilman Breish – What is the total risk at this time?

Mr. Ernst – We don't know.

Mr. Dickerson – We will only pay \$11,000 this year if we finance and paying \$115,000 total over five years with semi-annual payments each year.

Councilman Breish – Why can't we continue to use the one we have?

Mr. Ernst – When we turn the key, we expect it to work and that is not the case and we cannot use it.

Vice President Fuller – I am assuming this is critical since we have to meet the MS4 requirements?

Mr. Ernst – Yes.

President Burnell – Can this also be the catalyst to say that we cannot always get the streets clean because of parked cars?

Mr. Ernst – We are having conversations with staff about how to create a schedule.

Mr. Frascella of 318 Green Street – How much maintenance is there using a street sweeper?

Ms. Chapman pf 316 W. Mt. Vernon Street – How old is the sweeper? She thought it was relatively new.

Mr. Ernst – It is five years old.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #10 – Information Items

Mayor's Report: Mayor Herbert

1. On April 29th I attended the Manna on Main Street Race to End Hunger where over 460 residents, donors, and community members helped raise over \$120,000 to help end hunger in our area. It is always an honor to help kick off this wonderful event and I cannot thank Manna enough for their dedication and passion for supporting the most vulnerable people in our community.
2. On May 5th I joined our friends at Escapeopolis for their official ribbon cutting as they celebrated the opening of their business. The owners, who had their first date at an escape room, have dedicated themselves to providing family fun to those brave enough to try and solve a puzzle the size of a room with your loved ones while a clock slowly ticks down to zero. They have rooms for all skill levels (including young kids) and the puzzle rooms are exclusive to them making them a destination for anyone looking for a unique experience. It is my hope that we can plan a council vs. the Mayor night where council can work as a team to take on one of these rooms as a team while I work with the game master...we will see if you can get out in time! In all seriousness, we wish them the very best and their business is a great example of how our downtown continues to positively evolve and grow.

3. On May 5th I joined many people from our community to kick off our First Friday season. It was wonderful to see everyone coming out to celebrate the beginning of our events season and to welcome spring in such great fashion. As always, the First Friday committee at Discover Lansdale did an amazing job on kicking First Fridays off right!
4. On May 11th, alongside my two boys, I attended the Luxor Apartment complex ribbon cutting where the Luxor team opened their doors to the community to see their new complex. As I noted in my comments, the Luxor team took an EPA superfund site (which required the moving of a stream bed) and completely rehabilitated it so that it could, once again, be a productive part of our community. Thanks goes out to the Luxor team and their willingness to invest in Lansdale in such a critically important way.
5. This coming Monday, May 22nd, a delegation from South Korea will be visiting our community. Earlier this year, in coordination with business owner Master Yang, I extended honorary citizenship in Lansdale to Mayor Jin of Hamyang County. I am excited to meet my fellow Mayor and learn more about his community and the experiences he has had throughout his tenure. We will be having a meet and greet with his delegation to share knowledge, learnings, and expand our thinking about how we grow our communities in a positive fashion.
6. I would just like to thank all the residents who came out to vote yesterday during Primary Day. It was energizing to see everyone come out and support our democratic process and to help create a better version of our community through engagement.

Solicitor's Report: Patrick Hitchens

1. Communications and related follow-up work regarding land development matters. – Approximately 2.1 hours.
2. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding code compliance and enforcement matters. – Approximately 3.1 hours.
3. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding Right-to-Know matters. – Approximately 6.3 hours.
4. Communication with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding contract review, procurement, and related matters. – Approximately 9.4 hours.
5. Communications and related follow-up work regarding litigation matters including tax assessment appeals, liens, and insurance related matters. – Over 10 hours.
6. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including compliance and resolution matters – Approximately 7.2 hours.

Borough Manager's Report: John Ernst

1. I'd like to congratulate Courtney Meehan on being accepted into the National Recreation & Park Association Director's School. This program is an exclusive two-year professional development opportunity that prepares new and potential park and recreation directors to be effective leaders. Students who complete the program leave with the knowledge and confidence to navigate emerging challenges, improve operations and maximize positive impact on their communities. Acceptance in this prestigious program will require her to attend two in-person, week-long sessions in Chicago each year. Congratulations, Courtney.
2. Speaking of Parks & Recreation, yesterday a couple of our Crew members attended a day-long Spring "FIELD" Day in south Philly at both Citizen's Bank Park and FDR Park. This event was designed for those involved in turf and grass maintenance, and provided an opportunity to learn from professionals who cater to maintaining the beautiful lawns at the ballpark.
3. The County is hosting a Food Drive from June 5th through the 23rd. Non-perishable goods can be dropped off in the lobby of 421 West Main Street during this time.

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4. Beginning the middle of next week, and continuing for approximately two weeks, the NPWA and their subcontractor will begin working on 8th Street at the railroad crossing. We anticipate delays, detours and most likely the closure of 8th Street between Valley Forge Road and Moyers Road for the duration of the project. As soon as the final details are worked out, we'll make sure we post info on social media, etc.
5. A reminder that the Memorial Day Parade, run by the VFW Post 32, will step off on W. Main Street at 9:00am, immediately followed by a Memorial Service at Memorial Park will be held on Monday, May 29, 2023.
6. I will be traveling to Pittsburgh on Sunday to attend the Association for Pennsylvania Municipal Management (APMM) Annual Conference. I'll be returning to the office on Thursday, and I have complete confidence in the department heads that they can keep things running smoothly.

Comments for the good of Council:

Vice President Fuller – First Friday is on June 2 and June 3 is Lansdale Day and the Strawberry Festival.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.