

July 5, 2023

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:34pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilwoman Bollens
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Councilman Carroll
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- () Vice President Fuller - vacation
- (X) Councilman Ladley
- (X) Councilwoman Currie Teoh
- () Mayor Herbert – personal matter

Borough Representatives:

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

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

Residents

Furman Boykin – 322 Green Street
Jason Meistler – 1031 York Avenue

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins

1. The committee reviewed the finance department’s new software as it pertains to budgeting for each year.
2. The department heads met with bond counsel about possibly taking on new debt for necessary infrastructure improvements as staff begins to work on the 2024 budget.

Councilman Breish – Have there been any more conversations about taking on new debt?

Mr. Ernst – We had a very preliminary conversation. Mr. Murray gave us the opportunity to look at long term projects as well as our current debt. We may look at this more closely in the next month or so and create a list with projects that are necessary. We would have to commit to completing 85% of the projects with borrowed funds.

Councilman Breish – He is leery on taking on debt and it is not typical on how he would operate his personal budget but if it is needed he is curious to see where it would go.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. Department activity – 87 permits applied for in June and 66 permits were issued. Sidewalk notices went out this week with a 60-day notice to get them completed. Notices have been sent out regarding trash problems at rental properties.
2. Staff disposed of 36 boxes of records that were approved for destruction by Council at their June meeting.
3. A Conditional Use Hearing will be held on July 19 regarding the property at 17 W. Second Street. The bottom floor is commercial space and they want to add two apartments to the second floor.
4. The Zoning Hearing Board will meet on July 18 to review a proposed beer garden at 13 Pennbrook Parkway.
5. Staff and the committee are still discussing single family home rentals.

Councilwoman Hawkins – Is this beer garden in front of Homewood Suites?

Mr. Van Dame – Yes.

Economic Development Committee – Councilman Ladley

1. The committee did not meet in June.
2. New businesses that opened are Dawn's Zen Den and Autism Counseling Center at the Baptist Church.

Electric Committee – Councilman Carroll

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Change order for the Digger Derric Truck as the price is higher than expected. Change to \$456,000 total to lock in price.
 - Prepare and advertise bid specifications for the replacement of the Main Substation relays.
2. Received a thank you letter from a resident for the replacement of the supports on a pole that they requested.
3. Exceeded the five-year average for reliable service through the PMEA.
4. The parking lot at the electric services building is completed.
5. Staff finished the lighting at the White's Road pavilion so that project is completed.
6. Had a general budget discussion. Fuel, supplies, contracts, maintenance, etc. are all higher than expected.

Councilman DiGregorio – Can we get a picture of the truck to see what it looks like?

Mr. Krauss – The build in sheet is in One Drive. I can add a photo.

Library Committee –

1. No report.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Final payment \$,2868.95 for the White's Road Park improvements project to Marino Corp. and a negative change order.
2. Stony Creek parking lot and the trail are now paved and completed. The lot cost \$69,000 and the trail was \$87,000. Some of the savings from these projects will go toward other projects this year such as fencing and trash cans at 5th Street Park.
3. Staff and the committee are working on a Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. This has not been done since 1972.
4. White's Road Park summer concert series takes place every Tuesday through August. Movie Night will be held in the park on July 7.

5. The first annual Puppy Plunge at 4th Street Pool will be on August 23. See our website for details. Pre-registration is required.
6. The fountain at Stony Creek Park Pond is not on at this time. It is very expensive to run the fountain and there are aerators in the pond that keep the water moving. It is not a responsible way to spend money currently.
7. There was discussion about pool chairs as well as providing a pool pass at the library for people to check out similar to the museum passes.

Councilman Ladley – What is the status of the snack stands at the pools?

Ms. Meehan – Little's is waiting for the Health Department to give their approval. For the time being, Little's will set up a trailer to sell out of for now.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh

1. Discussed the two-way conversion of Courtland Street and Susquehanna Avenue and the process is moving along to convert in the next six weeks or so.
2. FFCO firefighters are getting training on their new truck.
3. There was public comment about traffic calming ideas, increasing the amount of and process to add stop signs, the block party ordinance is.

Councilman DiGregorio – He noticed at the Beerfest last weekend an officer was on an E-bike.

Chief Trail – The bike is on loan for testing. They cost about \$1,800 each.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Motion final payment for the 2022 NOVA Chip project. A change order was approved for the removal of Delaware and Salford Avenues because those roads will have the NOVA Chip on it.
 - Change order #1 in the amount of \$35,000 for the Mill & Overlay program to add W. 6th Street.
 - Change order # 2 in the amount of \$60,000 for the Mill & Overlay program to add the parking lot of the firehouse. If the fire company did their own contract, it would cost them at least \$200,000.
 - Motion to approve the heating oil contract through the Montgomery County Consortium.
 - Prepare and advertise bid specifications for the WWTP Aeration Upgrade project. This is a \$2.5 million project which will result in significant energy savings.
2. 2022 ADA Curb Ramp Replacement – concrete work will be completed before paving can be done.
3. The goal for the two-way conversion of Courtland Street and Susquehanna Avenue is mid-August.
4. The Hancock Pedestrian Crossing notice to proceed has been given we are waiting on the schedule.
5. East Main Street Sewer Replacement – We are inspecting next week and may extend some trench restoration (at additional cost) due to road condition of East Main Street. This is PennDOT's responsibility, but we asked them to delay paving. This additional work will go to full Council for possible emergency approval.
6. There is a negative change order for the Microsurfacing Program in the amount of \$11,000.
7. Staff bid on the street sweeper and we won the bid for \$60,000, which was less than the maximum amount council approved.
8. Striping on the roads that were microsurfaced or repaved will be done soon.

9. There is a presentation in One Drive for council to review that explains road maintenance from 1990-2017. We have maintained 342% more in the last six years than all those other years. Eight miles of road that need to be done will be a huge investment for the Borough as it is not just the surface of the roads to be updated.
10. There is also a WWTP presentation in One Drive for council to review.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

Councilman Breish – The next library committee meeting will be on July 10 at 6:00pm in the Caucus Room.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

Furman Boykin of 332 Green Street – He and his partner Glynnis purchased 851 W. Main Street as a second property to open a business. They hosted the Rock Den in that location, but they had to close their store recently. They would like to add a takeout restaurant to that location. Their plan seems to be inconsistent with what other things are going on in the borough.

President Burnell – Continue to work with our teams to get you on the right path to get done what you are trying to do.

Jason Meistler of 1031 York Avenue – He is running for Council in Ward 3 as a write in.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm