

August 2, 2023

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:33pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- () Councilwoman Bollens - sick
- (X) Councilman Breish
- () President Burnell - vacation
- () Councilman Carroll - vacation
- () Councilwoman Hawkins - vacation
- (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., 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, not present

Residents

Dominic Vastoria – 436 Lansdale Avenue
Dominic Frascella – 318 Green Street
Denise Peyton – 333 Woodland Drive
Furman Boiykin – 332 Green Street

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Mr. Dickerson

The committee did not meet since they did not have a quorum; the following is a review given by Mr. Dickerson.

1. The new finance software provides real time data, within 24 hours, to the Department Heads for budgeting purposes.
2. To date, \$5.7 million has been collected in real estate taxes. This will even out as the year continues.
3. Supplies have been more expensive than budgeted.

Councilman DiGregorio – Has there been no revenue yet for the pole attachments?

Mr. Dickerson – We will get revenue. We just haven't received it yet.

Councilman Breish – He hopes we are not looking at a tax increase in 2024. Households are suffering due to inflation.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Resolution to approve the waiver of land development for 17 W. Second Street.
 - Prepare and advertise a motion to amend the Downtown Overlay Business District to remove the parking exemptions for residential requirements and change for smaller square footage for commercial buildings.
 - Prepare and advertise a motion to amend the ordinance pertaining to multi-family rentals to include single family dwellings.
 - Resolution to adopt the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan. This would allow the Borough to recoup expenses if there were a major disaster.
2. Discussed how to protect historical buildings in the Borough when owners decide to sell their property.
3. The department received 91 permits for electrical and plumbing work.
4. Emily Greene, a summer intern, has been cleaning out the old code files.
Councilman Breish – Are U&O inspections going to be included in the ordinance for property resales?
Mr. Van Dame – That is a separate conversation and that is not related to rental inspections.

Economic Development Committee – Councilman Ladley

1. Mr. Barth gave a robust report regarding his goals for the next 18 months and what he is currently working on with our current businesses.
2. Directional signage to businesses with their logo following the Borough branding are coming soon.
3. Discussed the weed management, tree trimming and lighting downtown.
4. Doug Bellenger of Well Crafted has restarted the Lansdale Business Association.

Electric Committee – Mr. Krauss

The committee did not meet since they did not have a quorum; the following is a review given by Mr. Krauss.

1. An electric rate study will be discussed at the next committee meeting; rates have not changed since 2015. Electric revenue is used to fund the department, but it is also used to assist funding other Borough departments as well.
2. There will be a resolution at the business meeting to sell used equipment on Municibid for the 3rd quarter.
3. The current and future of energy market review is not looking great.
4. Department Operations – some items they have been working on are transformer cage conversions, special events and voltage monitoring due to heat.
5. We are almost ready to do meter changes in September.

Mayor Herbert – Are our rates competitive with others in the area?

Mr. Krauss – Yes, they are. We are a little less than PECO and PPL at this time.

Library Committee – Councilman Breish

1. The new director of the Library, Shira Pularski will start on September 5.
2. The Committee will meet again on August 15 and they will discuss community outreach, diversity, cultural inclusion, marketing, fundraising, etc.
3. They plan on restructuring the Library Board of Trustees in December 2023.
4. The annual Clean and Green Event will be held on September 30. Volunteers are needed to help.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Councilman Breish

1. Discussed restroom facilities at White's Road Park near the pavilion. The cost is about \$162,000 and we currently have grant funding for \$90,000.
2. Purchased pool furniture from Hatfield Township for a total of \$910 for 147 chairs.
3. At 4th Street Park there is a broken zipline that is too expensive to replace so we are looking for other options.
4. Concerts in the Park end on September 5. The Dive In movie night was popular but it had to be cut short due to lightning. August 18 is the next Movie in the Park. August 23 will be the first Puppy Plunge at 4th Street Pool.
5. Staff is working with the EAC regarding a tree planting program for the Fall of 2024.
6. The fountain at Stony Creek Park will not be turned on as the aerators in the pond are doing their job. The fountain is expensive to run.
7. There was complaint that cars parked in the spaces on Edgewood Drive are protruding onto the sidewalk at the 4th Street Pool and blocking pedestrians walking.

Councilman Ladley – The door at the Cannoneers field was kicked in.

Ms. Meehan – They are reorienting the doors so they can't be kicked in.

Councilman Ladley – Any chance a misting station can be added near the playground at White's Road Park?

Ms. Meehan – They can look into the feasibility of it.

Councilman DiGregorio – What about the kitchen area of the Cannoneers snack stand?

Ms. Meehan – The roof has been replaced already. Cannoneers are responsible to update the inside per the agreement.

Councilman DiGregorio – With improving parks are you looking for sponsorships?

Ms. Meehan – We are going to do a comprehensive plan first before we update anything.

Councilman DiGregorio – The bridge in Wissahickon Park needs to be updated before school starts.

Ms. Meehan – The crews were just out there. She will have them go out and check it again.

Vice President Fuller – We will be do another park tour with the committee for items that must be completed and a wish list of park improvements.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - A motion to activate the Civil Service Commission to add a second Lieutenant position.
 - Motion to approve Cruise Night on September 16.
2. The signage for the conversion of Susquehanna Avenue and Courtland Street are installed and bagged for now. A social media campaign will start next week in preparation for the change. The Boys and Girls Club have reviewed the new plan and will be meeting with the bus depot for North Penn School District to go over the plan as well.
3. VMSC made a presentation to the committee about how funding has changed for them over the years. They are looking for funding from area municipalities including the Borough. They are looking in the ballpark of an annual \$200,000 contribution. They will be attending the Admin & Finance Committee in September.

Councilman Breish – That is a big ask from the VMSC.

Vice President Fuller – It is an ask, but not a requirement. We need to know who else will be contributing annually and how much.

Councilman Breish – What happens if we don't contribute? Will the residents receive less service?

Councilwoman Currie Teoh – We did ask about the service area and how much of it is in the Borough.

Councilman Ladley – Are they a private company?

Chief Trail – They do bill for services.

Mr. Ernst – He will reach out to get a digital copy of the presentation to put in One Drive for Council to review before the September 6 Admin & Finance meeting. They will also be presenting to all of Council on September 20.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Resolution to approve an emergency change order for sinkhole repair on S. Broad Street with a gas main that needs to be addressed. It is possible the cost will be over \$100,000.
 - Motion to approve final payment for the 2023 Microsurfacing Program.
 - Motion to approve final payment for the Penn Street sewer repairs.
 - WWTP bid award for the chemical feed automation project.
2. Took possession of the “new” street sweeper yesterday.
3. The outfall issues on Squirrel Lane are major issues and will be expensive to fix.
4. Discussed sinkholes on Norway Drive.
5. Staff continues to have conversations about trash service and doing in-house trash pick up for Borough owned buildings. Leaf collection is done through private trash haulers so does the Borough really need to have this service.
6. The road degradation is still on the agenda to discuss but ran out of time.
7. Briefly discussed downtown maintenance.
8. Public comment – blowing grass clippings and leaves into the street. This is a code item and will be sent to them.

Councilman DiGregorio – He is disappointed with the Norway Drive situation. We need to make sure pipes are good before we do paving on a road.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

Councilman DiGregorio – St. Stan's Festival begins on August 8.

Vice President Filler – First Friday is on August 4 and Founders Day is on August 26. The Lifetime Achievement Award will be given posthumously to Rev. Dr. Susan Bertolette.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

Dominic Vasturia of 436 Lansdale Avenue – Instead of putting bumps out on roads, painting the roads at intersections to shorten the walk space for pedestrians is something that is done in other countries and parts of the US. (gave packet to Council with examples)

Dominic Frascella of 318 Green Street – Suggesting starting a walk the ward program for Council and residents to they can experience some of the pedestrian crossings. It may help to have a better understanding of the crosswalks in the Borough.

Denise Peyton of 333 Woodland Drive – She is here to express her support on saving the First Bank of Lansdale (Wells Fargo) building. This building is important to all of us.

Furman Boiykin of 332 Greet Street – Thank you to John and Jason for trying to keep us moving in our project. Revitalization of Lansdale needs to hit home for more people. I was missing it until I took the time to really look at it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49pm