

August 16, 2023

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 7:07 pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

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

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst  
Finance Dir, not present  
Police Chief., not present  
Parks & Rec. Dir., not present  
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., Darwin Zehr  
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame  
WWTP Superintendent, Greg Rapp

Residents:

Jean Fritz – 531 Pennbrook Avenue  
Dominic Frascella – 318 Green Street  
Rose Chapman – 316 W. Mt. Vernon Street  
Dominic Vasturia – 346 Lansdale Avenue

Agenda Item #5 – President’s Comments

An executive session will be held at the conclusion of the meeting tonight regarding a personnel matter. There will not be action taken this evening.

Agenda Item #6 - Petitions

None

Agenda Item #7 – Residents to be heard on any item

**Ms. Fritz** of 531 Pennbrook Ave – Her neighbors have asked why the fountain in Stony Creek Park pond is not on. She did call and ask Mr. Ernst and was told that the expense to run it does not make sense since the aerators are doing their job. She asks if it could be put on for the rest of August and September. She gets phone calls from PECO, about 5 a day, about lower her PECO bill. Is there anything the borough can do about this?

**Mr. Frascella** of 318 Green St – He was checking out the conversion of the street direction on Susquehanna Ave and noticed that there is a sign on Main St stating no right turn onto

Susquehanna that is now a two-way street. Thank you for having officers out there to help today and having cars park in the correct direction.

**Vice President Fuller** – There is still no left turn from Susquehanna on to Main Street.

**Ms. Chapman** of 316 W. Mt. Vernon St – Heard that alleys would not be maintained by the borough this year but she noticed that they were being done. She received three letters about the sewer increase. Such a waste of money to get duplicates. And now the medical corp. is requesting funds from the borough. Costs are too high right now.

**Mr. Ernst** – Staff found the time to fit them in this season and did a cursory pass. We realized some cost savings from earlier in the year so we went ahead and to do them. We are hoping to do the same next season. He hadn't heard about the duplicate letters until now

**Mr. Vasturia** of 346 Lansdale Ave – the pedestrian crossing sign at Knapp school was thrown on the ground.

Agenda Item #8 – Action Items

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

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

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

**Councilwoman Hawkins** 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 Councilwoman Bollens and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Work Session: July 5, 2023  
Business Meeting: July 19, 2023

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

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

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and the Borough Manager to advertise an ordinance amending the Borough Code to make the rental registration, licensing and inspection requirements applicable to all dwelling and rooming units, including single family dwellings.

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

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

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and the Borough Manager to advertise an ordinance amending the text of the Borough Zoning Code and an ordinance amending the Borough Zoning Map to eliminate the Professional Office and Specialty Restaurant Conservation District and the Retirement Overlay District and amend the Downtown

Overlay Business District in order to create a new district called the Downtown Core Overlay District with related changes and corrections to remaining code.

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

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

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 23-17 granting a Conditional Use Waiver of Land Development approval to NovaProbe, Inc. for the property located at 17 West Second Street (rear).

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council adopt Resolution 203-181 adopting the 2022 Montgomery County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

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

**Councilman Carroll** presented Motion H and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt Resolution 2023-19 approving the sale, by electronic auction, of various used vehicles and equipment through Municibid.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

**Vice President Fuller** presented Motion I and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the 11th Annual Lansdale Cruise Night & Food Drive with set up, (at 5:00pm) in the Freight House Parking Lot from 8:00pm to 10:00pm on Saturday September 16, 2023. This event is contingent on the approval from the Lansdale Parking Authority to use the Freight House Parking Lot as the staging area. Cars will follow all traffic laws when cruising.

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins and unanimously approved.*

**Vice President Fuller** presented Motion J and read as follows:

I move that that the Lansdale Borough Civil Service Commission be activated for the purpose of hosting an exam process for the creation of a list of eligible candidates for appointment to the rank of Lieutenant with the Lansdale Police Department.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council approve Payment #2 (final) in the amount of \$10,541.50 to Standard Pipe Services, LLC. for work completed on the Penn Street Storm Sewer Repairs Project per the recommendation of Remington & Vernick Engineers.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council approve Payment #3 (final) in the amount of \$21,577.37 to Marino Corporation for work completed on the 2023 Liquid Fuels Roadway Microsurfacing Program per the recommendation of Remington & Vernick Engineers.

*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 Wastewater Treatment Plant Chemical Feed Upgrade Project in the amount of \$533,950 to Blooming Glen Contractors, Inc. the lowest responsible bidder per the recommendation of Keystone Engineering Group.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council adopt Resolution 2023-20 to authorize the emergency repair work on South Broad Street's storm sewer repair.

**Councilman Breish** – What is the cost of the repair? At the committee meeting we didn't have an amount yet.

**Mr. Kunkel** – It is listed on the resolution (\$141,900) .

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

#### Agenda Item #9 – Information Items

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

1. On July 23rd I had the honor of joining our Lansdale Foxes as we played the Brandywine Baseball Club in our first ever old time baseball game. While we were beaten quite handedly in the end we put up a good fight and, without question, had more fun than our counterparts despite multiple season ending injuries. It was an absolute joy to see so many people come out and join us for the event and I very much look forward to our inevitable redemption next year. Thanks goes out to Bill Henning and Discover Lansdale for orchestrating the game, the food, and entertainment on behalf of the whole community. I foresee an annual event that is unlike any other!
2. On August 1st, LPD hosted our National Night Out event here at Borough Hall where hundreds from the community joined us to share in a little bit of summer fun and community relationship building. As I noted in my recent musing, national night out serves as a powerful reminder that the true strength of any community lies in its unity. This shared experience ignites a collective commitment to safeguard one another, promoting a sense of belonging that transcends socioeconomic and cultural differences. I would like to thank the Chief, Sgt. Bubnis, and all of the department for their hard work on bringing National Night Out to life each year and I look forward to next year when the Chief finally gets back in the dunk tank.
3. On August 1st I met with Borough Staff and fellow elected officials to discuss the possible creation of a historic district and to review our Lansdale 2040 plan to review how we may have approached these issues in that document. It is our hope that we will be able to think creatively about how to help preserve some of our communities historical character while also encouraging continued re-development and revitalization.

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4. On August 4th, I joined many in our community for our August First Friday event where we had a chilly, but enjoyable evening. Next month will be the final First Friday where people will be able to dunk me in the tank. Save your ones and dial in your throwing arm! Thanks goes out to Discover Lansdale and, specifically, Keith Heffintrayer for the hard work in bringing First Fridays to life each and every month. Anyone who has visited the events each month would see an active community that values celebrating together and I know we all look forward to the final few events this year.

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

1. Communications and related follow-up work regarding draft and revised ordinance matters including permit parking, parks, and overlay district revisions. – Approximately 6 hours.
2. Communications and related follow-up work regarding land development matters (including 17 W Second St and 117 S. Broad). – Approximately 1.6 hours.
3. Communication with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding for Borough utility easements, zoning application and enforcement, and Wissahickon Partnership and Quality Improvement plan. – Approximately 8.2 hours.
4. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding library matters. – Approximately 2.6 hours.
5. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding assessment appeals and insurance litigation matters. – Approximately 2 hours.
6. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including right-to-know, compliance, contract review, liens, and personnel matters – Approximately 6.5 hours.

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

1. Last month I mentioned that Shira Pilarski has been hired as our new Library Director. Last night, Shira joined us for the Library Committee meeting, and this morning, she joined our management team meeting and was able to meet the department heads, and then went to the library to meet the staff and tour the building. We look forward to her official start date of Tuesday, September 5, the day after Labor Day. Also, I'd like to put a plug in for the library's annual "Clean & Green" event happening on Saturday, September 30 from 9am-noon at the Library. As a reminder, that the event where a paper shredding service is provided, and electronics can be dropped off for recycling. There's going to be a suggested donation for shredding and electronics, and a specific fee for televisions. All proceeds will benefit the Lansdale Library. Stay tuned for more information.
2. Over the summer we had local college student, Emily Greene working with our Codes Department helping to: cull outdated records according the PA Museum Commission standards, redistribute the files among the over 200 file drawers so they are distributed more evenly, file records into the proper drawers where there wasn't room until the redistribution occurred, relabel all the drawers to accurately show what each drawer contains, and also created a database with annual schedules to show what files can be culled in future years. Emily is going to be a junior at Temple this coming semester, majoring in Management Information Systems. We certainly provided her a good taste of why information management is extremely important in the digital world. We want to thank Emily for helping us out We wish her a successful upcoming semester.
3. Last week I had the honor of meeting with Ken Pfister as he retired from the WWTP after 22 years of service. Specifically, his leadership in the Operations role at the plant. On behalf of Borough Council, the Mayor and his colleagues, I was able to thank him for his years of service and dedication to the borough and wish him well in his retirement.

**Comments for the good of Council:**

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Thank you to the police department, public works and the borough for help with the St. Stan's fair again this year.

**Vice President Fuller** – John Ernst was featured in the PA Borough News August edition. Founders Day is on August 26. Opening ceremony at 10am at the Historical Society. The Lifetime Achievement Award will be given posthumously to Dr. Rev. Sue Bartlett. The theme this year is Main Street Memories. You can get the booklet at the Historical Society and do a self-guided tour of Main Street or do a guided tour at 1:00pm.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

*Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.*