

September 6, 2023

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:41pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

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

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, not present
Finance Director, Glenn Dickerson
Police Chief, Mike Trail
Parks & Rec., Courtney Meehan
Electric Dept., not present
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

Dominic Frascella – 318 Green Street

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins

1. Revenue is up right now due to the tax increase imposed for 2023. Each department is monitoring spending as expenses, namely supplies, are higher than usual due to inflation.
2. Council will receive the first draft of the 2024 budget to review via One Drive.
3. VMSC came to talk about funding for them in 2024 and beyond. They are asking for roughly \$114,000 per year from the Borough. They will be at the Business Meeting to present to all of Council.
4. We currently have 8 EV charging stations for electric cars for the public to use. NextEra sponsored and paid for the electricity used and that sponsorship will end 12/31/2023. We will have to start charging people to use the chargers and pay for the electricity used in 2024 and beyond.
5. The committee discussed billing sewer accounts directly to the tenants like we do for electric accounts. Currently tenants have no idea if the landlord didn't pay the sewer bill. This would be a change to the Borough code if we move forward.
6. Discussed a call response system for when people call into the Borough.

Councilman Breish – What is the approximate cost this year for the electricity of the EV chargers?

President Burnell – Approximately \$100,000 to date that NextEra will pay and have paid.

Mr. Dickerson – If we add more public EV chargers than the cost will go up.

Councilman Breish – What about the wear and tear to the units themselves? We will have to look at that cost too.

Vice President Fuller – Will we be discussing VMSC and their requests during our budget talks?

Councilwoman Hawkins – There will be a placeholder in the budget until Council can discuss and look at the first draft.

Mr. Dickerson – VMSC will also be presenting to all of Council September 20.

Councilman Breish – He had a private conversation with them about what we could possibly do for them and it's not all monetary. We need to think outside the box on this.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. Staff is currently working on significant changes to the zoning map.
2. GIS department is revising maps for the Planning Commission to review later this month for the zoning changes.
3. The draft rental ordinance is in One Drive for Council to review.
4. Staff is looking into applying for a grant to bring Emily Greene back next year to continue assisting with cleaning out old records.
5. The Zoning Hearing Board meeting for September 19 is cancelled.

Vice President Fuller – Did the residents on Green Street come to the meeting to ask about parking on Green Street?

Councilman DiGregorio – They talked with Jason Van Dame before the meeting and he helped them.

Mr. Van Dame – There is a four unit building being built and there will be two spaces per unit on the property. They will have eight spaces for those who live there.

Economic Development Committee – Councilman Ladley

1. No report.

Electric Committee – Councilman Carroll

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Motion to purchase materials to complete the railroad tunnel project for \$77,530.
 - Motion to approve Utility Engineers to do an electric rate study for \$17,500. This is a very comprehensive study.
2. Currently waiting on the bids for the Main Substation project which are due September 12, 2023.
3. The electric meter change outs will start the end of September.
4. Reviewed the first draft of the budget that was submitted.

Library Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. At their last meeting the committee met the new Library Director, Shira Pilarski.
2. We also welcomed our newest member of the Library Board Isa Marie Cruz. There are five members on the board that are residents.
3. Reviewed the current budget. There has been some savings since we have not had a director for part of the year.

4. The Borough Solicitor is helping the with the restructuring of the library by-laws. They hope to have the new by-laws approved by January 2024.
5. The Clean and Green event is Saturday, September 30.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. The rough draft of the parks Capital Budget is in One Drive for Council to review. The list has about \$450,000 in projects.
2. Discussed the restroom facilities project to the pavilion at White's Road Park. Greg from WWTP said they can help run the water lines to the area.
3. Discussed new equipment needed at Fourth Street Park to replace the zipline.
4. The committee will be taking a tour of all the parks to discuss potential future projects and what is needed versus wanted.
5. Keystone Fellowship Church would like to hold an event in Railroad Plaza in the near future.
6. Reviewed all of the upcoming events for the department as well as maintenance activities.
7. North Penn Rotary would like to donate an information kiosk in Railroad Plaza to celebrate their 100 years of service.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Motion for approval for the Roundhouse Oktoberfest on October 21.
 - Motion to approve the Manna Crop Walk on October 8.
 - Motion to approve Stove & Tap's Oktoberfest on September 30.
 - Motion to approve Discover Lansdale's 0.5k race and Oktoberfest on October 22.
2. On August 19 the road directions changed on Courtland Street and Susquehanna Avenue and so far it has worked well.
3. The mental health officer has started working with the police department and it will continue to be a learning curve for all.
4. A handicapped parking space was denied due to ample parking space on the properties 823 Andover Road and 833 Andover Road.
5. October is fire prevention month and the FFCO will have their new truck housing celebration on September 16.
6. A part-time fire inspector was hired to assist Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak.
7. There have been complaints of the homeless sleeping in the parks. The county is in crisis right now with no shelters available. There are not a lot of options for people who are unhouised. Being or sleeping in a park is not a crime.
8. A complaint was received about not enough parking on Green Street.
9. The committee would like to move ahead with finding out the cost to do a comprehensive traffic study.

President Burnell – Have those cars parking in the wrong direction been notified?

Councilwoman Currie Teoh – Officers are writing warnings now.

Mayor Herbert – He supports having a traffic study. We wanted to do this before the pandemic. Now is the time to do it.

Councilman DiGregorio – School zones at Knapp Elementary, people are speeding around the S curves. Can officers ticket?

Chief Trail – We cannot cite people in Montgomery Township.

Councilwoman Hawkins – When was the last traffic study done?

Chief Trail – He will ask Pennoni for study options. From the study will come policy which Council will then have to implement.

Councilman Breish – What about the Safe Streets for All through DVRPC? Could we use that information once they do the study?

Chief Trail – That program may just be for studying bike lanes and not a comprehensive study of the entire borough.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. Motions to appear before Council at the next Business Meeting:
 - Motion to approve change order for the 2022 ADA ramp project in the amount of \$44,000.
 - Prepare and advertise bid specifications for the Cherry Street Outfall project.
 - Motion to extend the Republic Service contract for municipal waste for another year. There was a question about the leaf collection portion and how many residents take advantage of the collection. Private trash haulers are also required to pick up as well. If there is an additional cost, why do the redundant work and have the borough pay for it?
 - Resolution to approve the Towamencin Act 537 Plan Special Study.
2. The Mill & Overlay program is going along nicely. It was suggested that pipes under the roads be televised before embarking on these road projects. There is not an easy way to approach this for every project.
3. The Public Works Department has help facilitate twenty-six events so far this year and there are twenty-one events remaining this season. We had 284 service tickets so far this year.
4. WWTP – During the E. Main Street Sanitary Sewer Rehab project, the contractor cut out abandoned laterals and they shouldn't have. We are working with the contractor on this.
 - The bio-solids study will begin tomorrow.
 - An update was given on the Chemical Feed project.
 - MS4 updates – Rain barrel workshop that was held in August was successful. They are working on the Neshaminy Stream project.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

Vice President Fuller – Thank you to those who attended and the borough staff who helped make Founders Day such a great day. First Friday was successful even during a holiday weekend. The October 6 First Friday will include the Annual Chili Cook Off.

Mayor Herbert – Shout out to the officers who assisted with a medical emergency during First Friday.

President Burnell – We will meet in a brief Executive Session after this meeting tonight. There will be no action taken tonight.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

Dominic Frascella of 318 Green Street – He is advocating for pedestrian safety. People riding their bikes on Broad Street are not just exercising, but also getting around to work, etc. Side streets can be dangerous too. He is looking forward to seeing what a traffic study shows.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm