

April 21, 2021

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 online via Zoom Meeting and called to order at 7:03pm by Council President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilman Angelichio
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Andrew Carroll
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- (X) Councilman DiGregorio
- (X) Vice President Fuller
- (X) Councilman Henning
- (X) Councilwoman Currie Teoh
- (X) Mayor Herbert

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst
Finance Dir, Melissa Gemelli
Police Chief, Mike Trail
Parks & Rec. Director, Karl Lukens
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss
Public Works Superintendent, absent
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, Patrick Hitchens
Borough Engineer, Chris Fazio
Library Director, Tom Meyer
IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie
Asst. WWTP Superintendent, Greg Rapp

Residents:

Rose Chapman – W. Mt. Vernon Street
Jean Fritz – 531 Penbrook Avenue

Agenda Item #5 – President's Comments

President Burnell – Reviewed the logistics of resident participation in the Zoom meeting.

Agenda Item #6 - Petitions

None

Agenda Item #7 – Presentations

1. Proclamation for Bells Across America read by Mayor Herbert.
2. Code Blue Shelter – Councilman Breish
 - As stated on our agenda the story I'm about to share is in regard to the Trinity Code Blue Shelter, but it's also so much more. It's a glimpse at a cross section of our community values and the people that make up this great town we all love. I'd like to take some time to share some facts and figures and bring well-deserved recognition to the volunteers comprising this Code Blue Service. As you, my fellow members on council, the Mayor, and borough staff listen, I would hope you would all do so with pride for the amazing people in our community that volunteer their time to deliver this service. Code Blue is an emergency service called by the County when temperatures drop below 20 or so degrees. Without Code Blue, the housing insecure in our community could quite literally be left out in the bitter cold. And unfortunately due to Covid-19, the Trinity Code Blue shelter was at risk for not being able to open. However, by December 29th the mobilization of Trinity resources which included cots, blankets, jackets, gloves, and other basic

donated necessities had all been relocated to Immanuel Church to activate a safe, warm shelter for the season. This larger space at Immanuel enabled the shelter to accommodate guests while following all CDC guidelines for social distancing. Additionally, since there were multiple rooms available in this facility, the shelter was able to accommodate male, female, and family needs safely, which was another first for the Trinity Code Blue shelter. The only concern left now was would enough volunteers be willing and able to help this season with COVID19 at an all-time high?

Although there is definitely no shortage of willing volunteers that have stepped up in the past, many volunteers this season were simply not able due to Covid19 complicating matters. Yet despite this concern, enough ultimately stepped forward determined to make this shelter work. Led by the new Trinity Code Blue Coordinator, Mark Lanan, approximately 80 unique volunteers stepped forward and put in over 900 hours to provide shelter to our community's most vulnerable. This included many overnight shifts, meals, and snowstorms to contend with. I even recall a volunteer once walking 30 minutes to the shelter in the peak of a snowstorm at midnight to provide relief for my shift. Shout out to Mr. Richard Delp! The most memorable experience for me overall though was the outpouring of support the shelter received from the whole community. Those who could not volunteer in-person, donated generously, or they served in other meaningful ways. Kids made care packages with messages for the guests that I will never forget. Things like, "You matter to me," "Have a happy day," or "Smile! I thought of you today." Other volunteers brought warm home cooked meals, pre-made PB&J, and basic necessities like gloves, hats, and socks. Even our local businesses dealing with their own Covid19 challenges helped out in huge ways, like Chef Chipper who made a personal breakfast for every guest, every single time Code Blue was activated for the season, that's 161 meals to be exact! Manna on Main Street was there in spirit too even when they had to close their kitchen making sure the Shelter was always stocked with shelf stable meals. Clemens Uniforms laundered 365 sheets and blankets. Area police departments helped make sure guests found the warmth of the shelter throughout the night. On a few nights the shelter even welcomed guests far and wide as the Norristown shelter hit capacity, and our shelter became known as the only shelter in miles that was able to shelter women and children. Pausing to let that sink in, there were snowstorm nights that Trinity Code Blue was the only option for warmth for some women and children in our community.

- Now that the shelter is closed for the season as we all welcome in the warmer weather, we have reached a reflection point on the future of this program. This season proved that we pride ourselves on building an inclusive community and we step up to face even the toughest of challenges, but it also highlighted some significant needs going forward. For example, as previously mentioned, Trinity Code Blue was the only shelter in miles able to serve women and children. Although a new accommodation for this particular shelter, it provided a warm bed and meal to 9 different females this past season and thus I would say has identified an otherwise unmet need. No matter where we go from here, I do find comfort in knowing that our community delivered in a big way and proved that not even a global pandemic will prevent us from serving one another. Although this is nothing surprising to me from our community, it's definitely something we should all be proud of.

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

Ms. Rose Chapman of W/ Mt. Vernon Street – She was wondering when we will have in person meetings again?

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President Burnell – We are thinking sometime in August or September.

Ms. Chapman – The skatepark dedication was very nice. Are we still giving free electric for people to charge their electric cars?

President Burnell – Yes, we are and we don't have a date yet as to when we will start charging to charge a car.

Ms. Jean Fritz of 531 Pennbrook Avenue – What is the date in May that Pennbrook Avenue will be paved?

Mr. Van Dame – When they finish lining the manholes then the paving will be scheduled for the first week in May.

Agenda Item #9 – Action Items

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion A and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2021 which shows the expenditures listed on the attachments.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Angelichio 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.

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion C and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Work Session: March 3, 2021

Business Meeting: March 17, 2021

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion D and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-13 authorizing the Borough Finance Director access to bank, bill paying and other financial related borough accounts.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman DiGregorio presented Motion E and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-14 granting preliminary and final land development approve to 288 Cricklewood Circle, LLC for the development of an additional duplex and quadraplex building to an existing developed parcel at 151 E. Mt. Vernon Street.

Motion seconded by Councilman Henning and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton presented Motion F and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council award the contract for the Electric Building & Garage Heater Replacement to B&B Boiler Works, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder per the recommendation of Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc.

Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton presented Motion G and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council award the contract for traffic signal maintenance contract to Armour & Sons Electric, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder per the recommendation of Pennoni Associates, Inc.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton presented Motion H and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to enter into the Joint Use Agreement between the Borough of Lansdale and Verizon Pennsylvania, LLC to install and maintain poles to support the attachments used in their respective businesses.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion I and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the use of Memorial Park on Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 5:00am to 6:00pm for the 32nd Annual Lansdale Festival of the Arts Program sponsored by the Lansdale Department of Parks and Recreation and the Lansdale Festival of the Arts Committee.

Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion J and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy to apply for the Schuylkill River Restoration Fund grant on behalf of the Borough to add a rain garden in Stony Creek Park. The Borough will match the grant through in-kind services providing labor for the excavation of the rain garden as well as some engineering fees to be paid by the WWTP and Parks and Recreation operations budget.

Motion seconded by Councilman Henning and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion K and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-15 in support of completing 500 miles of circuit trails in the Greater Philadelphia Region by 2025.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion L and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve Change Order #1 to extend the completion date for the Whites Road Park Playground project through May 17, 2021 due to COVID-19 and winter weather delays per the recommendation of Remington & Vernick Engineers.

Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion M and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve Change Order #1 to extend the completion date for the Liberty Bell Trail in Stony Creek Park project through May 14, 2021 due the increase cost in lumber and unsuitable soil to be removed due to delays caused by COVID-19 and winter weather conditions per the recommendation of Pennoni Associates.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion N and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Ordinance 1949 amending Sections 370.5-, 370-6, 370-7 and 370-35 of the "Vehicles and Traffic" provisions of the Borough Code to remove parking restrictions on a portion of Hemlock Street, add parking restrictions to the entire length of Broad Street and East & West Main Street during snow emergencies, increase the fine to \$50 for no parking violations during snow emergencies and amend certain definitions relating to snow emergencies.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion O and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt Resolution 21-16 to authorize an approval for cost sharing and reimbursement by North Penn Water Authority for water main and service replacement in conjunction with the Laurel Lane Storm Sewer Project.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion P and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt Resolution 21-17 to authorize the Borough Manager to extend the Intergovernmental Agreement through December 31, 2022 with additional annual extensions subject to the consent of the members of the Management Committee, to provide its share of the funding based on budgets prepared by the Management Committee, and to continue to participate in the preparation of a final Water Quality Improvement Plan to be submitted to EPA and PADEP for approval.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion Q and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$3,476.00 (addition) for the Fire Alarm & Security Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant per the recommendation of Schiller & Hersh Associates, Inc. This change order reflects additional work to be able to review remotely through the PC, the Fireworks Station and to also activate the existing paging system for any alarm, supervisory trouble, or security alarm.

Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion R and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve Change Order #2 to extend the contract period from 120 days to 484 days for the Fire Alarm & Security Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant per the recommendation of Schiller & Hersh Associates, Inc.

Councilman DiGregorio – What is the delay?

Councilman Breish – Due to COVID there has been a supply delay and additional fiber lines needed to be added to complete the project.

Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion S and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve Change Order #3 in the amount of \$1,836.20 (addition) for the Fire Alarm & Security Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant per the recommendation of Schiller & Hersh Associates, Inc. This change order reflects additional costs for revised fiber and technical service changes to the Fireworks computer.

Mr. Ernst – We initiated this change as it would be beneficial for us to do so.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Item #9 – Information Items

Mayor's Report: Mayor Herbert

1. On March 23rd I attended a meeting with ESRI, one of the Borough's technology partners, with Bryan Poster to discuss my thoughts, opinions, and concerns around the technology needs of the borough and how ESRI can help us continue to improve the tech stack in our community.
2. On April 6th I attended the April meeting of the North Penn Rotary Club. Rotary members asked for an update on how the community has been managing the pandemic over the last several months. We discussed the challenges around managing the pandemic and how the community has really come together to try and limit our exposure to the ongoing COVID-19 challenges.
3. On April 10th I joined council at the skatepark to posthumously honor Carl Saldutti and his steadfast service to our community by naming the skatepark after him. It was a real honor to be a part of such a wonderful event and while Carl's legacy extends well beyond the skatepark but this was the perfect way to celebrate the life of someone who dedicated his life to improving our community and making Lansdale a better place to live, work, and play.
4. On April 11th I joined the Headway Art Collective for their first annual rock scavenger hunt at the Kugel Ball. It was a rainy day, but many families came out to hunt for painted rocks that had business names on them. Once found, they could return the rock for a small prize. It was heartwarming to see so many people enjoying a little safe and socially distant fun.
5. On April 16th I officiated the wedding of Bri and Joe Knox who live here in Lansdale. The ceremony was fairly short, but their vows to one another were some of the most moving I have heard. We wish them a long marriage filled with love and laughter!

Solicitor's Report: Patrick Hitchens

1. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work on ordinance and resolution matters– Approximately 3.8 hours.
2. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work on various land development matters and potential land development – Approximately 6.3 hours.
3. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work relating to Right-to-Know Law matters – Approximately 1.3 hours.
4. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work relating to tax assessment appeal matters – Approximately 4.0 hours

5. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work relating to lien an lien litigation matters - Over 12 hours.
6. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including compliance/ legal updates, litigation, and easement matters – Approximately 5 hours.

Borough Manager's Report: John Ernst

1. On Sunday, May 16th, members of the Fairmount Fire Company along with our regional emergency service organizations will be participating in a full-scale SEPTA disaster drill. The drill will take place at the Lansdale Train Station. At approximately 9:00 a.m., Fairmount, Colmar, Towamencin and Montgomery Township Fire Companies, along with the Lansdale Police Department and Volunteer Medical Service Corps, will be “dispatched” to a train accident at the railroad crossing near the Lansdale Train Station parking garage. Firefighters will arrive on location to find an accident between a commuter train and a commercial vehicle. Firefighters will call upon Hatfield, North Penn and Upper Gwynedd Fire Companies for additional assistance. Crews from said fire companies will be tasked with extricating trapped occupants inside the commercial vehicle and removing injured commuters from the SEPTA train. The goal of the exercise is to test command, control and communication between the various emergency service organizations.
2. We will reinstate the fines, penalties and late fees starting on June 1. Council will need to take action on this.
3. Rick Delong will move to a new position as Public Works Project Manager and he will oversee all projects in the Borough in conjunction with the Borough engineers. We will hire a new Public Works Superintendent.
4. After 35 years with the Borough, Joe Wampole in Public Works retired.
5. Thank you to Marial Lohan, Joanne Grubb, Donna Markley, Tracy Flynn and Stacie Maile for all of their hard work on keeping the Borough running so well behind the scenes on Administrative Assistants Day.

Councilman Breish – Regarding late fees being reinstated, I received a phone call from customer service that my bill was lost in the March mailing. This affected hundreds of other customers and if this happens again will we waive late fees?

Mr. Ernst – Issues like that would be forgiven of the late fee and we would have record of who didn't receive their bill.

Comments for the good of Council:

President Burnell – We still have an open position on the Police Pension Board and on Civil Service Commission. Letters of interest and resumes can be sent through the end of May.

Vice President Fuller – Following the marriage ceremony that Mayor Herbert, the happy couple had their reception dinner at Toscano's. Thank you to those who participated in the 3rd Lansdale Strong week.

Councilman Breish – Friends of the Parks will be meeting at White's Road Park on April 24 for a clean up day from 1:00-4:00pm. They will try and get to as many parks as possible depending on how many volunteers they have.

Agenda Item #11 – Old Business

None

Agenda Item #12 New Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

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