

July 21, 2021

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 7:05pm by Council President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- () Councilman Angelichio – work commitment
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (X) Councilman Carroll
- (X) Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton
- () Councilman DiGregorio - vacation
- (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 Director, Chris Kunkel
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, Patrick Hitchens
Borough Engineer, Chris Fazio
Library Director, not present
IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
WWTP Superintendent, Greg Rapp

Residents:

Rose Chapman – 316 W. Mt. Vernon Street

Agenda Item #5 – President’s Comments

None

Agenda Item #6 - Petitions

None

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

Ms. Rose Chapman of 316 W. Mt. Vernon Street – Are we still giving away free electric for the EV charging stations? Please stop doing free charges. The taxpayers should not have to pay for that; taxpayers don’t pay for the gas in my car. There are a lot of dead trees seen around town. Could we get the property owners to remove them? She has asked about changing the direction of the inlet grates in the past. They are dangerous to bike riders. Trucks on the roads need to be considered while they are driving. What percent of tax comes from Berkheimer collections?

Agenda Item #8 – Action Items

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton presented Motion A and read as follows:

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

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.

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Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton 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.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton presented Motion C and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Work Session: June 2, 2021
Business Meeting: June 16, 2021

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion D and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve Payment #3 (final) in the amount of \$28,175.55 to Spotts Brothers, Inc. for work completed on the Borough Hall Solar Project per the recommendation of Remington & Vernick Engineers.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Henning presented Motion E and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-26 granting a conditional waiver of land development approval to Lansdale Borough for the property located at 652 W. Ninth Street.

Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.

Councilman Henning presented Motion F and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve a right-of-way agreement with Kristen Kane and John Rombach for the property located at 125 S. Chestnut Street to allow the property owners to construct and maintain a residential deck in a portion of a Borough owned easement area.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Henning presented Motion G and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve right-of-way agreements with Clayton & Rebecca Wagner for the properties located at 809 & 811 Columbia Avenue to allow the property owners to maintain certain private landscaping, including a large tree, within the Borough right-of-way.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Could you tell me more about this.

Mr. Van Dame – This agreement indemnifies the Borough of any liability from the trees. The homeowner is responsible for the tree if it causes any shift or damage to the road or sidewalk. We are adjusting the sidewalks a bit to accommodate the trees.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Henning presented Motion H and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve a right-of-way agreement with Patrick & Susan Gillen for the property located at 813 Columbia Avenue to allow the property owners to maintain certain private landscaping, including a large tree, within the Borough right-of-way.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion I and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-27 authorizing the warrantless arrest for certain summary offenses.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Currie Teoh presented Motion J and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Ordinance 1951 amending sections 370-5 of the Vehicles and Traffic provisions of the Borough Code to add a handicap parking space at 412 Columbia Avenue.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion K and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-28 authorizing the application for the 2021 County Transportation Program (CTP) grant funding for the Salford Avenue and Derstine Avenue drainage restoration project.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion L and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to accept the proposal for the removal, inspection, maintenance, and reinstallation of the trickling filter pump at the Wastewater Treatment Plant submitted by A.C. Schultes in the amount of \$29,903.00.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion M and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize ARRO Consulting, Inc. to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the UV Disinfection Project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Motion seconded by Vice President Fuller and unanimously approved.

Councilman Breish presented Motion N and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize Remington & Vernick Engineers to prepare and advertise bid specifications for the Walnut-Hatfield Streets Sanitary Sewer Extension as an alternate under the 2021 CDBG North Richardson Avenue Road Rehabilitation Project. This alternate will not utilize CDBG funds received for the North Richardson Avenue Road Rehabilitation Project.

Vice President Fuller – If we are not using the grant funds to fund this project, will all the funds go to the North Richardson Road project? Why do we need this motion?

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Mr. Van Dame – If we go out to bid on the same bid specifications with both projects we can get a better bid because it combines two projects to one contractor.

Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion O and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council appoint the following individuals to the Police Pension Board of Trustees:

Melissa Gemelli for a three-year term expiring on July 31, 2024

Nick Oropeza for a three-year term expiring on July 31, 2024

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Currie Teoh and unanimously approved.

Vice President Fuller presented Motion P and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council appoint the following individuals to the Environmental Advisory Committee:

Beth Benyishay for a three-year term expiring on July 31, 2024

Sean Greene for a three-year term expiring on July 31, 2024

Sean Weatherwax for a two-year term expiring on July 31, 2023

Connie Lezenby for a two-year term expiring on July 31, 2023

Sarah Batory for a two-year term expiring on July 31, 2023

Wilma Dorman for a one-year term expiring on July 31, 2022

Rob Gladfelter for a one-year term expiring on July 31, 2022

President Burnell – This has been a long time coming. We started this process before COVID. We had many qualified candidates and spent many hours interviewing candidates to get this committee named.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

Item #10 – Information Items

Mayor's Report: Mayor Herbert

1. The Economic Development Committee and I have been discussing the opportunity to work with the PBS series "Viewpoint with Dennis Quaid." Viewpoint is considering Lansdale for their series about great places in America to live, work and visit. If approved, this project will generate three small documentaries on our community and air on multiple national channels including PBS, CNN, Fox Business. There will be more discussion on this project as it develops and I look forward to working with the Economic Development Committee on it.
2. This past weekend, like many of you, I participated in Lansdale Day. It was heartwarming to see so many people coming out and celebrating our community and all the artisans that were out showcasing their wares. I would like to thank the North Penn Rotary for their intrepid work to ensure Lansdale Day was able to be celebrated. I look forward to continuing to celebrate our community at our next first Friday on August 6th.
3. On August 3rd our own Lansdale PD is asking everyone to join us for National Night Out taking place out front of Borough Hall/Police Department. National Night Out is about creating a fun environment for the community to have positive experiences with our police officers. We want everyone to be able to be comfortable with our officers and National Night Out creates a space that allows for everyone to get to know one another while enjoying a little bit of fun.

4. As noted in my musing in North Penn Now this week, 56 veteran grave markers were stolen from our cemetery sometime in the last several weeks. This is an unconscionable act and I am deeply saddened by the selfishness of those involved. This morning several news outlets interviewed Chief Mike Trail, myself and VFW President Ivan Eicham about the crime and the impact it has had on our community. While the investigation is ongoing, we are hopeful that new markers, likely made of plastic instead of metal, will be able to replace the ones taken from our veterans. I will be speaking with Ivan tomorrow morning to see if the VFW will be fundraising to replace the missing grave markers on behalf of the community.

Solicitor's Report: Patrick Hitchens

1. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work on ordinance and resolution matters– Approximately 2 hours.
2. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work on land development matters including 43 W Third Street (Walnut Crossing) and real estate including consent to use right of way agreements – Approximately 3.8 hours.
3. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work relating to tax assessment appeal matters – Less than 1 hour.
4. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work relating to lien and lien litigation matters - Approximately 1 hour.
5. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work/ legal review relating to sewer matters – Approximately 1 hour.
6. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including compliance matters, legal updates, general litigation, and right-to-know matters – Approximately 4.8 hours.

Borough Manager's Report: John Ernst

1. Welcome back to Chris Kunkel as our Public Works Director. Rick DeLong will be moving into Borough Hall as our Project Inspector.
2. Due to a few rain outs concerts will be extended to Tuesday, August 17 at 7:00 pm. The last movie in the Park is August 13 approx. 7:55pm.
3. Daily pool passes are available at the Parks office (660 Lansdale Avenue). We are also selling daily passes for ½ price after 5:00pm. No payments are taken at the pools.
4. Thank you to the Appointments Committee for getting the EAC appointments approved. We will be working with the County on information gathering for Lansdale. A meet and greet with the committee will be upcoming.
5. We may be canceling the committee meetings and Work Session on August 4. As we get closer to the date, I will let Council know.

Comments for the good of Council:

Councilman Henning – He gave everyone on Council and left on the table some brochures and forms to purchase a brick for fundraising for the gazebo in Memorial Park.

Vice President Fuller – The July 2 First Friday was a very successful night. Discover Lansdale has been approached to take over and run the Mardi Gras parade. We will have our first meeting on July 24 in the Wissahickon Park building at 10:00am all are welcome to attend. The theme will be Decades of Celebration. Don't forget that Founders Day is August 28.

Agenda Item #11 – Old Business

None

Agenda Item #12 New Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.