

August 18, 2021

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 7:03pm by Council President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

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

Borough Representatives:

Borough Manager, John Ernst  
Finance Dir, not present  
Police Chief, Mike Trail  
Parks & Rec. Director, not present  
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss  
Public Works Director, not present  
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, Patrick Hitchens  
Borough Engineer, Chris Fazio  
Library Director, not present  
IT/GIS Coordinator, Jen Ames  
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame  
WWTP Superintendent, not present

Residents:

Nancy Frei – Cypress Street  
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

**Nancy Frei** of Cypress Street – There are problems with the punch list items getting done on the project in my neighborhood. The contractor did a poor job fixing the grass near the ADA ramp. Why is the Borough coming out to fix what the contractor did? How come no one is doing anything to penalize the contractor?

**Mr. Ernst** – Just because you don’t see something being done in front of your home doesn’t mean we are not working on it with the contractor. We will hold final payment until they complete all punch list items to our satisfaction and meet their contract as they should.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Could an item like this be held against a contractor so that we could limit them from bidding on one of our projects since they didn’t satisfactorily fulfill their contract?

**Mr. Hitchens** – We would have to look through the contracts and check the language.

**Rose Chapman** of 316 W. Mt. Vernon Street – Updates haven’t been given recently about the East Main Streetscape project. Will there be brick sidewalk as part of that project because the brick is terrible and unsafe and there are too many weeds that grow through the bricks. Will

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parking spaces be lost with the expansion of the left turn lane? Did residents of Columbia Avenue get free curbing? Why not sidewalks too?

**President Burnell** – Curbs are part of the project and sidewalks are the responsibility of the homeowner on road projects like this.

**Mr. Ernst** – Regarding East Main Streetscape, drawings have been submitted to PennDOT and we are waiting for their comments before we can proceed any further. Pennoni will have to address any PennDOT questions and then they can present to staff and council. Some on street parking will be eliminated to extend the turn left turn lane.

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** – Could we look at the drawings again?

**President Burnell** – Will there be brick sidewalks?

**Mr. Ernst** – The detail has been changed so no weeds could grow through the brick or stamped concrete will be used to make it look like brick.

#### Agenda Item #8 – 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 July 2021 which shows the expenditures listed on the attachments.

**Mr. Ernst** – (The General Fund sheet was shown on the screen which had revenue and budget for the remaining months of the year.) We should meet our budget for the end of the year. The Sewer Fund will catch up by the end of the year as transfers come in. Parks & Recreation Fund is below in projected revenue. At the end of the year, transfers take place and we are talking about doing it twice a year so that the budget is more balanced throughout the year instead of just at the end of the year.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Why can't we do it every month?

**Mr. Ernst** – There is too much going on every month so it would be hard to stabilize the budget each month. PennDOT will be giving additional appropriations to us due to the amount of snow this year.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – She likes this new format.

**Mr. Ernst** – Department Heads are working with the Finance Department to start budgeting for 2022.

*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.*

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

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Work Session: July 7, 2021

Business Meeting: July 21, 2021

*Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** presented Motion D and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-29 approving the application of Village Handcrafted Cabinetry for Economic Incentives.

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**Mr. Van Dame** – They expanded their business and qualified for Tier 2 of the program.

**Councilman Angelichio** – Is their business predominately run on electric?

**Mr. John Higgins** of Village Handcrafted Cabinetry - We will realize a savings of \$700 to \$800 per month

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – She is thrilled that this business stayed in Lansdale

**Mr. Higgins** – Lansdale gives a good deal for businesses to stay in town and expand their business.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Angelichio and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$61.54 (addition) for the Pennbrook Avenue Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation. This change order reflects balancing out original contract items and create an item for the contractor placing a concrete collar around a pipe.

**Mr. Van Dame** – This is a balancing change order to wrap up the Pennbrook Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project so the contractor can get their final payment.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Angelichio and unanimously approved.*

#### Item #10 – Information Items

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

1. No report – Mayor Herbert is on vacation

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

1. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work on ordinance and resolution matters– Approximately 2.5 hours.
2. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work on land development matters including 652 W Ninth Street and 151 E Mt Vernon, and real estate matters including consent to use right of way agreements – Approximately 3.1 hours.
3. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work relating to lien and lien litigation matters - Approximately 3.2 hours.
4. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work/ legal review relating to sewer matters – Less than 1 hour.
5. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including compliance matters, legal updates, general litigation, intermunicipal agreement matters, and right-to-know requests – Approximately 8.4 hours.

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

1. I'd like to congratulate the Fairmount Fire Company on receiving a 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) which is a grant program that assists in equipping and training emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhancing operational efficiencies, fostering interoperability, and supporting community resilience. The Fairmount Volunteer Fire Company received a total of \$857,142.86 to be used toward Vehicle Acquisitions through the AFG Program. I'd like to thank Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick and his office for assistance in securing this significant grant money.
2. On Sunday morning, the WWTP noticed a significant petroleum odor at the plant. Upon investigation of operational records, it was determined that elevated levels of diesel fuel /heating oil had infiltrated the collection system sometime early to mid-afternoon on

Saturday. Staff was able to trace the odor and fuel contaminant in the system back to the vicinity of W. 3rd and Walnut Streets. At this time, the source of the fuel remains unknown, but we are asking for the public's help in case someone may have seen something unusual in that area. While the exact amount of contaminant has not been determined, it was significant enough to produce noticeable odors at the WWTP that remain in place as of this afternoon and the amount of contaminant has impacted the biological treatment process at the WWTP. Currently, the WWTP is operating within our NPDES permit levels. The elevated petroleum levels are slowly returning to normal. Regardless of whether the act was an accident or intentional, an event such as this presents an unnecessary strain on the WWTP. Not only are there significant process changes such as the need to add additional chemicals, the need for biological supplements to neutralize any potential contaminants and supplement the biological treatment process, but additional staff time is also required to monitor and evaluate these processes.

I would encourage anyone who may have information to please let us know.

3. On Monday, August 9th, I accepted the letter of resignation of Finance Director, Melissa Gemelli. Melissa was with us for 6 months and was instrumental with setting up our acceptance of the \$1.8 million of ARPA funding, and I thank her for those efforts. Our new Finance Director, Glenn Dickerson, will be starting on Monday, August 30. Glenn comes with finance experience in municipal government and electric utilities, as well as additional experience in the private sector. Glenn is an adjunct professor at both DeSales (Finance and Accounting) and Lehigh Universities (Accounting). Glenn has a BS in Business Administration (Finance) from Temple University and a master's degree in Business Administration (Accounting) from La Salle University. We look forward to Glenn starting and jumping right into budget season.
4. Rita Talbot has retired from the library at the end of July after working here for 45 years. Rita was our part-time book processor. She prepared the new books to be loaned by putting all the necessary stamps, labels, and protective covers on them.  
**President Burnell** – Thank you on how quickly you were able to resolve the finance director position.

### **Comments for the good of Council:**

**President Burnell** – We have some committee openings. One opening for the Human Relations Commission and we still have an opening on the Economic Development Committee. Please send a letter of interest and resume if anyone is interested.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Thank you to Pennoni and Jason Van Dame for the beacons on the back side of the school zone signs on the S curve on Knapp Road. Is it possible to install a flashing beacon on the stop sign on East 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Crestview Road because people are going through the stop sign there all the time? Thank you to all in the Borough who helped with the St. Stan's fair.

**Vice President Fuller** – Only 10 days until Founders Day on August 28. This is also the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lansdale Historical Society. Ray Walton will be this year's Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

### **Agenda Item #11 – Old Business**

None

### **Agenda Item #12 New Business**

None

*Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.*