

September 15, 2021

The Business Meeting of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 7:11pm by Council President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilman Angelichio (present via Zoom)
- (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
- (X) Mayor Herbert

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, Chris Kunkel  
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, Greg Rapp

Residents:

None

Agenda Item #5 – President’s Comments

None

Agenda Item #6 - Petitions

None

Agendas Item #7 Discussion

1. 2022 Budget Review – John Ernst, Borough Manager
  - Typically, the September committee meetings are the venues where we begin rolling out our first draft of the next year’s budget. Since we did not have an opportunity to meet two weeks ago, he provided some general comments to this year’s budget discussions.
    - This year is no different than previous years. We are still waiting on numerous pieces of information to remove the place holders and insert more accurate information. Primarily, this is information from our insurance trust, including health care costs, property and liability along with workman’s comp insurance, along with some smaller miscellaneous totals. Also, at this time we are typically working with a projected deficit, and Department Heads begin looking at capital projects and other line items. Projects that can be moved to subsequent years are evaluated and moved if appropriate. We also know that projects moved into subsequent years need to be moved with an appropriate method for funding them. For

the past several years, we have been very good at not kicking projects down the road for future Councils/Staff to address and we will continue to provide guidance that will allow this policy to continue.

- At the committee meetings in October each committee will discuss their budget in detail.
- Department Heads have been working on cutting back on expenses wherever they can.
- Capital projects for 2022 are as follows:

**Electric:**

- Replacement of unit substation at Elm Terrace Gardens
- Repave entire parking lot of the Electric Services building

**Emergency Management:**

- New emergency command vehicle as mobile command post
- Continued upgrades to the borough's radio system (LPD, PW, Electric)
- Miscellaneous investments for the improvements to the EOC

**Parks & Recreation:**

- Stony Creek Park – pave parking lot and add a rain garden
- White's Road Park – Parking lot repairs, comfort station (grant monies)
- Additional bottle filling stations – WRP, Memorial Park, Railroad Plaza

**Public Works:**

- Investment in paving and infrastructure replacement including – mill & overlay, patch paving, micro-surface paving, crack sealant, storm sewer replacement. We are taking a break from NPWA project next year and concentrate on roads that we feel need to be done as a priority

**WWTP:**

- Completion of UV disinfection system.
- HVAC replacement at WWTP admin building
- Pump Station equipment upgrades
- Technology improvements

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Will the breakers for the solar field be moved to next year's budget?

**Mr. Ernst** – We are still working through that with PPL and are currently in test mode so we are generating solar power.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Has there been any updates?

**Mr. Krauss** – Final review comments were sent back to PPL and they sent back questions that RVE answered and returned. We are now waiting for PPL's response to our answers.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – How far behind are we due to COVID on capital projects?

**Mr. Ernst** – We are not really behind as projects were completed through the pandemic.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – So we know when we can use the federal COVID money?

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**Mr. Ernst** – We received one payment and will receive a second payment in 2022. We have to designate what the money will be used for by 2024 and dispense that money by 2025. The money is held in a separate account and will be accounted for apart from the budget.

**President Burnell**- I am assuming we cannot use those funds for operating expenses?

**Mr. Ernst** – No, we cannot.

**Mayor Herbert** – Can any of the money be allocated for solar projects that we had discussed?

**Mr. Ernst** – Yes and no. We will not see any solar projects in 2022 but we are still working toward long term goals. AMP is removing the landfill power by the end of the year. AMP will be starting with solar in 2023.

**Mayor Herbert** – Where does the hypo loop for internet stand throughout the borough?

**Mr. Krauss** – There are still some areas that need to be completed. The loop around the borough is complete, but we still have to add some borough buildings (fire house, etc.) to the main loop.

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

None

Agenda Item #9 – 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 August 2021 which shows the expenditures listed on the attachments.

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

**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.

**Councilman Angelichio** – There are two line items for NPWA in July. Do we know why?

**Mr. Ernst** – He will get an answer about that and let Council know.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Why are there two bills for the bottle filling station and one is significantly higher than the other?

**Vice President Fuller** – The one at 4<sup>th</sup> Street Park required piping to be added to be near the amenities that it would get used the most.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Did we get bids to do that work?

**Mr. Ernst** – We worked with NPWA as a package deal to get them installed and used their contractor.

**Vice President Fuller** – As an added note NPWA does not charge us for the water usage.

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

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

I move that Borough Council approve the following meeting minutes:

Business Meeting: August 18, 2021

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

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

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-30 authorizing the Borough Finance Director access to bank, bill paying and other financial related borough accounts.

**Vice President Fuller** – This removes any prior person in that position?

**Mr. Ernst** – Yes.

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

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

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-31 authorizing, empowering and directing the proper offices of the governing board to appoint a liaison between it and Berkheimer, the duly appointed collector of local taxes for the express purpose of sharing confidential tax information with the district for official purposes.

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

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

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-32 to appoint the required Tax Collection Committee delegates for Lansdale Borough.

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

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

I move that Borough Council adopt the attached Resolution 21-33 for the disposition of Borough records.

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

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

I move that Borough Council adopt attached Resolution 21-34 to authorize the Borough Manager to submit the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement, to submit future modifications to the Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement, and to submit future Applications for Traffic Signal Approval to the Department of Transportation.

**Mr. Kunkel** – This motion is for administrative purposes only for PennDOT. As owners of the road, this allows the Borough to act on behalf of them when needed.

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

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

I move that Borough Council adopt Resolution 21-35 approving the sale, by electronic auction, of various used vehicles and equipment through Municibid.

**Mr. Krauss** – This is a standard motion for items that we put up for sale on a municipal online auction.

**Vice President Fuller** – Do we have the ability to add to the list during the year?

**Mr. Krauss** – This motion is only good for the list of items presented tonight. We do this once a year but if we have a surplus of additional items later we can always do it sooner rather than later.

**Vice President Fuller** – I see that the starting bids on some items is \$1. Is it even worth putting them up for auction?

**Mr. Krauss** – If the bids are too low we will not accept them and will take the items for scrap or we can put them online again to rebid them and see what happens.

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

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion J and read as follows:

I move that that the Lansdale Borough Civil Service Commission be activated to establish an eligibility list for the position of Sergeant.

**Chief Trail** – We have one Sergeant who has been out for awhile and there are several Sergeants who are eligible for retirement so we want to create the list now in anticipation of those retirements. We are not promoting until there is an opening.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion K and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the closure of a portion of Madison Street and Green Street from Vine Street to Main Street from 5:00pm to 10:00pm for the 10th Annual Lansdale Cruise Night on Saturday, September 18, 2021. In addition, authorize the use of Railroad Plaza from 5:00pm to 10:30pm.

*Motion seconded by Councilman DiGregorio and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion L and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the closure of various borough streets (on file at the police department) for the Borough of Lansdale's Founders Day event on Saturday, October 23, 2021 per the recommendation of the Special Events Committee and the Public Safety Committee. Additionally, authorize the closure of the following streets: S. Line Street between E. Main Street and Penn Street; Penn Street between S. Line Street and Church Road; Park Avenue between E. Main Street and Penn Street from 6:00pm until the conclusion of the fireworks display.

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

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion M and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the closing of Main Street (route on file at the police department) for the 70th Annual Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday, November 20, 2021 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm (parade starts at 1:00pm) and the use of Memorial Park for the judges stage.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** presented Motion N and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council approve the Special Events application submitted by Round Guys Brewing Company for the closure and use of a portion of S. Wood Street from W. Main Street to Courtland Street between the hours of 10:00am to 7:00pm (includes set up & clean up time) for a Lansdale Pride Celebration on October 2, 2021 with a rain date of October 3, 2021. Round Guys Brewing Company agrees to pay full reimbursement costs for the safety barriers placed by the Borough to close the road.

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

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

I move that Borough Council award the contract for the rental of snow plowing equipment with operators to P.K. Moyer & Sons, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Last year there was a problem with their equipment. Are we responsible for that?

**Mr. Ernst** – The contractor is responsible for their own equipment.

**Mayor Herbert** – Are they the only contractor we have?

**Mr. Ernst** – They are the only contractor that has ever bid.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to accept the Proposal from Remington & Vernick Engineers to provide engineering, survey, design, and project management services for the 2021 CDBG North Richardson Avenue Rehabilitation Project not to exceed \$86,750.00.

**Mr. Fazio** – Montgomery County awarded the borough the grant and the challenge will be to design and get the bid awarded by the end of 2021. Construction would start in 2022.

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

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

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to purchase a Ram 2500 Pickup Truck from Lansdale Chrysler through the Pennsylvania Costars Purchasing Program for the

Public Works Department not to exceed \$40,000. This purchase is on the Capital Improvement Plan and will be funded through Capital Reserves.

**President Burnell** – Is there anything special about this?

**Mr. Krauss** – The price of the truck is \$33,400 and the upfit costs bring it up to \$40,000. The snow plowing bid for the Borough is impacted by the size of town; the borough is too small for some contractors and too large for others so we typically only get PK Moyer to bid as they can accommodate our size.

**Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – When will we get the truck?

**Mr. Krauss** – There is a backlog across the US getting vehicles because of a limited supply of microchips. We can't get the trucks until we get those.

**Mr. DiGregorio** – Is the plow package included in the \$40,000?

**Mr. Krauss** – Yes.

**Vice President Fuller** – Will logos be included on the trucks like they have on Parks & Rec. trucks?

**Mr. Krauss** – Yes.

**Councilman Breish** – He took a tour of the public works and electric facilities and he was quite impressed with their operation. Staff is happy getting new equipment.

**Councilman Angelichio** – With the delay in vehicles would the borough qualify for rebates that some dealerships are offering?

**Mr. Krauss** – He can check with but is not sure since we get COSTARS pricing.

*Motion seconded by Councilman Carroll and unanimously approved.*

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

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Manager to purchase a Ram 2500 Pickup Truck from Lansdale Chrysler through the Pennsylvania Costars Purchasing Program for the Wastewater Treatment Plant not to exceed \$40,000. This purchase is on the Capital Improvement Plan and will be funded through Capital Reserves.

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

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

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

Glenn Dickerson for a three-year term expiring on September 30, 2024

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

Item #10 – Information Items

**Mayor's Report: Mayor Herbert**

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1. On August 3rd, I joined our PD out front of Borough Hall, with many members of the community, to celebrate National Night Out. All too often residents interact with officers in a negative environment where something has gone wrong. National Night Out is an open invitation for the community to come and get to know our officers and the police department at large in a positive environment. While the goal of National Night Out is important for all community members, this event is especially important for children since early experiences with law enforcement can set the tone of their interaction for years to come.
2. On August 25th, I attended the Chamber of Commerce's Ribbon Cutting at their new offices in the Madison Street complex. The opening of this space represents a return to the borough after a long hiatus from Lansdale. As a community of over 18,800 residents Lansdale is the hub of the North Penn Area and is a driving force of growth in Montgomery County. The return of the Chamber helps solidify this reality and we welcome their return to the borough and look forward to their continued partnership.
3. On August 27th, I attended the grand opening of Master Yang's Korean Karate martial arts school. Similar to the Chamber, Master Yang is making a return to the borough after being located in North Wales for several years. Martial arts programs bring much more to our community than just self-defense training. Students learn a culture, a language, and an art form all in one. Students of Master Yang then share all that they have learned with the community at large and enrich all of us with their knowledge. I welcome Master Yang back to Lansdale and look forward to his businesses continued success.
4. On September 11th, I attended the Ruck to Remember where members of our community came together to share a moment of silence for all those who lost their lives that fateful day. As I shared after that day, our country is only as strong as we are United and as weak as we are divided. As a nation, we grieve for those who lost their lives but we also must come together and continue to represent all of what makes our country that shining beacon on a hill without falling victim to faction.
5. Office hours are Tuesday's 9-5 and by appointment on Saturday's 9-noon.

#### **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 miscellaneous real estate matters including intermunicipal agreement matters relating to MS4 credits – Approximately 6.4 hours.
3. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work relating to lien and lien litigation matters - Approximately 6 hours.
4. Communications with Borough staff and follow-up work/ legal review relating to sewer and electric matters and related legal updates – 4.2 hours.
5. Communications with Borough staff and related follow-up work regarding miscellaneous Borough matters including compliance matters, legal updates, general litigation, code enforcement, assessment appeals, and right-to-know requests – Over 10 hours.

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

1. Beginning January 1, 2022, the Borough will resume sewer billing for Lansdale residents. A recent change in billing requirements for Municipal Water Authorities would require them to coordinate two different billing methods if they were to continue with Lansdale customers. Since Lansdale is the only municipal customer NPWA provides billing services for, they feel it's no longer feasible for them to continue. We are working together to coordinate the change over and make it as seamless as possible. We will be providing information through our social media outlets and billing inserts.
2. The Borough has begun contract negotiations with the Police Department. The current 4 year contract expires December 31, 2021. Council will be updated as we continue discussions.



3. Last night, the Environmental Action Commission met for the first time in the form of a “meet and greet” event, but mostly to establish the interest of members to be appointed as officers of the EAC and to establish the prescribed monthly meeting date and time for public meetings. The decision was made that the EAC will meet monthly at 6:30pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month, here at Borough Hall. The first public meeting will be Thursday, October 21. I would encourage anyone interested to attend the meetings.
4. Over the past several weeks, the Electric Department along with the IT Department have been changing out various pieces of equipment mounted within the fiber optic lines that span various telephone poles throughout the Borough. This fiber optic project continues our efforts to increase connectivity between borough-owned facilities such as the pool buildings and pump stations throughout the community. All these buildings and assets currently have an internet connection at each of them, for a total cost of more than \$800/month. After a 30-month Return On Investment on this project, the Borough should see a savings of nearly \$9600/year.
5. In the upcoming weeks, the intersection at Valley Forge Road and West Main Street will be undergoing a traffic control upgrade. There is currently a broken traffic control loop in the drive aisle. Instead of replacing the imbedded loop with similar technology, we will be installing radar technology for controlling traffic. This is one of several intersections in the borough that have been or will be upgraded using improved and more reliable technology.
6. Thank you Rick Lesniak for following through with a grant opportunity through the Department of Justice (DOJ). For his efforts, the borough will be receiving \$22,000 to help offset increased Police Department staffing expenses incurred during the periods of last year’s public gatherings in the community that focused on equity and inclusion.

**President Burnell** – Will there be any impact to staff for sewer billing being brought back to us?

**Mr. Ernst** – Not a huge impact on staff as most of the accounts are already in our system.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Can they be handled like they did in the past?

**Mr. Ernst** – Yes, we can handle the billing. If council wants we can look at the cost of a third party to see if the cost would be better.

**Mayor Herbert** – We don’t have a cost from before?

**Mr. Ernst** – We will have more customers than before, but we can estimate by adding in new accounts.

**Comments for the good of Council:**

**Councilman Breish** – thank you to borough staff for all that you did during Hurricane Ida.

**Councilwoman Currie Teoh** – Thank you to the electric department for keeping the lights on.

**Councilman DiGregorio** – Thank you to staff for your work during the storm. We were lucky we were missed by the tornado.

**Councilman Henning** – Founders Day part 1 will take place on September 18 at the Historical Society to celebrate the Historical Society’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We will also present Ray Walton the Lifetime Achievement Award. There will be a walking tour of the cemetery and White’s Road Park. Also, Cruise Night is September 18 in the evening. This is a food drive event for Manna on Main Street.

**Vice President Fuller** – On September 25 is the Fairmount Fire Company’s annual Under the Lights Car Show. First Friday on October 1 will feature the Zombie Walk. Founders Day Part 2 will take place on October 23. There will be a mini arts festival in Railroad Plaza, the health fair, beer garden and bands too.

Agenda Item #11 – Old Business

None

Agenda Item #12 New Business

None

*Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.*