

June 2, 2021

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:46pm by President, Denton Burnell.

ROLL CALL:

- (X) Councilman Angelichio
- (X) Councilman Breish
- (X) President Burnell
- (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 Director, Melissa Gemelli
Police Chief, Mike Trail
Parks & Rec., Karl Lukens
Electric Superintendent, Andy Krauss
Public Works, Rick Delong
Fire Marshal, Rick Lesniak

Borough Solicitor, not present
Borough Engineer, not present
Library Director, Tom Meyer
IT/GIS Coordinator, Bryan Poster
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
WWTP Superintendent, Dan Shinskie
Asst WWTP Super – Greg Rapp

Residents

Jean Fritz – 531 Pennbrook Avenue
Bill Allen – York Avenue

President Burnell – Our next council meeting on June 16 will be held in person and via Zoom.

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Angelichio

1. Reviewed the financial statements. Timing can really skew numbers in one month and straighten them out the next month. Cash is down 23% because capital projects were paid and waiting on grant money to offset the expenditure(s). Receivables are up 34% up due to NPWA payments for sewer accounts. Payroll is up, but it is a timing issue due to the pay period and how it fell last month. Revenues in the General Fund are down slightly. Electric is up \$914,000. Sewer is down due to billing timing. Parks & Recreation is up \$60,000 because of pool memberships, pool rentals and miscellaneous items. Highway Aid is up in expense due to snow removal earlier in the year.
2. Motion to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Resolution to resume the collection of late fees and turn offs beginning July 22. There is about \$100,000 in electric arrears due to delinquent accounts. Customer Service will work with customers on how much each month they can pay of their balance.

3. Discussion was had about rental properties and landlords being responsible for a customer's electric balance if the tenant leaves without paying their bill.
4. The Human Relations Commission (HRC) is requesting a budget of \$750 so that they can attend events, trainings and print materials to hand out. The committee decided to round up to \$1,000 for the remainder of 2021 and it will be a line item in the budget.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman Henning

1. Motions to appear before Council at the business meeting:
 - Resolution to extend the land development for 43 W. Third Street for 12 months.
2. Andale Green – Phase 4 has been approved, but they will need to lose on block building and make it open space due to a treatment plant facility on the property that has not been relocated.
3. Reviewing our sign ordinance and we have a local sign company reviewing it as well to make appropriate suggestions for an update to the ordinance.
4. Grass clippings cannot be blown or swept into the street. Shrubs along sidewalks need to be kept clear of the sidewalk.
5. An applicant is asking the ZHB for relief regarding a front yard setback.

Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. The committee approved a façade improvement grant for 213 N. Broad Street in the amount of \$4,050.
2. Continued discussions on how to move forward with the Eric Goldstein contract and surveying businesses on what their needs are.
3. The next meeting on June 21 will be in person in Council Chambers.

Electric Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. On June 8 the small committee working with Blue Sky will hear an update from them.
2. Holiday banners have been narrowed down to four choices. All of Council can look in One Drive to see the samples and give their opinion.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Motion to approve the purchase of a 2021 Altec Trouble Truck for \$115,000.
 - Resolution to reinstate utility penalties and service disconnections for electric bills.
4. As an informational item, Mr. Krauss reviewed the allowance adjustment request for the wastewater treatment plant photovoltaic system in the amount of \$7500. This adjustment was to purchase analog/digital converters and for some minor grading near the solar panels at the treatment plant. There's \$20,000 left in our contingency plan.
5. Protection Relay Final Design & Construction at Main Substation The committee spoke about the progress on the protection relay final design for the main substation. On June 2, the final design from our engineer was submitted to Pennsylvania Power and Light. We are hoping to have construction approval by mid-June.
6. Department operations - The Luxor apartment development, holiday décor & banner selection, a work order management system through our GIS software, 2021 safety training, main substation breaker replacement, energy consultant due diligence and progress meeting scheduled for June 8 and finally the fiber optic cable run to the Pennbrook pumping station.

Vice President Fuller - She is excited to look at the banner choices.

Library Committee – Vice President Fuller

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1. There will be a Board Meeting on June 16 to approve the special occasion liquor license permit for the Founders Day Beer Garden, a fundraiser for the library.
2. The Clean & Green sponsorship and Tom's Facebook fundraiser will be received soon. They will do an annual appeal again.
3. COVID protocol updates – masks will continue to be worn by patrons and staff since many children that visit are too young to be vaccinated. Patrons can reserve seating space for one hour time slots at the study tables. In September they are planning to open up more for outside groups using the meeting room.
4. The Story Walk was successful in Stony Creek Park and they are going to do one in White's Road Park and do a new story in Stony Creek Park.
5. September 25 will be the Clean and Green event.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. Renew Community Church requested to use White's Road Park for a church service on Sunday, July 18.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - The Lansdale Black Business Association requests the use of Memorial Park for a Juneteenth event from 11:00am to 5:00pm on June 19.
 - Final payment request for work completed on the Liberty Bell Trail in Stony Creek Park.
3. The Lansdale Equality Coalition requested the fee be waived for the use of Weaver Field for a Juneteenth baseball game. The request was denied and they will pay the fee.
4. Zumba classes this session are done and Motown Line Dancing will resume when they can hold it indoors.
5. The White's Road Concert series started on June 1. The first movie in the park this season is on June 4. The movie is Onward.
6. Swim lessons will take place at 4th Street pool only and weekdays only due to staffing shortage.
7. The White's Road playground is getting a lot of positive feedback.
8. A bottle filling station will at 4th Street Park near the skate park will be coming soon.
9. Memorial Park tennis courts project is coming along. The surfacing is curing now and will then be painted. All striping will be done by the beginning of July.
10. First Friday will be July 2 and Discover Lansdale will be using Railroad Plaza as they usually do.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – White's Road playground is awesome and is getting a lot of use.

Vice President Fuller – Picnic tables and benches need to be moved to the playground and we are looking to get grant money to add a bathroom up there.

Councilman Breish – The playground tired his girls out for sure. Liberty Bell Trail through Stony Creek is great with the wider trails.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh

1. The speed study on N. Line Street has not been completed yet. Chief Trail should be able to report back at the July meeting.
2. A stop sign was added at S. Wood and Vine Streets as there wasn't one there at that intersection and there should have been. They did determine that a car parking along the street was on private property and not in the street/alley.
3. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Approve special events application for Frist Fridays starting on July 2 from 6:00 to 9:00pm.

- Approve special events application for the Fairmount Fire Company's annual Under the Lights Car show on September 25.
 - Prepare and advertise an ordinance for a handicapped parking space at 412 Columbia Avenue.
 - Motion to hire two more police officers from the current Civil Service eligibility list.
 - We currently have 24 active officers and there is the possibility that two will retire within the next 6 months to a year. If we hire now, one officer will be fully trained by the fall. The other applicant will have to go through training at the police academy.
4. There was public comment about doing a comprehensive traffic study through the entire borough and to add more stop signs all over the Borough.
- Mayor Herbert** – He supports hiring two new officers.
- President Burnell** – Is there a concern that we are over hiring if officers don't retire?
- Chief Trail** – One hire right now will get us up to full staff since one officer is on disability.
- Vice President Fuller** – She offered to make a motion to move forward to Council even though it was not on the agenda to move forward.
- Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton** – will the one officer be on the payroll while they attend the police academy?
- Chief Trail** – Yes.
- Councilman Henning** – Have there been any complaints about the post office parking lot being full all the time.
- Chief Trail** – That is news to him. He didn't receive any complaints.
- Mr. Van Dame** – He was told those cars belong to post office employees. They don't have enough space in their employee lot and a private lot they were parking in is no longer available.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. 2020 Mill & Overlay – waiting for punch list items to get done before a final payment can be submitted.
2. Columbia Avenue rehabilitation – project hasn't started yet.
3. Laurel Lane sewer project – work has started and most of the storm sewer has been installed.
4. Ridge Street project – work has been completed and the project has been closed out.
5. On May 17 Pellete Street was milled and paved.
6. Public comment was made suggesting the addition of curbs and sidewalks to Vine Street behind Columbia Avenue to help define the road. It should be paved as well.
7. WWTP:
 - Fire Alarm & Security System Upgrade - The Fire and Security System has been running well. We are hoping that the Borough fiber connections, when completed to the pump stations, will resolve the communication troubles that are occurring there. The installation work has been completed at the Police Station.
 - White's Road Park Streambank Stabilization - The contractor is currently working on addressing the punch list items. They have taken up some of the matting on some of the streambank and will be regrading some areas.
 - Motion to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Accept the proposal from Kappe Associated to the purchase of 2 Fairbanks Morse 4" Model 5433 WD dry pit submersible pumps for \$78,207.20. This includes mechanical and electrical installation.

- UV Disinfection Project. Our design consultants, ARRO Engineering, are in the process of submitting the permit to DEP for approval. The recent material shortages, and the associated price increases due to these shortages, will likely have an impact on the overall cost of the project.

Councilman Breish – Tonight is Dan’s last committee and Work Session meeting. Thank you for your guidance and all your years of service to the Borough.

Vice President Fuller – Thank you Dan for all that you have done for the Borough.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

Mayor Herbert read a proclamation for Pride month.

President Burnell – Once we receive the Pride flag, we will hang it out front of the building.

Vice President Fuller – First Fridays are back starting July 2.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

Jean Fritz of 531 Pennbrook Avenue – She complained that there is never parking at the post office and when you go in the building there are only 1 or 2 customers in there.

Bill Allen of York Avenue – He was wondering if the Electric Department was experiencing any issues with getting equipment or the large rise in cost of materials for road project? His company is experiencing large price increases and delays on materials.

Mr. Krauss – Not on stock products. They are getting them on time. Equipment is harder to get.

Mr. Ernst – Contractors have a contractual obligation to do the project for the bid amount regardless of cost increases to them. We will review 2022 projects in the fall and that is when we expect to see price increases for those projects.

Mr. Van Dame – We have experienced some delays because a contractor can’t get materials on time.

Mr. Allen – He is all for hiring new police officers. Are we getting the most qualified people if we are taking from the current list? Has anyone entered the DROP program yet?

Chief Trail – The list we have is per Civil Service rules, but they are very qualified people and he is happy with the list. No one has indicated in writing yet that they will participate in DROP.

Vice President Fuller – She forgot to mention we are taking nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award. You can nominate someone by going on the Borough website.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22pm