

October 6, 2021

The Work Session of Lansdale Borough Council was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at Lansdale Municipal Complex, One Vine Street, Lansdale, PA and called to order at 8:40pm 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, not present
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, Kevin Kissinger
Code Enforcement, Jason Van Dame
WWTP Superintendent – Greg Rapp

Residents

None

President Burnell – An Executive Session was held earlier this evening and last week regarding personnel. No action will be taken tonight.

Agenda Item #4 – Committee Reports

Administration and Finance Committee – Councilman Angelichio

Councilman Angelichio presented Motion A and read as follows:

I move that Borough Council authorize the Borough Solicitor to prepare and the Borough Manager to advertise an Ordinance, amending Chapter 257 , Article 1, Section 257-1 related to reasonable attorney fees incurred in the collection of delinquent unpaid municipal claims and liens.

Mr. Ernst – We are updating an ordinance to change the reasonable fees that can be collected when processing liens and such, as they have changed and we have not updated our ordinance to coincide with those changes.

Motion seconded by Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton and unanimously approved.

1. Reviewed financials and General Fund Revenues up 4% primarily due to a \$136k increase in collections on Public Service revenues combined with a combined with a \$203k increase in EIT and LST Tax collections. Electric Fund revenues are up 8% due mainly to a \$736k increase in Sales to Residential customers as well as a \$423k increase in sales to General Service customers. Sewer Fund revenues are up 23% as a result of the timely booking of Sewer revenue provided by NPWA. Park & Recreation revenues are up 139% due to the restrictions of COVID being reduced and the almost 100% operation of Lansdale pools in 2021. Capital Fund is up 107% due to the timing of the receipt of Grant funding. Debt Fund is down 100% as the savings from the 2019 refinance have not been booked yet for 2021. Electric Fund expenditures are up 26% due primarily to a \$420k expense associated with tree trimming as well as an increased cost of electricity as a result of increased transmission and capacity charges. Highway Aid Fund expenditures are up 724% as a result of costs associated with snow and ice removal and road treatment. The Capital Fund is up 117% due to the timing of expenditures related to projects completed versus projects that are being worked on currently.
2. Motions to appear before for Council at the next business meeting:
 - Approve the proposal from RVE for the 421 W. Main Street roof replacement as well as an HVAC upgrade. This project could possibly qualify for ARPA funding.
 - Approve the MMO for Police Pension Fund and the Non-Uniform Pension Fund.
3. We will need assistance and guidance with the ARPA funding so we will engage Maillie, our auditors, to help us.
4. A request came in from Sean Kilkenny's Law office for an increase of \$5 per hour which would bring their hourly cost to \$160 per hour.
5. There was some public comment. Mr. Angelichio read a letter from Upper Dublin Board of Commissioners thanking Rick Lesniak, Emergency Management Coordinator, for his assistance in the aftermath of the F2 Tornado that ripped through their township. They also thanked George Johnson and Hazel Bundy for their assistance too.

Code Enforcement Committee – Councilman DiGregorio

1. A new inspector Scott Morrissy was hired and he started with the department in September.
2. The department continues to be busy with active permits. They are up from last month.
3. The Planning Commission has been having discussions about 1000 N. Cannon Avenue and a possible text amendment related to building height, more to come on that later.
4. The Zoning Hearing Board will hear two applications; one for 837 W. Third Street and the other for 111 S. Broad Street.

Economic Development Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. The September meeting was cancelled so no report.

Electric Committee – Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton

1. Patriot Tree Company logged 4,160 man hours in 2021 with a total project cost of \$466,000. In 2022 \$100,000 has been budgeted to complete more contracted tree trimming along with trimming work by Borough staff to try to finish trimming out the entire system. Trimming like this hasn't been done in 10 years.
2. Reviewed electric vehicle charging stations data and next steps. Mr. Krauss secured funding from NextEra energy to sponsor the electric vehicle charging stations for the next few years until it makes sense for the Borough to monetarily charge for vehicle fueling. At this time the mobile hotspot and credit card readers would cost almost as

much as the energy to charge the vehicles, \$1,900.00 per year and \$2,900.00 per year respectively. We will continue to monitor the usage of these stations and let council know when staff feels it's time to start charging.

3. The garage heater project has been completed.
4. Reviewed the wholesale power forecast for purchase power moving into the next 5 to 10 years. The report from American Municipal Power shows a \$10 per megawatt hour increase from 2021 to 2022. This is causing a budget shortfall within the Electric Fund that crosses over into the General Fund for 2022. The finance department is coming up with options to fill this budget gap. The main increase in cost is due to rising transmission and capacity cost. The Borough's fixed energy prices will remain at \$50.25 per megawatt hour through 2032.
5. We are waiting for final design documents from PPL to complete the inter-protection relay for the solar project.
6. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Approve for a 3-year contract for uniforms through COSTARS.
 - Purchase of a bucket truck. We have to order now because there is such a delay on vehicles. The cost will be \$240,000, in 2019 the same truck was \$170,000.
7. Reviewed highlights from the energy action plan prepared by Blue Sky energy consulting firm for the Borough. Some of the recommendations include an energy efficient rebate program, entering into purchase power agreements outside of the Borough to diversify the Borough's renewable energy portfolio and identifying locations within the Borough to mount more solar panels to try to shave demand and ultimately reduce our purchase power cost.
8. Spoke about opportunities for an incentive program to allow multi-family dwellings to install electric vehicle charging facilities with the help of the Department. This will go before the Economic Development Committee in November.
9. The committee discussed draft one of the 2022 budget.
10. Cohen Law Group will be working on an act 50 ordinance dealing with small cell wireless facilities.

Councilman Breish – Will the additional EV Chargers be fast chargers?

Mr. Krauss – No. Fast chargers are more comparable to like a gas station where you fill up and leave. Those chargers will charge very quickly so people can be back on the road quickly. The level 2 chargers that will be discussed take like 5-6 hours to fully charge a vehicle.

Councilman Breish – They would be a great investment while developments are being built.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Could the development choose which charger to install, fast or level 2?

Mr. Krauss – Fast chargers would be better fit for like the Freight House parking lot for travelers, not for developments.

Councilman Angelichio – Fast chargers would allow for quicker turnover in a development so more people could charge their cars.

Mr. Krauss – The fast chargers use a lot of electricity to charge fast and the load would be much higher and not ideal for a developer.

Councilman Angelichio – Could the energy for the charger be combined with solar generation?

Mr. Krauss – As solar technology grows, we will see that more and more.

Councilman Breish – Are we looking at other opportunities for solar in 2022?

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – We are currently working with our consultants on that.

Councilman Breish – Could we incorporate that in the 2022 budget?

President Burnell – We are having conversations with various groups, but it is too early to discuss right now.

Library Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. In reviewing the budget, we see that 75% through the year, total revenues at 79% and total expenses at 70%. In looking at Draft 2 of the 2022 budget, The fundraising goal for 2022 has been increased to \$50,000 from \$40,000 in Draft 1. Payroll has been reduced to by \$5,000 and a spreadsheet of employees, hours, and rates was presented showing that increasing our starting hourly rate to \$10 per hour can be accommodated in that budget. Also, \$30,000 was added as a placeholder in building improvements for rewiring the building with cat6 cable. The existing cable is 23 years old and doesn't let us take advantage of speeds available in current broadband technology. Updating the cables is a goal from the strategic plan.
2. We hired three new part time people in September. The impact of the staff members leaving over the past year wasn't felt as hard until we opened to our full schedule of hours in September.
3. The Clean and Green event went smoothly. Net proceeds came to \$1971, consistent with the higher amount of past years. Over 130 people came through the library parking lot to shred documents and drop off unneeded electronics including televisions. Junkluggers brought 3 trucks and nearly filled them all. We discussed with Junkluggers and Richter Shredding that we could probably hold the event twice a year, spring and fall.
4. Founders Day Beer Garden – The SOP application was approved by the PLCB so we have that in hand for the 23rd.
5. Community Conversations – To fulfill the grant obligations from the Libraries Transforming Communities Grant we received in February, we need to hold a conversation by Oct 31. We plan to hold two in October; one on Zoom 10/14 and one in-person at the library on 10/28. We are looking for people to join the conversation and let us know what they think of the library and how we can better serve our community.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Vice President Fuller

1. North Penn Valley Girls Softball requests a change to traffic flow at the Schweiker Park parking lot. Mr. Lukens will work with Chief Trail and Hatfield Township on this change.
2. Events and programs are going well inside and outside.
3. Mr. Lukens will start planning the Menorah Lighting, Tree Lighting, Tuba Christmas and Letters to Santa events/programs. These may be pared down again in 2021 depending on COVID regulations.
4. Mr. Lukens asked the committee to think about the concert series and any changes they might like to see. Mr. Lukens is looking at offering a summer series and adding concerts in September.
5. Lunchtime Concert Series – Mr. Lukens reported that attendance has diminished in recent years. He would like to either reallocate that money to another concert at White's Road or possibly change the day/time of the concerts at Railroad Plaza and asked the committee to think about what change they might like to see.
6. Normal maintenance activities are happening now.
7. The committee did a walk through of all the parks a few months ago to see what capital improvements should be done. Some projects they identified will be grant dependent.

8. 2022 Budget – the committee had discussion on the 2022 budget. Seasonal salaries were discussed, and the committee agreed that offering higher hourly rates in 2022 to retain staff was needed.
 - Dog Park – the committee had discussion on the possibility of adding a dog park to the park system. The committee will first look at the few sites large enough for a dog park to determine if they are suitable.
 - Memorial Park Grandstand Mural – A resident reached out to Mrs. Fuller asking about adding a mural to the grandstand. The committee agreed to entertain the idea.
9. York/Susquehanna Park – The adjacent property owner removed trees, which was a visual barrier between the park and the apartment building. Mr. Lukens will discuss the removal of the trees with the property owner and work on replacement plantings.
10. Public comment – A scout will replace the wetlands plaques in Stony Creek Park.

Councilwoman Hawkins Charlton – Thank you for discussing the salaries for lifeguards so we can keep the guards we have and recruit new ones.

Public Safety Committee – Councilwoman Currie Teoh

1. The announcement for the position of Sergeant was advertised to the PD and applications are due on Friday October 8, 2021. The next step in the process is a written exam to be held in November. This is not a new hiring, just a promotional exam.
2. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Review and approval of a Handicap parking permit request for 36 East Fourth Street.
 - Prepare and advertise the Special Event Ordinance, specifically making changes to the ordinance and updating it.
3. The draft 2022 budget was sent to the Borough. There were many small increases over 2021's budget, but the overall the increase was approximately 4.5%. The increases were in technology, training and uniforms with the addition of 4 new officers in 2021.

Councilman DiGregorio – George Adams, a coach with the Cannoneers, had a heart attack while driving and his life was saved because of the efforts of Officer James Thompson.

Councilman Angelichio – Has there been any impact on firearms training due to equipment shortages?

Chief Trail – Not at this time.

Public Works Committee – Councilman Breish

1. 2020 Mill & Overlay Program – There is a short final punch list and a few resident concerns to address before project is finalized.
2. Columbia Avenue Roadway Rehabilitation – Final paving will be scheduled shortly. Payment #1 is being processed for payment in the amount of \$1,177,331.37. A portion of this will be paid by NPWA.
3. Laurel Lane Storm Sewer Project – Final paving has begun on this project. We received payment request #1 in the amount of \$315,287.56.
4. Motions to appear before Council at the next business meeting:
 - Laurel Lane change order #1 for additional curb replacement and change order #2 is a request for a 30-day extension of time.
 - Republic Services would like to extend the contract through December 2022 at no increase in price or term changes.

- White's Road Park Streambank Stabilization – RVE is working to solidify the final TDML reductions with DEP. An intergovernmental agreement with Upper Gwynedd Township related to MS4 credible improvements was created through this project. A resolution and agreement will be needed.
 - Pennbrook Avenue Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation - We received the fourth and final payment for this project in the amount of \$11,729.45.
 - UV Disinfection Project – moving forward with advertising and bidding of this project.
 - N. Towamencin Avenue & Acorn Street Sinkhole Repair – We received a proposal from RVE to provide survey and engineering for this project not to exceed \$15,000.
5. Penn Street Storm Sewer Repair – A small sink hole identified pipe that has deteriorated. Total preliminary estimate for repairs is under \$100,000.
 6. Towamencin Avenue and Acorn Street Sanitary Repair – A small sinkhole in the road was identified as a damaged sewer pipe. Recommendation is to replace the pipe and underground utilities are currently being located so a design can be prepared. Preliminary cost estimate is \$60,000 and this project will be added as an alternate to an upcoming project to avoid additional bidding costs.
 7. Salt Shed Repair/Replacement – Engineering review and repair recommendation is complete with an estimate of \$50,000-\$60,000. Replacement estimate would be \$150,000, but we would gain capacity. This would be a 2022 Capital Improvement request.
 8. N. Valley Forge Road Culvert Repairs - Engineering report is forthcoming.
 9. FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant – Use for cemetery MS4 and drainage improvement project. Estimated project cost \$500,000 – requested funds of \$375,000 with a Borough match of \$125,000.
 10. EDA American Rescue Plan Act – Economic Adjustment Assistance grant to provide sanitary sewer upgrades along N. Cannon Avenue from the railroad tracks to Eighth Street. Estimated project cost \$800,000 – requested funds \$640,000 with Borough match \$160,000.
 11. PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund – Fund the 2022 ADA Ramp Replacement Program. Estimated project cost \$560,000 – requested funds \$350,000 with Borough match \$150,000.
 12. Pennbrook Pump Station Generator Upgrade Project – Cedar Electric has indicated that substantial completion will be on or before 11/28/21.
 13. East Main Street Streetscape Project – The exploratory test holes and sewer main evaluation is expected to be completed by the end of October.
 14. Merck, Inc. - Preliminary request for increase in capacity – Mr. Rapp went over Merck's request to increase their flow by 150,000 per day over the next two years and a possible cost sharing venture.
 15. Discussion was held on the installation of lateral backflow preventers on private laterals.
 16. Sewer Rate Study – Mr. Rapp went over the RVE proposal for engineering services to perform a sewer rate study.
 - Mr. Kunkel** – Updated Council on a road management plan for the next few years. Ten miles of road need to be replaced and we have to decide how we are going to do that and how to fund these projects.
 - Mayor Herbert** – Is this the same as the GIS format?
 - Mr. Kunkel** – Yes. The information was just given to the GIS team today to update.
 - Mayor Herbert** – Is this a predictable format?

Mr. Kunkel – Yes and no. White’s Road was paved three years ago and it needs maintenance already due to the materials and the constant wear and tear.

Councilman DiGregorio – There are a lot of potholes at Valleybrook and Hemlock Streets. Can we get them fixed. Also, can a crosswalk be added at Lakeview Drive. There are a lot of pedestrians in that area.

Mr. Kunkel – We can work on those items.

Agenda Item #5 – Announcements

President Burnell – We will have a candidate for the HRC on the agenda in two weeks for approval.

Councilman DiGregorio – He attended Lee Mangan’s Celebration of Life a couple of weeks ago. It was a very nice ceremony.

Councilman Henning – There will be a Mardi Gras parade this year so help us get the word out to possible participants. There is information on the Discover Lansdale website.

Vice President Fuller – She forgot to mention on her report that there is a very invasive Japanese weed growing in White’s Road Park that will be dealt with on October 11.

- A scaled down version of Founders Day will be held on October 23. Fireworks will be at 7:00pm.

Agenda Item #6 – Public Comment

None

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01pm